

Attachment 1: Recommended Candidates for Appointment to the Our Health, Our City Implementation Panel

The following 12 candidates meet the previously approved criteria and are recommended for consideration by the Board of Health:

Alyna Walji

Alyna Walji (she/her) is a registered social worker that currently works as a therapist at a youth mental health organization, Strides Toronto. She also works as a research analyst exploring suicide prevention and intervention at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). With a Master of Social Work from the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, and a Bachelor of Science in Health Studies at the University of Waterloo, Alyna has over 8 years of research experience in the field of mental health and addictions, working with CAMH, University of Toronto, Homewood Research Institute and the Peter Boris Centre for Addictions Research. Through her clinical and research experience, Alyna has had the privilege of working with diverse populations across the province. Alyna is passionate about social justice, mental health and addictions, and serving historically excluded communities. In her spare time, Alyna enjoys hot yoga, knitting, and playing with her cat.

Angie Hamilton

Angie Hamilton is a retired lawyer, the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Families for Addiction Recovery (FAR) and the parent of a child who struggles with addiction. Angie is a member of the Policy Committee of the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine and a Board Member of The Ontario Family Caregivers' Advisory Network. She was a member of the National Board of MADD Canada from 2014 to 2020 and the Chair of their Public Policy Committee.

Colin Johnson

Colin is a Black Gay man who has lived with HIV for the past 40 years. As such he has been an advocate for the ACB (African, Caribbean and Black) community for decades especially when it impacts Queer folk and substance use. Presently he works as a consultant to governments, universities and community organizations on issues ranging from bloodborne diseases, harm reduction, decriminalization of drugs, racism, colonization and gender identities. He is the co-chair of the Toronto Harm Reduction Alliance (THRA) and sits on the Steering Committee for the Canadian Coalition to Reform HIV Criminalization (CCRHC). He speaks publicly about HIV and drugs to address the stigma surrounding both. He graduated with a Certificate in the AODA (Accessibilities for Ontarians with Disabilities) from Ryerson University. For relaxation he is an avid fan of Formula 1 Racing and Soccer.

Curran Stikuts

Curran (he/him) is an experienced leader in the community service sector and a seasoned 2SLGBTQ+ activist. With 15 years of experience in community-driven organizations, stakeholder relations, issues management, program and community development, and advocacy, Curran centres the power of community-based action in his work. Having begun his career in the cooperative housing and community health sectors, he is committed to improving the social and health outcomes of communities who have been marginalized through advocacy and building opportunities for connection. Currently serving as the Director of Advocacy & Strategic Communications at the 519, he has held a variety of frontline and leadership roles since he joined the organization in 2016. He is responsible for the 519's organizational communications, stakeholder and government relations, government and large foundation grants, and works with staff across the organization and external partners to coordinate the 519's advocacy work. Curran has worked on and led a number of advocacy campaigns and is active on issues affecting 2SLGBTQ+ communities as well as neighbourhoods in Toronto's Downtown East. Curran has a BSW from Toronto Metropolitan University and a Master's in Labour Studies from McMaster University.

Frank Crichlow

Frank is a community health work/satellite worker at South Riverdale Community Health Centre and a long-time community advocate for better harm reduction services. As part of MAP's Community Expert Group, Frank brings his knowledge and expertise on harm reduction practices and desire to bring more diverse voices to research. He is currently the president of the Canadian Association of People Who Use Drugs and sits on many committees focused on harm reduction, such as the City of Toronto Decriminalization Committee. Frank represented Canada at the 2019 and 2020 International Conference on Drug Prevention, Treatment and Care in Vienna, Austria, and attended the United Nations 62 and 63 sessions on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna in 2019 and 2020. Frank has worked in both unsanctioned and sanctioned supervised consumption sites from 2019 to 2022 as an overdose response worker. Also, a community activist for the unhoused with substance use and mental health.

Jean-François (JF) Crépault

Jean-François (JF) is Senior Policy Analyst at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. He leads CAMH's public policy and advocacy efforts in the area of substance use, developing and communicating evidence-based public policy to governments and other stakeholders. In that role, he authors CAMH statements and reports on alcohol, cannabis, gambling, opioids, and drug policy generally. He is also a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health, where his research focuses on public health approaches to the regulation of psychoactive substances.

Jennifer Wyman

Dr. Jennifer Wyman is a family physician with almost 20 years of work in addiction medicine in community and academic settings. She currently works at a community clinic in Leslieville and as Medical Director of the Substance Use Service at Women's College Hospital. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto, and clinical programs lead with META:PHI (Mentoring, Education and Clinical Tools for Addiction: Partners in Health Integration), the provincially funded organization that provides education, guidance and quality standards for Ontario's network of rapid access addiction medicine (RAAM) clinics. Her interest is in improving care pathways for people with substance use disorders through education, resource development, relationship building and advocacy across the health care sectors.

Joanne Simons

As CEO of Casey House, an HIV specialty hospital with a holistic approach to health and well-being, Joanne Simons has led the organization with a deep commitment to transforming lives and health care through compassion and social justice. Over her eight years with Casey House, Joanne has been a driving force in nurturing a values-led culture that emphasizes deliberate inclusivity, responsive innovation, and courageous advocacy. Under her leadership, Casey House has broadened its reach to serve not only those diagnosed with HIV but also individuals at risk, significantly extending its impact with vulnerable populations. Joanne is dedicated to cultivating meaningful relationships with communities facing systemic barriers to healthcare, working to reconnect them with the care they need and deserve. Before joining Casey House, Joanne held executive roles in several national health charities, where she played a key role in advancing mission-driven work. Her passion for building healthy communities is reflected in her involvement with various boards, including Street Haven, The Redwood Shelter, Health Partners, Hazel Burns Hospice, and Better Care Faster, a coalition focused on health care innovation. A proud member of the LGBTQ2S+ community, Joanne lives with her wife in the Junction, where they continue to be active and engaged members of the community.

Liben Gebremikael

As the first executive director of TAIBU Community Health Centre, Liben Gebremikael has led the organization for the past 15 years. Today TAIBU has strong community roots and has become a recognizable agency that is committed to addressing the impact of anti-Black racism on the health and wellbeing of Black communities. Liben Gebremikael has over 30 years of experience in primary healthcare, social services, mental health, and community capacity building and development field. He holds an MA in Migration, Mental Health & Social Care from the University of Kent (UK), a Masters Certificate in Healthcare Management from Schulich School of Business. He has completed Community Health Leadership Program at the Rotman School of Management. In 2021,

he completed the Strategic Perspectives for Non-Profit Organization program at the Harvard Business School. In 2021, under his leadership TAIBU received the Inaugural Scarborough Hero Awards for its contribution to the response to COVID-19 and the Black Health Alliance Legacy Award for excellence in community engagement and health promotion. In February 2022, TAIBU received the Outstanding Organization Award from the Jamaican Canadian Association. In July 2022, a street in Malvern - 'Liben Way' was named after him.

Maria Lydia Suarez

Maria Lydia Suarez originally from Argentina immigrated to Canada in 2016 with a Master's in Psychology. Maria's career has spanned various roles, including counseling of individuals to management roles in overseeing programming, services and supports for people with addictions and complex mental health challenges. Maria has worked for a number of different organizations, gaining a vast amount of insights while continuing to support individuals and families through her private practice. Maria recognizes the impacts of not only the mental health and addictions on the individual but also the collective impact of racism, anti-Black racism, Anti-Indigenous racism and various other forms of intersecting oppressions that shape the realities of racialized communities. This core understanding, along with her own lived experiences as a racialized woman has led Maria to be a strong advocate for removing individual, organizational and systemic barriers to access, care and recovery for marginalized communities.

Melody Grant

Melody Grant is passionate about making a difference, having spent over 14 years in the non-profit sector, focusing on women's services and harm reduction. Working towards change as a Manager of Crisis Services at Gerstein Crisis Centre, expanding support through 988 suicide prevention and Toronto Community Crisis Service East expansion. Melody is an advocate for better access to mental health and harm reduction supports.

Rhiannon Thomas

Rhiannon Thomas is a harm reduction advocate and researcher in Toronto with expertise in needle and syringe distribution, stimulant harm reduction, and user-led and gender-responsive programming.