

# OUR TURNING POINT

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Meeting the needs of our community,  
beginning with chemical health.



**TURNING POINT**  
AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION



During the unrest in Minneapolis when so many windows were boarded up like Turning Point's Recovery Center, a community artist asked if he could paint some art on the boards. Turning Point staff shared some of our materials and talked with him about what Turning Point is doing and he created this sign.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Turning Point grows..... page 4  
New Board members..... page 7

# THE TIME HAS COME



**BY ELIZABETH A. REED**  
*Chief Operating Officer*

As I started writing this article, I found myself thinking about Captain Kangaroo. You may be asking yourself “Who is Captain Kangaroo and what does he have to do with Turning Point?” Well, *Captain Kangaroo* was a children’s television show starting in the 50s that

I watched every day. At the beginning of each show, Captain Kangaroo would open the door with his set of keys. Once inside he would say “Welcome” and then take the children watching on a journey of learning. At the end of the show, he would hang up his keys and say “good bye, see you tomorrow.”

Over 20 years ago I received my keys to my office here at Turning Point and began my journey. It was my plan to do what I could to contribute to the growth and success of Turning Point.

When I started, we had five programs and today we offer twelve. We stayed true to our commitment to our community and I am proud of the growth and success we have achieved over the 20 years under my guidance as the Chief Operating Officer.

And now I have decided the time has come for me to hang up my keys and retire.

It has been my pleasure to work with such a wonderful organization that is so committed to the African American Community. I also want to acknowledge the excellent staff I have worked with, some who remain at Turning Point and many who have moved on. They have worked with dedication and compassion to make sure that Turning Point provides world class services to our community. I am honored to have worked alongside them for over 20 years. Our motto has always been “Services created by us for us.”

In closing, I say “goodbye, farewell, adios, see you later, etc., etc.  
Liz



# TURNING POINT LOOKS TO THE FUTURE



**BY DR. PETER HAYDEN**  
*President & CEO*

*A place to change your mind*

With some sorrow I must share with you the somber announcement that Liz Reed, Turning Point's valued Chief Operating Officer is retiring after 21 years of service. On the one hand, I'm excited that she has that opportunity. On the other hand, she is going to be sorely missed. As a partner and a friend, how do you replace her?

You don't replace her.

21 years ago, I was looking for the person who wasn't like me to work at Turning Point. Liz came into the organization with complementary skills and provided what Turning Point needed at that time. Today, the organization has grown exponentially because of her skills, her compassion and love for the people we serve and work with.

*Liz, this is not a farewell. You will always be a part of the Turning Point Family. You have served Turning Point more than just by working there. You have taken us to another level. On behalf of the Board, Staff, Clients and myself, we thank you, we wish you well, and we'll see you again.*

The person coming in to fill Liz's shoes is someone we have trained well. Angela Reed is Turning Point's new Chief Operating Officer. She has been around Turning Point since she was a child and has been on the staff for 10 years. Angela knows Turning Point, and she is well-known in the community. She is able to help Turning Point make this a seamless transition.

Fact is, Liz's shoes are too large for one person to fill alone. Greg Jones is the new Chief Program Officer. He came to Turning Point as a new grad from St. Cloud State University and has been with us for nearly 30 years. He has worked at every level of our treatment programs and is well-known with our State and County contacts. There is no one better who can stand and work with Angela to take care of Turning Point as we continue to serve our clients and our community.

Over the years, Liz and I spent many days, nights and weekends in prayer, working to make sure Turning Point would continue. There were tough times. It hasn't always been easy, and we prayed, cried and asked God for the serenity to keep on. Most of all, Liz and I wanted to make sure Turning Point was secure for the future. We have done that. I am still here and Angela and Greg will work with me to keep Turning Point growing and always remain a time and a place to change your mind.



# TURNING POINT GROWS IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

**BY ANGELA REED**

*Director of Community Services,  
Training Divisions*

This year has brought a number of ups and downs. A lot of grief and a lot of connections. A lot of pain and a lot of compassion. A lot of needs and a lot of responses. Turning Point has grown to meet the needs of our community. The Covid-19 pandemic, the drug epidemic and the explosions of violence in the community are directly felt by staff and the community.

As a culturally specific organization, we always ask ourselves: What can we do? What is our role? In response, we have implemented programs in the areas of opioid use disorders, crisis counseling (sponsored by FEMA), increased our recovery coaching services, added Narcan distribution and are embarking on an opioid fatality review initiative to determine impacting factors and gaps in African Americans suspected of opioid-induced deaths.

In addition to our programming, we are also responding to community needs. We are opening a Resource Library with no-cost resources available to the community and other area providers serving our population. We have self-help books, enrichment material and coaching available to meet the needs of our community. We will also be opening a meeting space that can be used by area providers at no cost.

We are thankful and proud of all the work taking place in the community. We recognize the contributions to the collective and the community. The work being done does not go unseen. It will take a collective to continue to address the needs of the community. Community providers in Minnesota have risen to the occasion and are not giving up. We do see a light at the end of this tunnel. We are all in this together.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:**

- **4-week Education and Healing Community Sessions.** Starting Thursday April 22nd 6-7pm hosted by Mary Jo Winston. Zoom ID: 819 1248 4664
- **V-fest- Building Healthy Communities.** July 24th 12-5pm. 1221 Marshall Avenue Saint Paul, MN 55104 [www.vfestmn.com](http://www.vfestmn.com)

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

- **Aftercare:** Fridays at 6pm. (virtual options available)
- **Weekly Men's Peer Support Group:** Saturdays 1:30-3:00

**Regular services:** • Narcan distribution, • Covid-19 home testing saliva kits-no cost, • HIV saliva testing (home testing kits available), • Crisis Counseling (FEMA), • Peer Recovery Coaching



Photo by Walter Marmillion

# CLIENT STORY: DERRICK BENBOW

**BY CHUCK BLAKE**

*Case Manager, Ms. Bea's House*

Derrick Benbow came into Turning Point's Board & Lodge housing program, known as Miss Bea's House, on June 8, 2020. He came from Lino Lakes prison, ready for change and looking for a job because he had never had one. Derrick wants to help people, to better his life and to give back to the community. He sees his past as negative, and believes finding a job is the first step toward those goals, and gives him the chance to see the positive in people.

Since coming to Miss Bea's House Derrick has seen the care shown by the staff being concerned about him and giving him help with getting himself together, taking time and not rushing. Derrick didn't want to go back to prison. He was able to find a job with the help of the Case Manager of Miss Bea's House, Chuck Blake and Housing Director Marvin Clark

Derrick stated that Miss Bea's House helped him get himself going in a positive way and he would one day like to work at Ms. Bea's House. He added that giving this interview and letting his story become public was a great feeling for him to get out of his comfort zone.

Derrick has plans to go back to school and get a higher education to do social work in the community. He is currently serving as the house elder at Miss Bea's House.

## TURNING ADVERSITY TO ADVANTAGE

**MAY 26, 2021, 1-3 P.M. ZOOM MEETING ID 843 9105 8336**



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# SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) AND HOUSING DIVISION UPDATES

**BY GREG JONES**

*Director, Substance Use Disorder,  
Housing Divisions*

Turning Point has recently experienced some staff changes in our SUD Division. We sent our updated contact list of all SUD staff including counselors, clinical supervisor, client intake manager, client advocate, billing and records as well as our SUD Director to Hennepin County and all of our affiliates, ensuring that they are able to get in touch with the right staff directly.

Ms. Ruth Lawal, Chemical Dependency Counselor, assumed responsibility for the Outpatient Treatment program about a month ago and has been doing an excellent job. Clients are receptive to her way of teaching and are eager to continue their treatment progress. Ms. Ruth brings a very professional teaching aspect to the group setting. She has also established a new reporting system with parole and probation officers, CPS/Social workers, etc., in conjunction with billing and records, and has strengthened our relationship with these community partners.

Since Ms. Ruth has taken Outpatient, Chemical Dependency Counselor Mitch Wersal has stepped up once again, and taken over Rule 24 (Direct Access) evaluations, both walk-ins and incoming residential clients. Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases, walk-ins are very limited and we encourage people to schedule appointment appointments for these assessments.

Robert Hubbard was promoted to the Client Advocate position. He has several years' experience as a Linkage Coordinator at Turning Point, and now uses that experience in his new role.

Although COVID-19 vaccinations are on the rise, Turning Point is still closely following the CDC guidelines and limiting movement and visitation at the current time due to the rising cases in Hennepin County. We continue to monitor these numbers closely, which have been averaging roughly 1700 cases per day, and as of last April 9 the uptick was 2600. That is concerning and we will continue to follow these strict guidelines until numbers decrease significantly.

Most recently, the property at 2021 Glenwood has gotten an extreme makeover including flooring updates, painting and other clean-up. This will also take place at 2105 Glenwood in the near future.

## **TREATMENT AND HOUSING RESOURCES CONTACT:**

If you are seeking substance use disorder treatment or housing resources, contact Intake Manager Gary Farr at 612-302-4112.

# TURNING POINT INTRODUCES THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Erin Hayden** brings a unique perspective to the Board. Daughter of President & CEO Dr. Peter Hayden, Turning Point has been a part of her life since birth. “Growing up, I was exposed first-hand to the values and mission of Turning Point. As I grew older, I began to grasp the magnitude of the work that Turning Point did, and the positive ripple effect that it has on both individuals and the community.”

Erin graduated from Mississippi State University in 2016 with a Bachelor's degree in Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations. She has worked as Marketing Coordinator for Thor Companies and is currently Marketing Coordinator at Target-ISM Home Planner.

“As a Board member, my goal would be to help magnify the name and work that Turning Point has so brilliantly done over the last 45 years,” Erin said.



**Lori Wilson** is “coming back” to Turning Point. She was Finance Manager, and has since worked as a consultant, Financial Coordinator at National Marrow Donor Program and Operations Manager at Voya Financial. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her new role as Board member.

“Turning Point has been a pillar in the community ever since I can remember. It has been near and dear to my heart since its inception,” she said. “This organization has served my community and its surrounding partners for years.”

As she begins her new role, Lori is looking forward to getting to know the existing Board members. “I plan to jump in where I see fit and align my skills where needed,” she said. “I am really excited and honored for the opportunity to share my knowledge and skills.”



**Rico Alexander** has been Director of Head Start/Early Head Start for more than ten years, working with Parents in Community Action (PICA) since 1992. He comes to the Board with experience in serving the community, working in the nonprofit world, and a variety of leadership roles.

“I have known Peter Hayden for many years and greatly respect the work he has done in the area of chemical health, housing and training,” Rico said. “I personally want to make a positive impact in this area as well and feel that becoming involved with the Turning Point Board is an effective way to do so.”

Rico hopes “to share my experience, expertise and many collaborative resources with the Board as we work together toward the common goal of meeting the needs of the community and creating a better future for its residents.”



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