

OUR TURNING POINT

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



TURNING POINT
AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION



Sarah Simmons' memory is honored once again with the Sarah Simmons Showcase, part of the World AIDS Day event on December 1. See article on page 4

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A MESSAGE OF THANKSGIVING

BY ANGELA REED
Chief Operating Officer

As the year comes to an end, we are entering a time of reflection, love and family. I want us to take some time and reflect on all that we have gained. All that we have lost. All that we have learned and all that we aspire to. This year has been a difficult one for the community and for providers thriving to make a difference in the communities that we love.

Please take this holiday season as an opportunity to treasure the normal things in our lives. The uneventful yet memorable moments that shape our experiences in this thing called life. Take this time to renew yourself and prepare for the road ahead.

As this year comes to an end I would like to say thank you for the long nights and early mornings. Thank you for the eager learners and the opportunities I have had to grow and evolve.

This year has brought about the beginning of my tenure as Chief Operating Officer of a legacy organization and through that appointment has allowed me to experience and witness the manifestation of a long standing dream to be put in a position where I can be useful with purpose.

I also received recognition from two warrior organizations in the field of addiction. I received a Champions of Our Cause award from the Steve Rummeler Hope Network and a Visionary Leadership award from MARRCH. These recognitions are my first community recognitions and I was so surprised, excited and honored to be considered for these awards. I will never forget the feeling of surprise and appreciation I felt when I was notified.

I am truly motivated for the next chapter of my life and the next chapter with this organization.

Dear Turning Point Family:

Thank you for all you do. Thanks for all your flexibility. Thanks for all your dedication. Thanks for all your diligence. Thanks for always providing care with love. And thank you for staying dedicated and true as we all made our way through this pandemic. Your influence on the lives of the people we serve is amazing, astonishing and does not go unrecognized. I respect you all tremendously and learn from you all on a daily basis.

GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

BY DR. PETER HAYDEN
President & CEO



A place to change your mind

Turning Point has been tremendously gifted by the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) with their first annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion award. Turning Point has the honor of going down in history as the very first recipient of this award.

The NAATP became aware of Turning Point's work through our collaboration with Hazelden Betty Ford. Turning Point has worked with Hazelden on various projects over the years, and currently we are working together on a collective impact partnership to address the cross sector areas of need with in the culturally specific services continuum of care and services, locally and nationally. We do this through partnership projects including public awareness media campaigns, training, and advocacy.

Melvin Ventrell, Chief Executive Officer of the NAATP, was the one to notify me of the award. "We could not have found a more worthy recipient," he said.

When I started Turning Point in 1976 it wasn't to receive awards. It was to create a place offering treatment for and by people who looked like me. Since that time, over 30,000 men and women have received treatment for their addiction along with other services such as mental health, housing, employment services to help them create change and maintain their recovery. All the services and programs we have provided over the years are based on being culturally specific to the African American community.

This is bigger than an award, as wonderful as that award is, and as grateful as we are for it. Turning Point has been known locally for years. Now we are being valued from a national perspective. Now our work is being recognized by outside groups. This has nothing to do with Peter Hayden; rather it has to do with all the fine workers at Turning Point, past and present. It has to do with the clients who have come through the programs and stayed sober, who found a way to recover, to heal their lives and families. It has to do with making a difference in our community.

It will be my privilege to travel to Denver in December to accept this award on behalf of Turning Point. I will take with me my Turning Point Family - Board members, staff, clients, community supporters. All of you will be with me as I accept this award for all of us.



ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC:

**EQUITABLE ACCESS,
EVERYONE'S VOICE**

BY S. MARIE GRAHAM
HIV Program Management

For the past 12 years Minnesota African/African American Women HIV Initiative (MAAAH) has annually recognized World AIDS Day, which is December 1 each year. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day.

MAAAH derived from the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), who sponsored ongoing regional forums focusing on racial and ethnic disparities among African Americans entitled "African American Women and HIV/AIDS: Confronting the Crisis and Planning for Action." MAAAH formed as a result of this effort, and originally consisted of HIV consumers and representatives such as Turning Point, Inc., Red Door Clinic, Youth and AIDS Project, Community Fitness Today, Inc., African American AIDS Task Force (AAATF), Office of Minority and Multicultural Health, Minnesota Department of Health, Department of Human Services. Every year more organizations come on board such as Macedonia Baptist Church, Shiloh Temple International Ministries, Rainbow Health and more.

Our goal then and now is to establish Black women as a funding priority in the State of Minnesota, and address the issue of lack of services specific to Black women and youth. Our theme this year is Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access, Everyone's Voice.

MAAAH will once again honor Turning Point's Sarah Simmons at this year's event. Sarah worked diligently and dedicated her life to helping stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. She always showed up in the community to lend a helping hand wherever needed. At her time of passing Sarah, was a faithful employee of Turning Point. We will also honor and hold in memory Lois Crenshaw, who has made outstanding contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS. She will be greatly missed.

Entertainment at the Sarah Simmons Showcase will include the Beyond Favored Band, Kevin Jackson and T. Michael Rambo. Community speakers and video presentations will address all aspects of HIV then and now, including what it's like to be infected with HIV, what happens when fighting back after Covid, and others. Free meals to go will be provided by Sammy's Eatery, caramel cake and peach cobbler will be provided by Soul Food Treats, and free T-shirts will be given out (while supplies last), and a variety of health resource information will be available.

I STAND, YOU STAND AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE AND COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

BY CANDACE WHITTAKER
FEMA Counseling Coordinator

On Saturday October 23, four community organizations came together to provide community support and awareness around violence prevention, community clean-up and HIV awareness. The event was titled "I Stand, You Stand Against Gun Violence." The event took place at North Commons Park and included food, music and words of inspiration.

Wellspring Second Chance, North Commons Park, Just Us Bike Club joined Turning Point and spent time cleaning the park playground. Our staff members provided information and resources about programs and services from Turning Point, especially around HIV testing and awareness, along with serving food to the community.





DR. DYER JOINS SUD TEAM

BY GREG JONES

Director, Substance Use Disorder, Housing Divisions

The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) team would like to welcome Dr. Fred Dyer, PhD, LADC to our staff. Dr. Dyer comes to Turning Point with an extensive background in chemical dependency treatment services, being a Certified Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counselor since 1996.

Dr. Dyer most recently received his LADC and has been a great asset to Turning Point. He has been facilitating residential substance abuse therapy groups, which has had a positive impact with our residential clients, especially influencing the residents between the ages of 22 and 35. His skills and talent have brought a calming atmosphere to our residential clients and counseling staff.

Dr. Dyer is well known for his trainings on emerging adults, and this shows in his work here at Turning Point. This is Dr. Dyer's second time working for Turning Point; he previously ran outpatient programming. Staff who knew him from his first stint at Turning Point remember his signature phrase: "I just said something."

Welcome to the team Dr. Dyer, we look forward to many achievements with you on board.



Dr. Fred Dyer. Photo by Walter Marmillion



THANK YOU!

We at Turning Point wish to thank the Sisters of the Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis, our very own "Nuns in the Hood!" Thank you for always thinking of us and keeping us in your hearts and in your prayers. Thank you for your recent donation. Your hearts for us and for our community is everlasting. Bless you!

TURNING POINT INTRODUCES THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Keyona Love was elected to the Board in September. She is a Child Protection Social Worker with the Hennepin County Human Services & Public Health Department.

Her personal goals include an interest in exploring other avenues of social work and in drug and alcohol counseling. She now has the chance to become more aware of the needs and bring her best to help the clients and the community. Keyona will be working on the Program Committee.

“My hopes and goals as a board member are to be able to share some of my knowledge and experience to be able to contribute to impacting the clients and the community with their services,” Keyona stated.



Also elected in September, **Justin Butler** is Senior Vice President-Consumer Bank Control Programs at Wells-Fargo. He brings experience in a range of financial roles as describes himself as one who “focuses on the top line, protects the bottom line.” He will join the Finance Committee.

He has heard Peter Hayden speak of the work of Turning Point, and this led him to seek ways to learn as much as he can and contribute to the organization.

“My hope is that I’ll be able to add value in various capacities,” he said. “I have some experiences in governing nonprofits and I hope to be able to share some of [my] experiences and best practices with my peers to continue to set Turning Point up for an even brighter future.”



Alex Tittle has returned to the Board and to the Development Committee. Alex has had a dynamic 20-year career reflecting experience and performance in the human resources and management profession, focusing on Diversity & Inclusion.

His goals, in his own words: “First, I pray that I can continue to learn and add value to the legacy and mission that Dr. Hayden has established and promoted for 40+ years. Second, I will partner with the Development Committee and any other committee where my capabilities might benefit Turning Point’s mission, vision and values. Lastly, I expect to learn from my fellow board members and Turning Point staff who have pledged to support and deliver quality care and attention to a community that has a history of being ignored.



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