

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## Community Engagement: How To Win the Fight for Public Defense

by  
**April Frazier Camara**  
Chief, Lifelong Learning

**Mississippi Public Defender Conference**  
October 22, 2019

NLADA www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## Who is April?



**BPDA**  
THE PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE  
An All-States of America

**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**HOWARD UNIVERSITY**  
1967  
SCHOOL OF LAW

Law Offices of the Shelby County Public Defender  
#NoJusticeWithoutUs  
**JUSTICE**

A LAWYER'S EITHER A SOCIAL ENGINEER OR HE'S A PARASITE ON SOCIETY.  
- CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON -

NLADA www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## April's Perspective on Community Engagement

- Most public defenders represent clients who come from communities outside of their backgrounds and ethnicities



NLADA www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## What is Your Perspective on the Role of Community in Public Defense?

**Perspective Matters**

It can shape your perception, and your reality.

www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## Goal of This Presentation

- Community is our most valuable asset as public defenders!
- Community-Oriented Defense yields better case, policy and office outcomes
- Why Community Engagement Should be the Center of your Client Work

www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## CLIENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Most public defenders represent clients who come from communities outside of their backgrounds and ethnicities

www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## Community-Oriented Defense



- Create a "client-centered practice."
- Meet clients' needs.
- Partner with the community.
- Fix systemic problems.
- Educate the public.
- Collaborate.
- Address civil legal needs.
- Pursue a multidisciplinary approach.
- Seek necessary support. Participate in the COD network

NLADA www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## COD: Does it Work?

**Traditional Indigent Defense Model**



**Holistic Defense Model**



A new model of holistic public defense seeks to resolve cases more effectively and reduce recidivism by also addressing underlying challenges and needs that may lead to criminal activity. The model provides an interdisciplinary service that includes a criminal defense lawyer and advocates, such as social workers, housing advocates, investigators, and civil attorneys.

NLADA www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## Community-Oriented Defense: Does it Work?

**BxD** ACCORDING TO A STUDY BY RAND AND UPENN LAW, 10 YEARS OF BxD'S HOLISTIC DEFENSE



REDUCED THE RATE OF INCARCERATION  
**by 16%**



SHORTENED SENTENCE LENGTH  
**by 24%**



CUT PRE-TRIAL DETENTION  
**by 9%**

NLADA www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid &  
Defender Association  
nlada.org

### NYC Close Rikers Campaign



**NLADA**  
www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid &  
Defender Association  
nlada.org

### NY State Pre-Trial Reform Legislation



**NLADA**  
www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid &  
Defender Association  
nlada.org

### How Community Engagement Increases Salaries for Public Defenders



**NLADA**  
www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## Steps to Authentic Engagement

### Community Engagement Spectrum

INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Provide residents with info and assist in understanding problems, alternatives, and solutions.	Obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and decisions.	Work directly with residents and consistently consider their concerns and aspirations.	Partner with residents in decision-making, including in identification of solutions.	Residents are making decisions and leading solution-based efforts.

\*Based on the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum, developed by the International Association for Public Participation, 2014  
[http://ic.yoneda.com/sites/www/iap2.org/resources/reports/foundation\\_course/IAP2\\_P2\\_Spectrum\\_FINAL.pdf](http://ic.yoneda.com/sites/www/iap2.org/resources/reports/foundation_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf)

NLADA  
www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## Steps to Authentic Engagement

NLADA  
www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## WHAT IS THE KEY?

NLADA  
www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## Authentic Community Engagement

- ✓ CONTRARY TO LEGAL TRAINING
- ✓ UNCOMFORTABLE
- ✓ YOU ARE NOT THE EXPERT!

NLADA  
www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## Traditional vs. Authentic Engagement

**Community Engagement:** The active and continual solicitation and incorporation of community input in the planning, governance, and implementation of primary health care.

**A RANGE OF ENGAGEMENT OPTIONS:**  
Create revenues and communication channels to invite community feedback and ensure transparency.

NLADA  
www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

## Where do you start?

- Community Forums
- Client Surveys
- Client Advisory Board
- Client Discussion Groups

NLADA  
www.nlada.org TTA@nlada.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

 **NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

**DO SOMETHING!**

*progress  
over  
perfection*

 NLADA [www.nlada.org](http://www.nlada.org) [TTA@nlada.org](mailto:TTA@nlada.org)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

 **NLADA**  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
nlada.org

Let's Stay Connected  
April Frazier Camara  
Chief, Lifelong Learning  
[a.camara@nlada.org](mailto:a.camara@nlada.org)

---

**BECOME A MEMBER AT NLADA!**

 NLADA [www.nlada.org](http://www.nlada.org) [TTA@nlada.org](mailto:TTA@nlada.org)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---