



Are the Kids alright?

COVID-19 + YOUTH

RESEARCH. POLICY. PRACTICE. ADVOCACY.

COVID-19 & JUSTICE SYSTEMS II: YOUTH SUPPORT, SAFETY, & ACCOUNTABILITY INNOVATIONS

**June 2-5,
2020**

Gregory Owens

NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

Gregory Owens, a licensed master social worker, is the Deputy Commissioner/Director of the Office of Youth Justice with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services.

He worked for the NY State Division for Youth/Office for Children and Family Services for over 30 years and held many leadership positions including the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations within the Division of Child Welfare and Community Services where he was responsible for the agency's Race Equity and Cultural Competence efforts, and the Fatherhood program. He led the agency's Safe and Effective Mentoring Program, the Division of Juvenile Justice Family Advocacy and Facility Treatment and Counseling Bureaus, and their youth gang and violence efforts, among other duties.



In 2015, Owens was appointed to the NYS Board of Regents Workgroup to Improve Outcomes for Boys and Males of Color. The charge of the Workgroup is to develop and propose a series of policy recommendations that reflect informed judgment, innovative best practices and collaborative efforts that must be taken across the PreK-20 pipeline to right the inequities that have hampered the educational opportunities, and ultimately life opportunities for boys and young men of color in New York State.

In 2016, he provided Implicit Bias training to the Albany Police Department, and community stakeholders from throughout the city of Albany, and for participants in the annual training forum for the Unified Court Systems. He has provided workshops to mediation programs in Columbia and Dutchess counties. In 2016 and 2017, he facilitated leadership development workshops in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Dallas, Texas; St. Louis, Missouri; San Diego, California; and Atlanta, Georgia; for federally funded Healthy Family and Responsible Fatherhood programs from across the country.

A virtual forum hosted by the



**Youth Justice
Institute**

An initiative of the Division of Criminal Justice Services,
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He also provided sessions on the intersectionality of the work of leadership development, managing difficult conversations, cultural competence and unconscious bias for stakeholder in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He has facilitated a 3-day leadership retreat for the University Center for Academic and Workforce Development, The State University of New York for three years. In 2018, he provided workshops on cultural competence and implicit bias to court mediators in Raleigh, North Carolina, and to several appellate division departments in New York State

He has worked as a treating clinician for the National Football League, is a trainer and consultant in leadership development, mentoring, and effective approaches for working with young Black males, and has consulted on racial disproportionality in the juvenile justice systems in Ohio, Michigan and Hawaii.

He is a member of the Campaign for Black Male Achievement: Rumble Young Man Rumble national effort to improve outcomes for Black males along with stakeholders and experts from organizations and programs from throughout the nation. He served as a member of the Alliance Network of Social Service Administrators Committed to Racial Equity, and is an advisory board member of the Child Welfare Adoption Leadership Institute (CWALI): Developing and Supporting Emerging Leaders of Color.

In addition, Owens has coached track and field, and was the host of smooth jazz radio stations in the Capital Region for nine years. He has done voice over work for many business and companies, educational programs, and state agencies.

Owens received his BA in Sociology from Rider University and a master's degree in Social Work specializing in Criminal and Juvenile Justice from the University of Pennsylvania.

He is a soloist and member of the male choir, and a Deacon at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Colonie, NY. He and his wife, Deacon Terry Owens, live in Colonie, New York, and are proud parents of Kayla, who is a graduate of American University, in Washington DC, and is attending Georgetown University for her master's degree.

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