



Hon. Carl E. Heastie, *Speaker*

2019 ALBANY SOMOS CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 9, 2019
Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, New York



Hon. Maritza Davila, *Chair*

MORNING SESSIONS (10:00 AM – 11:45 AM)

Equal Access to Driver's Licenses for All New Yorkers

Hearing Room A



CO-MODERATORS: Assemblyman Marcos Crespo & Senator Luis Sepúlveda

DESCRIPTION: There are 750,000 New Yorkers that are unable to obtain driver's licenses because of their immigration status. In rural areas throughout the Empire state, public transportation is either infrequent, hard to access, or nonexistent. In these areas, driving becomes a privilege many people don't think about – providing an avenue to commute to work, pick-up children from school, travel to doctor's appointments, and fulfill many other essential tasks. If New York were to enact the Driver's License Access and Privacy Act, it would join twelve states, Washington, D.C., and

Puerto Rico in providing access to licenses for undocumented immigrants. Join us for a panel to discuss the need for this legislation and the ongoing Green Light Campaign that brings together community members, leaders and activists with the shared goal of obtaining equal access to driver's licenses for all New Yorkers.

PANELISTS: Eric Gonzalez, *District Attorney, Kings County*; Emma Kreyche, *Statewide Coordinator, Green Light NY Campaign, Worker Justice Center of New York*; Nestor Marquez, *Westchester Member, Make the Road New York*

Securing the Future of New York's Dreamers

Hearing Room B



CO-MODERATORS: Assemblywoman Carmen De La Rosa & NYC Councilman Francisco Moya

DESCRIPTION: In early 2019, the historic José Peralta New York State DREAM Act (S.1250 / A.782) passed through the state legislature. For the first time in our state's history, undocumented students will be able to access state financial assistance for higher education. New York is home to 42,000 DACA recipients and thousands of Dreamers who are not eligible for DACA. At a time where the federal government is working to end the DACA program, New York must work to ensure the prosperity of our Dreamers. Join us for a panel exploring the future of DACA, policy actions taken by cities

and activists, and the potential impact on immigrant communities.

PANELISTS: Stephanie Delia, *Esq., Managing Attorney, City Council Services, CUNY Citizenship Now!*; Beatriz Diaz Taveras, *Executive Director, Catholic Charities Community Services*; Dr. Guillermo Linares, *Acting President, New York State Higher Education Services Corporation*; Jessica Orozco Guttlein, *Esq., AVP for Policy, Hispanic Federation*; Angy Rivera, *Co-Executive Director, New York State Youth Leadership Council*

Ouch, it hurts... Where do I go? / Emergency Room vs Primary Care vs Urgent Care: Get the Facts!

Hearing Room C



CO-MODERATORS: Senator Gustavo Rivera and Assemblyman Michael Blake

DESCRIPTION: Emergency Departments in New York State are some of the busiest in the nation, challenged each day to provide high quality, cost-effective and patient centered care to all patients. One of the most important social determinants of health is access to care. As care is shifting to more convenient and culturally competent community-based settings, join us to learn the distinction between different health care settings including emergency department care, primary care, and urgent care. In this informative workshop, you will hear from Montefiore Health System, a

representative from a solo practice, Urban Health Plan, a federally qualified community health center and CityMD, a leader in urgent care in the tri-state area. They will share ways they try to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits. Understand how access and patient education affect a person's decision about where to seek care. Get the facts from the experts and learn about community-based locations and services to better care for you and your families.

PANELISTS: Helen Arteaga Landaverde, *AVP, Queens Network and Executive Initiatives and Co-Founder, Plaza de Sol Family Health Center*; Anthony Feliciano, *Director, Commission on the Public's Health System*; Dr. Frank Illuzzi, *Chief Medical Officer, CityMD*; Dr. Amanda Parsons, *VP of Community & Population Health, Montefiore Health System*; Dr. Diego Poniaman, *Chief Medical Officer, SOMOS Community Care*



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AFTERNOON SESSIONS (2:00 PM – 3:45 PM)

2020 Census: What's at Stake?

Hearing Room A



CO-MODERATORS: Assemblyman Félix Ortiz and Assemblyman Robert Rodriguez

DESCRIPTION: As preparations for the 2020 Census are underway, many community leaders are concerned about the potential for a severe undercount in New York. Census data is used to reapportion the US House of Representatives; guide redistricting at all levels of government; and inform the allocation of more than \$800 billion in federal government resources to states, localities and families every year. New York alone receives \$53.2 billion Census-guided federal funds annually. Unfortunately, the possibility of massive undercounts of people of color and immigrants across our state

are all too real. The last-minute addition of the citizenship questions has not only further disrupted the Bureau's plans for data collection but has also significantly amplified fear and distrust of government within immigrant communities. Join us for a panel discussion that will bring together Census officials, stakeholders and scholars to discuss how New York can and must act to ensure a full, fair count.

WELCOME REMARKS: New York State Secretary of State Rossana Rosado

PANELISTS: Daniel Altschuler, *Director of Civic Engagement & Research*, Make the Road New York; Jeff T. Behler, *Director*, United States Census Bureau New York Regional Office; Jorge Fanjul, *Senior Advisor*, DemocracyNYC; Lucia Gomez, *Political Director*, New York Central Labor Council; Melody Lopez, *Director*, New York Civic Engagement Table; Jeff M. Wice, *Fellow*, Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government

Puerto Rico's Man-Made Disaster

Hearing Room C



CO-MODERATORS: Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo and Assemblywoman Jaime Williams

DESCRIPTION: Even before Maria, Puerto Rico was struggling to survive a financial storm made worse by a ten-year recession, high levels of out-migration, and recent austerity measures imposed to pay an out-of-control debt burden. Structural economic inequalities – in part driven by federal and tax policy – date back long before the recent crisis. For example, many believe the burdensome cost of transporting goods and the higher taxes and customs fees associated with the Jones Act are eventually passed on to Puerto Rican consumers. Implementing poverty alleviating economic tax

policies long denied to Puerto Ricans such as the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) would provide necessary support for working families. Long underfunded social net programs such as Medicaid and nutritional assistance for low-income families (NAP), are currently facing funding cliffs, and dollars intended by Congress for disaster assistance have not yet reached the island. Join us to learn more about the impact of these policies on Boricuas on and off the island and how we can eradicate damaging inequity.

PANELISTS: Nelson Denis, *Founding Member*, Respect & Justice for Puerto Rico; Ángel Figueroa Jaramillo, *President*, Puerto Rico Electrical Workers Union (UTIER); Erica Gonzalez, *Acting Director*, Power 4 Puerto Rico; Roger Juan Maldonado, *President*, New York City Bar Association; Julio Pabón, *Executive Member*, Respect & Justice for Puerto Rico; Manuel Reyes Alfonso, *Executive Vice President & CEO*, Cámara de Mercadeo Industria y Distribución de Alimentos (MIDA)

Housing is a Human Right

Meeting Room 1



CO-MODERATORS: Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner and Senator Zellnor Myrie

DESCRIPTION: The right to housing is a fundamental human rights principle. Access to affordable housing is imperative for the vitality of our working families and diverse communities. With current rent regulation legislation due to expire this year, what can be done to ensure quality housing and tenant protection throughout New York State? Join us for a rich discussion on bold solutions to preserve and expand affordable housing including information on how to apply to for the State's housing lottery. This panel will feature government officials, legal experts, and affordable housing

advocates that work directly with tenant organizers. Panelists will share different models of preventing homelessness, the importance of community-centered development, cross-sector coalitions, and people power in conserving and creating affordable housing without displacement.

PANELISTS: Hon. Rafael Salamanca, *New York City Councilmember & Chair, Land Use Committee*; Mark Colón, *President, Office of Housing Preservation & Deputy Commissioner*, New York State Homes & Community Renewal; Jeanette Estima, *Senior Policy Analyst*, FPWA; Jose Luis Lopez, *Co-Director of Organizing*, Make the Road New York; Rosemary Rivera, *Co-Executive Director*, Citizen Action of New York; Rob Solano, *Executive Director & Co-Founder*, Churches United for Fair Housing; Robert Vargas, *Director of Housing Finance*, Catholic Charities USA



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The Power of Latino Leadership

Meeting Room 2



CO-MODERATORS: Assemblyman Victor Pichardo and Senator Julia Salazar

DESCRIPTION: Evidence of peer mentoring models, overall, has shown an increase in student retention and graduation rates, specifically among students of color. Peer-mentored students who received social and academic support, encouragement, and guidance with college choices, notably had more degree completions compared to their counterparts from control groups. This panel will include vital conversations about the importance of achieving higher education, participating in mentoring programs, and building a network with Latinx leaders. Please join us for this

interactive workshop with an exciting lineup of professionals and experts discussing the importance of emerging leaders.

PANELISTS: Dr. Jeanette Altarriba, *Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences & Professor of Psychology and Collins Fellow, University at Albany, SUNY & SUNY HLI Fellow*; Dr. Ricardo Azziz, *Director, SUNY Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI) & Chief Officer, Academic Health & Hospital Affairs, State University of New York (SUNY) System Administration*; Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, *Senior Advisor, New York City Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs & CUNY Trustee*; Dr. Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, *President, Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY)*

Protecting NYS' Most Vulnerable Workers

Meeting Room 3



CO-MODERATORS: Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz and Senator Jessica Ramos

DESCRIPTION: New York's Latino workforce contributes significantly to the State's economy. Yet these workers often find themselves in low-wage jobs, vulnerable to injustices such as wage theft and other threats to their overall well-being. This workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss strategies employed by community organizations and labor unions across the state that address wage theft and workplace health safety issues. Learn more about these innovative grassroots organizing campaigns aimed at raising workplace standards for low-wage immigrant workers and enhancing

mechanisms to enforce them.

PANELISTS: Andrea Callan, *Managing Director, Worker Justice Center of New York*; Diana Florence, *Senior Investigative Counsel, New York County District Attorney's Office*; Jessica Garcia, *Assistant to the President, Retail Wholesale Department Store Union*; James Rogers, *Deputy Commissioner for Worker Protection, New York State Department of Labor*; Marrisa Senteno, *Enforcement Program Manager, National Domestic Worker Alliance*; Nathaniel Ty, *Board Member, New York State Nurses Association*

NYS Criminal Justice Reform

Meeting Room 4



CO-MODERATORS: Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez and Senator Jamaal Bailey

DESCRIPTION: Equal protection under the law is a principle of American democracy. However, Latinos convicted of crimes have higher and longer incarceration rates than non-Hispanic whites. Incarceration has a community-destroying impact due to lost work productivity, family separation, and diminished political power. New York's leadership must continue to work with Latino communities to build trust with local police and reduce needless and counter-productive arrests, provide alternatives to incarcerations especially for youthful offenders, and reform bail and sentencing

processes. This panel discussion will address ways state and local governments can reduce mass incarceration and recidivism decimating Latino and black communities in New York highlighting current legislative proposals such as Discovery Reform, Speedy Trial Reform, Cash Bail, The Andrew Kearse Act, Parole Reform, and Prison Commissary Reform.

PANELISTS: Hon. Inez Dickens, *New York State Assemblywoman*; Catherine Gonzalez, *Staff Attorney, Criminal Defense Practices, Brooklyn Defender Services*; Richard Nuñez-Lawrence, *Executive Director, Afro-Latino Association for Policy & Advocacy*



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Save a Life: Addressing Addiction in New York State

Meeting Room 5



CO-MODERATORS: Assemblywoman Karines Reyes and Assemblyman Al Taylor

DESCRIPTION: The Opioid Crisis affects people financially, physically, and mentally. Drug addiction must be approached in a systematic way as it connects to homelessness, poverty, and mental illness. Prevention, treatment, and recovery assets are the key to eliminating this crisis. This workshop will describe services that can make the difference, the direction we are heading in, and actions and policies that can support these services to protect the Latino community from the long-term effects of the opioid crisis. Narcan packets and training will be available for workshop attendees.

PANELISTS: Arlene González-Sánchez, *Commissioner*, New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services; Shannon Kelly, *Chief Operating Officer*, Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan and Ulster; Joyce Rivera, *Founder & Executive Director*, St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction; Annette Roque, *Executive Director*, La Nueva Esperanza

Judicial Roundtable: The Opioid Epidemic and its Impact on Our Children

Meeting Room 7



MODERATOR: Senator Luis Sepúlveda

DESCRIPTION: The Opioid epidemic continues to destroy Latino families. Not only are we seeing the socio-economic impact of addiction, but also the societal impact of epidemic deaths due to opioid overdoses. Our youth are losing their lives. Latino children are being forced into the foster care system after losing their parents to opioid overdoses. This roundtable brings together prominent legal and civic minded experts from throughout New York State as they strategize to protect the Latino community from the long-term effects of the opioid crisis.

PANELISTS: Justice Doris M. Gonzalez, *Administrative Judge of Civil Matters Supreme Court*, Bronx County; Justice Evelyn J. Laporte, *Kings County Supreme Court—Criminal Term*; Justice Cenceria P. Edwards, *Kings County Civil Court*; Justice Llinet Rosado, *Bronx County Supreme Court*; Justice Bianka Perez, *Bronx County Civil Court*; Justice Julio Rodriguez III, *Bronx County Supreme Court*; Eric Gonzalez, *Kings County District Attorney*; Darcel D. Clark, *Bronx County District Attorney*; Franck D. Joseph II, *Assistant Commissioner for Community Relations*, NYC Commission on Human Rights