



WE ARE WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER MAYOR



SECOND CHANCE — MONTH —

KICK-OFF AND PANELIST DISCUSSION EVENT

2023 PROGRAM



Second Chance Month,
observed in the United States
during the month
of April since 2017,
is a time to address the needs
and challenges facing our
reentry communities and to
highlight the triumphs and
successes as they transition
back into everyday society.

AGENDA

▶ 11:00AM | WELCOME

Spencer Chenier, Workforce Development Specialist

▶ 11:05AM | OPENING REMARKS

Introduction of Guest Speakers

Michael Watts Jr., *Interim Deputy Director*

Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes, *Director*

▶ 11:15AM | PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderated by

Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes, *Director*

▶ 11:45AM | Q & A

▶ 11:55AM | CLOSING REMARKS

Spencer Chenier, Workforce Development Specialist

Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes, *Director*

▶ 12:00PM | REFRESHMENTS



DR. UNIQUE MORRIS-HUGHES
Director
 D.C. Department of Employment Services (DOES)

DR. UNIQUE MORRIS-HUGHES is the Director of the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES). In her role as State Labor Commissioner, she is directly responsible for more than \$150M in local, federal and specific-purpose funds administered by the District of Columbia and the federal government for workforce development programs and training, unemployment compensation, universal paid leave administration and labor standards enforcement along with more than \$80M in active capital projects.

Previously, Dr. Morris-Hughes was the Chief Strategy Officer for DOES. She is credited with the successful turnaround of the agency's federally-funded workforce programs. Appointed by Washington DC Mayor Muriel Bowser to

assist the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity (DMGEO), Dr. Morris-Hughes was named Special Assistant & Assistant Director of DOES in 2016. Within 18 months, she removed the agency's youth programs from a federal watch list. The turnaround effort was a major accomplishment for the agency, marking a highlight of Dr. Morris-Hughes' career (The Washington Post, Sept. 7, 2017).

It was the second time that Dr. Morris-Hughes had led the turnaround of a DC-run federal grant program. Previously, she led the successful turnaround of the US Department Education federal grant programs at the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), where she guided that agency through a federal corrective action plan. As a result of the

corrective steps taken at OSSE, the District exited federal high-risk status for grant oversight, operation management, and fiscal reporting.

Dr. Morris-Hughes was OSSE's Chief Operating Officer, leading numerous management functions in support of the agency's mission, including a \$270 million education grant portfolio and \$600 million in student-per-pupil funding. She also provided oversight of several departmental units, namely Grants Management, Facilities, Operations, Contracting and Procurement, and Student Enrollment, Funding and Residency. In addition, Dr. Morris-Hughes served as OSSE's acting Assistant Superintendent of Wellness and Nutrition.

Among Dr. Morris-Hughes' other accomplishments: she developed and launched the District's Enterprise Grants Management System, an online grants management database; and led the District of Columbia to its ranking as the top state (and jurisdiction) in the country for the USDA summer meals program.

Dr. Morris-Hughes' career spans the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. She has several years of experience in education, program development, evaluation, and compliance. She previously served as

Assistant Head of School at Septima Clark Public Charter School, the District's first all-boys charter school.

Her other appointments include Center Director for the District of Columbia Public Schools; District Director of Programs for Junior Achievement of the National Capital Area; Coordinator of Public Policy for Amazon.com; and Adjunct Professor at Trinity University and at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Graduate School.

Dr. Morris-Hughes is a member of the American Educational Research Association, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, the Textbook and Academic Authors Association of America, the National Alliance of Black School Educators, National Black MBA Association, and the International Leadership Association.

Dr. Morris-Hughes obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, an MBA from Trinity University, and a BA in English from Johnson C. Smith University.



LAMONT CAREY
 Director,
 Mayor's Office of Returning
 Citizen Affairs

LAMONT CAREY, a native to Washington, has been involved in various facets of reentry for the past 17 years. He has worked with legislators, nonprofits, philanthropists and other groups that focus on policy, prevention and successful reentry. He has used his personal experiences with the criminal justice system to fuel his passion to help others recognize and overcome barriers to increase the opportunity for success.



LORENZO STEWART
 Entrepreneur,
 VOW Transportation

LORENZO STEWART a former graduate of a DC program called Aspire created by Mayor Bowser & Department of Employment Services. He started a Transportation Company for people with disabilities & seniors. He received an Excellence and Reentry award from Mayor Bowser in 2017 and since then he wanted to give returning citizens a second chance. So, he partnered with Project Empowerment initiative and hired several participants. Over the years, he worked along with Medical Brokers such as MTM, Southeast Trans., as well as the following customers: DOES, DCPS, OSSE, CFSA, OVSJG, Dept of Aging Non-Profit Organization, and Statesman "All Boys" School. "He took a VOW to provide reliable, safe, and high-quality transportation."



KANDIS CATALAN
 Program Manager,
 Credible Messenger Unit,
 Office of Gun Violence &
 Prevention

KANDIS CATALAN joined the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) in January 2022 as Program Manager. In this capacity, Kandis facilitates observation of OGVP grant-funded community programming while leading a team of Credible Messengers whose focus is community engagement, advocacy, and connecting community residents to transformative opportunities. Roots planted in community non-profits, Kandis shifted her career to government, nearly 10 years ago at the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. A true public servant, Kandis is committed to community engagement and being a catalyst for healing and positive transformation for all community residents. Kandis earned her B.A. in Communications from Fayetteville State University and a M.A. in Organizational Communication from Bowie State University. Living in the District, her favorite pastimes are live music, traveling, and hitting the bike trails with her family.



LASHONIA THOMPSON-EL
 Founding Member,
 Women Involved in Reentry

LASHONIA THOMPSON-EL is a founding member of Women Involved in Reentry (WIRE), where she works with formerly incarcerated women. She is also the author of Through the WIRE: My Search for Redemption. She grew up in Washington, DC, and, at age 19, was to sent to prison where she would spend 18.5 years.

HELPFUL RESOURCES



WIFI

WIFI is available at the DOES

Network: DCWifi

Password: None Required



TRANSPORTATION PICK-UPS

Capitol Cab 202-546-2400

Yellow Cab 202-544-1212

Diamond Cab 202-387-6200

Please tell them to pick you up from address here.

If you are using UBER or Lyft, please put in your location as 4058 Minnesota Ave NE, Washington, DC 20019



WEB INFORMATION

For more information on our programs, visit us at does.dc.gov

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This event was curated by the staff within the Division of State Initiatives (DSI) at the DC Department of Employment Services

Dr. Walter Lundy, *Fiscal Officer*

Katrina Matthews, *Program Analyst*

Keshauna Jones, *Communications Development Specialist*

Event development and execution was handled by Certified Business Enterprise, MW Consulting

Marcus A. Williams, *Principal*

Andres de la Roche, *Creative Lead*

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Jesse Garchik, *Event and Program Manager*

Dionne Shaheed, *Operations Manager*



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