

**Strategies to Address the Opioid Epidemic in Black/African American and  
Hispanic/Latino Communities  
INTRODUCTORY BIOS**

**Ricardo Cruz, M.D., M.P.H.**

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Dr. Cruz is a primary care physician at Boston Medical Center in the Department of Medicine, Section of General Internal Medicine. He is the Principal Investigator of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health-funded Project RECOVER (Referral, Engagement, Coaching, Overdose preVention Education in Recovery), a project that utilizes peer recovery coaches to assist with engagement and retention of individuals with opioid use disorder into treatment and primary care services after completion of acute treatment services (detoxification). In addition, he is a Clinician Educator and part of the Core Faculty of the Internal Medicine Primary Care Training Program at BUSM/BMC. He is in the BUSM Academy of Medical Educators where he teaches medical students during the preclinical doctoring courses with a focus on development of clinical reasoning. He has been a co-investigator on NIAAA and NIDA-funded randomized clinical trials testing medications for alcohol and cocaine use disorders. His interests are in providing primary care and treatment for substance use disorders for disadvantaged populations including racial and ethnic minority communities, specifically, Latinx and individuals with criminal justice involvement.

**Andre L. Johnson, M.A.**

**President and CEO**

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Mr. Johnson is the President and CEO of the Detroit Recovery Project (DRP), a multiservice agency that provides a wide spectrum of support services to the City's recovery community. The agency also oversees an ex-offender program that helps returning citizens reintegrate successfully into the Detroit community, with the aim of reducing recidivism and/or relapse among this population. Mr. Johnson has over 31 years of professional work experience, exemplifying a long-standing commitment and dedication to the field of substance abuse. In 2013, Mr. Johnson was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to the SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) National Advisory Council. He is a trained certified recovery coach, and in 2016 was chosen as a recipient of a *Champions of Change* award from President Barack Obama.

**Mary Langley, Ph.D., M.P.H., RN, ICPS**  
**Professor & Director, Morehouse School of Medicine**  
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Dr. Langley is a professor in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine and the Director of the Health Promotion Resource Center at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Langley has worked extensively in community development in both urban and rural communities.

She is an internationally credentialed prevention specialist (ICPS) and experienced in program development, implementation, and evaluation of prevention programs for youth and families. For more than 30 years, Dr. Langley has worked with both community- and faith-based organizations, helping them to develop prevention programs for youth and families, with a focus on substance abuse and sexual risk avoidance education.

**Pierluigi Mancini, Ph.D.**  
**Project Director, National Hispanic and Latino ATTC & PTTC**  
**National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA)**  
**Founder and Former CEO, Clinic for Education Treatment and Prevention of Addiction (CETPA)**  
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Dr. Mancini is the Project Director for the National Hispanic and Latino Addiction Technology Transfer Center and the National Hispanic and Latino Prevention Technology Transfer Center. NLBHA was established to fill a need for a unified national voice for Latino populations in the behavioral health arena and to bring attention to the great disparities that exist in areas of access, utilization, practice-based research, and adequately trained personnel. Both of the centers are part of the National TTC Network, which is an international, multidisciplinary resource for professionals in the addictions treatment, prevention, and recovery services field that was established in 1993 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

With over 30 years of experience in culturally and linguistically appropriate behavioral health treatment and prevention, Dr. Mancini is one of the most sought-after national and international consultants and speakers on the subject of mental health and addiction. His area of expertise is immigrant behavioral health.

Dr. Mancini founded Georgia's only Latino behavioral health program in 1999 to serve the immigrant population by providing culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health and addiction treatment and prevention services in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.