

**Occasional Series on Reentry Research
Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

**“Correctional Policy: Preparing for Evidence-Based Principles”
February 19, 2010**

Faye Taxman is a University Professor in the Administration of Justice Department at George Mason University. She is also the Co-Director of the Network for Justice Health and the Director of the Research Program in Evidence-based Corrections and Treatment at George Mason. Dr. Taxman is recognized for her work in the development of seamless systems of care models that link the criminal justice with other service delivery systems, as well as reengineering probation and parole supervision services and organizational change models. Her work covers the breadth of the correctional system from jails and prisons to community corrections and adult and juvenile offenders, including all types of interventions and system improvement factors.

Dr. Taxman has published over 100 articles including translational work including *Tools of the Trade: A Guide to Incorporating Science into Practice*, a publication of the National Institute of Corrections providing guidance for the implementation of science-based concepts into practice. She serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Experimental Criminology* and *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*. Dr. Taxman has received awards and recognitions from the American Probation and Parole Association and the American Society of Criminology's Division of Sentencing and Corrections. She earned a Ph.D. from Rutgers University-School of Criminal Justice and a B.A. from the University of Tulsa.

Zoleka Adams is the Senior Director of Centralized Services at Palladia, Inc. Palladia serves largely urban, poor individuals and families of color in New York City and is nationally recognized for its innovative service delivery in the fields of substance abuse, homelessness, HIV, mental illness and trauma, domestic violence, criminality, and family services. Ms. Adams' office oversees admissions, vocational services, transitional housing programs, and Rikers Island Transitional Consortium, among other responsibilities. She was previously the Senior Director of Outpatient Services at Palladia. Before joining Palladia, Ms. Adams worked for the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services for 22 years at the Bronx Addiction Treatment Center as the Assistant Director.

Ms. Adams is an ordained clergywoman who works with other faith-based organizations in the Bronx around reentry issues to improve the quality of life for formerly incarcerated individuals in the community.

Michael Jacobson serves as the President and Director of the Vera Institute of Justice, a New York City-based nonprofit that oversees demonstration projects and research initiatives informing the scope of national justice policy and practice. Before this role, Dr. Jacobson was a professor at The City University of New York Graduate Center and John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Previously, he served as the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction from 1995 to 1998 and the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation from 1992 to 1996. As the Correction Commissioner, he oversaw an annual budget of more than \$775 million, a uniformed and civilian workforce of approximately 13,000, and an inmate population of more than 125,000 admitted yearly to the Department's sixteen jail facilities and three hospital prison wards. During his

tenure as Probation Commissioner, he was responsible for that Department's \$69 million annual budget, 1,600 employees and 97,000 probationers yearly.

Before Dr. Jacobson's appointment as Commissioner, he worked in the New York City Office of Management and Budget from 1984 to 1992 where he was the Deputy Budget Director. In that capacity, he also served as the Deputy Director of the Mayor's Arson Strike Force where he helped plan and coordinate the City's anti-arson strategies. Mr. Jacobson is the author of Downsizing Prisons: How to Reduce Crime and End Mass Incarceration. He has a Ph.D. in Sociology from The City University of New York Graduate Center.

Vincent Schiraldi was appointed as the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation by Mayor Michael Bloomberg in November 2009. Mr. Schiraldi is a national leader in the field of rehabilitation with more than 25 years of experience and a record of reform and success. He most recently led the District of Columbia's Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services where he turned a troubled agency that was on the verge of being placed under court supervision into a national model. His reforms were recently recognized by Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government "Innovations in American Government" awards program for being among the "Top 50" most innovative programs in the country.

Commissioner Schiraldi is also founder of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing society's reliance on imprisonment as a solution to social problems. He has published more than 30 articles and has served on 10 boards and commissions in the field. He also founded and directed the Justice Policy Institute in Washington, DC. Prior to this position, he served as the Western Regional Director of the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives in San Francisco, California. Commissioner Schiraldi received a Masters in Social Work from New York University and B.A in Social Psychology from Binghamton University.