



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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Public Safety Institute

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Volume 1



The Public Safety Institute (PSI) at the University of Memphis is an interdisciplinary part of the university community committed to identifying and advancing best practices in the field of public safety.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Public Safety Institute Co-Sponsors Symposium on Job Opportunities for Ex-Offenders

On June 14, over 150 participants convened at the Fogelman Executive Conference Center at the University of Memphis for Helping Others Helps Your Company – A Symposium on Enhancing Job Opportunities for Skilled, Qualified Ex-Offenders. The Public Safety Institute (PSI) co-sponsored the event along with the TN Department of Correction (TDOC) and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission.



Mayor Strickland, right, mediates a panel discussion on "Sources of Skilled, Qualified Workers." DeAndre Brown, Lifeline to Success, is seated on the left.



Tennessee Department of Correction Commissioner Tony Parker makes opening remarks.

Speakers at the symposium included TDOC Commissioner **Tony Parker**, TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner **Burns Phillips**, Memphis Mayor **Jim Strickland**, Shelby County Mayor **Mark Luttrell** and TN Achieves Executive Director **Krissy DeAlejandro**.



Participating in the panel discussion on "Sources of Skilled, Qualified Workers" are, from left to right, Henry Lewis, Workforce Investment Network; Ron Wade, HopeWorks; and Josh Davis, Economic Opportunities.



Tennessee Department of Correction Assistant Commissioners Alisha James and Ed Welch participate in a panel discussion on "Preparing Ex-Offenders for Productive Lives."



Gerald Trotter, an ex-offender and spokesman for Trust Marketing's television ad campaign "Gun Crime. Max Time," makes a compelling testimonial about the importance of making the right choices in life and moving forward in a positive direction.

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PSI Begins Comprehensive Evaluation of Domestic Violence Needs and Services in Memphis/Shelby County

Domestic violence is one of the most serious challenges facing the Memphis community, with almost 19,000 reported incidents in 2017. A recent study by University of Memphis faculty members revealed that (1) over 60 percent of 2015-2016 homicide cases had either an offender or victim, or both, with a domestic violence history and (2) juveniles committing domestic violence offenses are more likely to continue down a path of violence. (See the PSI website at www.memphis.edu/psi under the Research section for more information on this study.)

Recognizing the scope of the challenge, the TN Office of Criminal Justice Programs has awarded the PSI a grant to conduct an in-depth study of the needs of domestic violence victims in the Memphis community and services available, as well as gaps that may exist in services.

Dr. Amaia Iratzuqui of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice is leading the research under the grant, and PSI Research Associate Professor, **Dr. Angela Madden**, will be actively involved in grant-related research as well.

The study will include:

1. Identifying existing agencies providing front-line services to domestic violence victims and mapping the location of those services relative to the greatest need (where domestic violence is clustered);
2. Gathering existing data on revictimization, referrals to services and follow ups, and victim satisfaction;
3. Surveys of service providers and criminal justice personnel about their experiences intervening with domestic violence victims;
4. Focus groups with domestic violence victims, service providers, and criminal justice personnel; and
5. Analyzing relationships among service providers and identifying gaps in services.



Dr. Amaia Iratzuqui

Work on the grant will span over two and half years, but interim assessments will also be submitted. Intended outcomes include the following:

1. The nature and extent of domestic violence services, service utilization, and provider capabilities;
2. Identification of both barriers and facilitators to effective domestic violence services provision;
3. The role of the Family Safety Center as the primary referral service for victims of domestic violence and any resources needed to fulfill that role; and
4. The nature and extent of any need to expand front-line services for victims.

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Presentations provided information on sources of skilled, qualified ex-offenders, including in-house training programs by TDOC and the Shelby County Division of Corrections as well as community-based efforts by Hope Works, Workforce Investment Network, Economic Opportunities, Lifeline to Success, Center for Employment Opportunities, and the Memphis Shelby County Office of Re-Entry.

Providing job training skills and support programs for ex-offenders is a key part of the local Operation: Safe Community plan, the development of which was spearheaded by the Crime Commission. The Public Safety Institute is planning to evaluate certain training efforts geared toward ex-offenders in the community.

Please consider making a one time or perpetual gift by visiting memphis.edu/psi/support

LEADERSHIP

MESSAGE FROM PSI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Public Safety Institute is an interdisciplinary part of the University of Memphis community committed to identifying and advancing best practices in the field of public safety. We are pleased to have a true, interdisciplinary group of faculty members serving on the PSI Advisory Committee to work with PSI Research Associate Professor **Angela Madden** in identifying and pursuing research opportunities. My thanks to all who have agreed to serve.

Bill Gibbons, PSI Executive Director

MEMBERS OF THE PSI ADVISORY COMMITTEE



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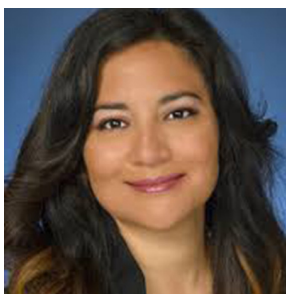
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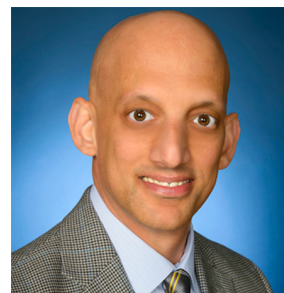
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Visit the PSI Website at: memphis.edu/psi