

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD



## MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

### DISTRICT 1

**Steven Medeiros** was born and raised in the Bay Area and was the first in his family to attend and graduate from college. He is a passionate advocate and uses his skills to promote positive social change in a myriad of areas, including but not limited to housing, immigration reform, education equity, and community-police relations. Mr. Medeiros knows first-hand the challenges resulting from drug addiction and incarceration; close members of his immediate family have spent significant time in jail and/or prison as a result, in part, of their addictions.

**Note: There are two open vacancies for District 1**

### DISTRICT 2

**Claudia P. Del Rio** is a first generation born Latina who, at a relatively early age, took on the care and discipline of her siblings and mother. Her professional history has focused on providing and/or advocating for services for at-risk populations. She is currently the Director of Community Services for La Familia Counseling Service. Ms. Del Rio inspires and continues to be a role model for those who don't have positive adult role models in their lives.

**Kamarlo Spooner**, a native Oaklander, has spent over 39 months incarcerated. Following his release in 2007, Mr. Spooner returned to Peralta Colleges to obtain four different associate degrees. Currently he is a garbage truck driver and an advocate for at risk individuals. Mr. Spooner is a motivational and transformational speaker who volunteers his time by returning to the same prison, Sierra Conservation Center, which he was released from to inspire and motivate inmates. Mr. Spooner also volunteers his time by speaking to the participants of the Oakland Midnight Basketball League encouraging them to stay clear of anti-social pursuits.

**Rodney Scott** has been a resident of Alameda County since 1971. He graduated from Tennyson High School in Hayward and joined the U.S. Marines in 1978. Although he has been incarcerated and returned home on three different occasions and struggled with addiction, he attended Chabot College and is currently a student at California State University, East Bay, expecting to earn his B.A. Degree in Sociology in 2019. He also serves as the President of the Level V Student Club at California State University, East Bay. Rodney graduated from the Substance Abuse program at Merritt College under Doctor William Love; his State license is pending. He is the director/founder of his own company, a non-profit, LEVEL V RELOADED and his goal is to assist formerly incarcerated individuals with entering and graduating from institutions of higher education. Rodney has learned that the key to breaking the recidivism rate is to educate.

### DISTRICT 3

**Note: There are three open vacancies for District 3**

#### **DISTRICT 4**

**Douglas Butler** is the Program Manager at Cypress Mandela Training Center and works daily with the reentry population. Butler also works with a group of Lifer Prisoners in San Quentin State Prison and is a Senior Facilitator for Breaking Barriers and Inmates Putting away Childish Things (IMPACT). He also mentors a young man with mental challenges. Mr. Butler was at one time a police officer and also served a lengthy sentence in state prison, being released from prison onto parole during a time when few persons were granted release. Mr. Butler serves as a role model for the reentry population and understands the challenges they face to a successful reentry.

**Keith Gums** grew up in Oakland and is a retired sergeant with 23 years of service from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. Much of his patrol experience was as a community policing and problem-solving officer and he is currently active in his neighborhood crime prevention council and action team. Mr. Gums currently volunteers as a mentor with the Men of Iron program, a program designed to teach young men discipline and life skills

**Note: There is one open vacancy for District 4**

#### **DISTRICT 5**

**Raymond Banks** was born and raised in West Philadelphia, and has been in the Bay Area since 1990. A previously incarcerated, homeless, Navy veteran, he graduated in 2008 with an undergraduate degree in Philosophy from UC Berkeley. He assisted with the pilot of Cal's first cross-enrollment program with dedicated academic support for veteran and formerly incarcerated community college students in spring 2015. The program, designed to "Demystify Cal By Experiencing Cal," has now become the Malcolm X Scholars Program, organized by Urban Scholars at Berkeley, a student-initiated service group sponsored by the Associated Students of University of California (ASUC), in which he serves as President Emeritus. Currently, Mr. Banks tutors Cal athletes in Philosophy and chairs the Veterans Committee for the Oakland Branch of the NAACP. He envisages a seamless continuum of services for the re-entry population which begins prior to release and continues until graduation from a four-year institution, or until one has become gainfully employed.

**Selimoni M. Percival Jr.** born and raised in Oakland, incarcerated multiple times before age 30, entered CURA rehab in 2014 and graduated in 2016, is currently a Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Tongan Youth Development Project, "Oakland Tongan House SLE". Working full time while volunteering at rehabilitating an abandoned Tongan family home, and dedicating himself to his new role as single parent of his daughter, age 4, now age 7, he Co-Directs the Tongan House SLE larger program offering Sentence Mitigation Counsel to advocate for drug treatment not jail; SLE affordable housing after drug rehab completion; Evaluation and Counselling for job and other applications; OJT Training experience; Legal Referral services for Family Law, Domestic Violence, Eviction Defence, and Immigration; Supervised work time for Court Ordered Community Service; and a Probation/Parole meeting location. Percival Jr. is dedicated to improving access of the Tongan and other underserved communities in Alameda County to resources for education and housing. He continues to be a role model in his large, extended family for the children who don't have other positive male role models. Percival is looking forward to completing his GED and beginning an Associate Degree in Physics.

**Tanasha Stevens** is a single mother of three wonderful children (boys) ages 27, 25, and 11 years old. Right now, everything I do is for my children, however that wasn't always the case. I grew up right in the heart of Oakland California and I thought the only way to survive was to sell drugs. I ended up going to prison six times and doing about 10 years altogether until I realize that it wasn't working. After being released in 2003 I decided to change my life. For a couple of years, it wasn't really challenging until I lost my mother to cancer. I knew then that I had

to step up and raise my children. Since then I went to school, got my high school diploma then went to college of Alameda to obtain my AA degree in African-American history. I graduated with a GPA of 3.975 and got accepted to UC Berkeley. I proved to myself and my children that it doesn't matter where you start, it matters where you finish, they too can go to college and get a higher education. While at College of Alameda I became president of a program called New Dream, this program is designed to help formerly incarcerated people get into college. I've devoted my life to becoming a pillar of my community and helping those that are poverty stricken, incarcerated, and people that are just trying to find their place in life.