

## THE RISE PROGRAM'S STAFF AND PARTNERS



### TEAM-MOE STAFF

RISE Program Developer and Director

Quinn M. Gentry, MBA, PhD  
quinn.gentry@team-moe.com

RISE Program Manager

Reinette Arnold, LMSW  
reinette.arnold@team-moe.com

RISE Program Coordinator

Valerie Underwood  
valerie.underwood@team-moe.com

### COLLABORATING PARTNERS

SisterLove, Inc.  
AID Atlanta, Inc.

### COMMUNITY PROGRAM PARTNERS

Rainbow Village Inc.  
Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV): Gwinnett and Fulton Locations  
Community Welcome House  
YWCA – Cascade House  
Women's Resource Center  
The Atlanta Children's Shelter  
Juvenile Justice Fund-Project Ready Set Go  
MARR-Right Side Up (Fulton and Dekalb)

MESSAGES OF EMPOWERMENT  
Productions, LLC

For more information about TEAM-MOE, visit our website at [www.team-moe.com](http://www.team-moe.com)

For more information about scheduling a RISE collaborative training, contact:

Reinette Arnold, RISE Program Manager

reinette.arnold@team-moe.com \* 770-318-1897

## MESSAGES OF EMPOWERMENT PRODUCTIONS, LLC

*presents*

### OUR ANNUAL RISE PROGRAM KICK-OFF LUNCHEON



## 2012 THEME: WE KEEP RISING!

Friday, February 3, 2012

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Paschal's Restaurant

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

EDWINA KNOX-BETTY, LCSW

*The RISE Program is implemented by Messages of Empowerment Productions, LLC in collaboration with SisterLove, Inc. and AID Atlanta, Inc., and is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health*

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

### Official Welcome and Occasion

*Reinette Arnold, LMSW*

### Invocation

*Valerie Underwood*

### *Lunch is Served*

### An Integrated Approach to Addressing HIV, DV, Homelessness, and Substance Abuse "Bridging the Gap between Federal Funding and the Frontline"

*Quinn M. Gentry, MBA, PhD*

### A View from "The Client"

### A Monologue Performance based on Real Clients' Cases

*Yakini Horn as "Johnsie" featuring Sonya Williams*

### The Keynote Speaker

*Edwina Knox-Betty, LCSW*

## THE SPEAKERS AND PERFORMERS

**EDWINA KNOX-BETTY** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) with over twenty years experience working with at risk populations including survivors of domestic violence. Edwina's area of expertise is women's issues. She has served as the Director of Programs for domestic violence organizations in Florida and Georgia. Edwina currently works as a clinician with a public community mental health agency where she provides psychotherapy to individuals with clinically diagnosed mental health disorders. Edwina has trained DFCS staff, educators, domestic violence advocates and community members on the effects of domestic violence, the intersection of family violence and child welfare, teen dating violence, women and self-esteem, ethical communication, and group dynamics. Edwina is a qualified Supervisor of LMSW's working towards state licensure. She received her MSW from University of Georgia and is a member of NASW and NABSW. In 2007, Edwina was recognized by Georgia State University School of Social Work for her commitment and contributions to the community. Edwina serves on the board of Rainbow Village a non-profit agency with a vision to break the cycle of homelessness, poverty, and domestic violence. In 2010 Edwina co-founded M&E Counseling and Consulting with her partner Zuri Murphy.

**YAKINI HORN** holds degrees in theatre and African American Studies from Georgia State University, and was part of the debut cast of Messages of Empowerment Productions' *Divine Intervention*. Recently, Yakini performed in *For Colored Girls Who've Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf* as the Lady in Blue. She has also performed in *The Vagina Monologues* at the Woodruff Arts Center and the Tabernacle. She starred as Tanya in a short film called *All For One Thing*. She was Angela in *We Must Go Forward*, and later did several shows on a mini tour in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**SONYA WILLIAMS** is a native of Pensacola, Florida. Sonya is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University, and holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Music. She is presently pursuing a Masters degree in Worship Studies from the Robert E. Webber Institute For Worship Studies, and a Masters of Education from Central Michigan University. She currently serves as the assistant minister of music at Elizabeth Baptist Church, where she also serves as one of the Praise and Worship Leaders. Under Sonya's direction, Elizabeth Baptist Church was named Regional Mass Choir of the Verizon Wireless "How Sweet The Sound" choir contest, in which the \$10,000 cash award was donated to Elizabeth Baptist Church's Capital Campaign Program. Sonya also was a songwriter for their children's choir CD project entitled: *Pastor Craig Oliver Sr. Presents God's Chosen Heritage Children's Choir*. Additionally, Sonya served as the director of music for the debut of Messages of Empowerment Productions' *Divine Intervention*.

## ABOUT THE RISE PROGRAM

**INTRODUCTION** With nearly 280,000 women living with HIV/AIDS today and an estimated three million women being abused by their husbands or boyfriends each year, it is imperative that service organizations address both of these critical issues. The **RISE PROGRAM** seeks to bridge the gap between these social and health epidemics in the lives of women. Funded by the DHHS Office on Women's Health, Messages of Empowerment Productions, SisterLove, and AID Atlanta are working in collaboration to build capacity among agencies addressing violence against women.

Our capacity-building campaign is known as the **RISE PROGRAM** where RISE is an acronym:

**R**eaching and **I**ntervening with **S**urvivors **E**ffectively. In an effort to reach diverse survivors of violence where they are, the **RISE PROGRAM** focuses on agencies with a direct mission to serve women experiencing intimate partner violence, but we also include agencies serving women who are homeless or coping with substance abuse as our formative research indicates that many women facing these social issues are at greater risks for HIV and violence.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.** The **RISE PROGRAM** aims to build collaborative partnerships among domestic violence service providers, related social service providers, and HIV prevention educators in a way that empowers female survivors of domestic violence to: (1) increase their knowledge about their risk for HIV, (2) commit to HIV testing and counseling, and (3) strengthen their ability to set safer sex goals.

**THE SENSITIVITY TRAINING CURRICULUM.** The **RISE PROGRAM** implements a sensitivity training where agency staff participate in a customized session with four primary objectives: (1) introduce black feminism as a gender specific approach to service provisions, (2) explain the ways in which women who experience intimate partner violence are even more vulnerable for HIV infection, (3) learn about promising practices for integrating HIV prevention interventions within intimate partner violence services, and (4) explore opportunities to implement the group-level and individual-level components of the **RISE PROGRAM**.

**THE GROUP-LEVEL HIV PREVENTION EDUCATION CURRICULUM.** The Healthy Love Party Workshop (HLPW) is the brainchild of Dazon Diallo-Dixon of SisterLove, Inc. The HLPW is a gender-specific, group-level HIV prevention education for self-identified heterosexual women of African-descent, who are at high-risk for STD/HIV infection and transmission. The HLPW is presented in three components where participants are engaged via: (1) setting the tone of sexual discussions, (2) learning the facts about HIV/STDs, and (3) having an opportunity to skill build by playing "safer sex" games. These three components comprise 11 different exercises including: (a) Fantasy Name, (b) Synonyms, (c) HIV/AIDS Fundamentals, (d) Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), (e) The Look of HIV/AIDS, (f) Risk Assessment, (g) Condom Demonstration (h) Condom Race, (i) Female Condom Demonstration, (j) Oral Sex, and (k) High, Low, and No Risk.

**THE INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL HIV PREVENTION EDUCATION CURRICULUM.** The RISE individual-level intervention was developed by Dr. Quinn M. Gentry, and is grounded in black feminist theory as a gender-responsive approach for integrating HIV prevention and violence against women services. The RISE intervention is approximately 45 – 60 minutes in length divided into two main parts: (1) Standard HIV Knowledge and Information Sharing, and (2) Skills-building and Risk Reduction Activities.

**THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN TRAINING CURRICULUM.** HIV prevention educators and case manager are engaged in a one-day training where they learn gender specific strategies for assessing and addressing issues related to violence against women. The curriculum includes eight modules: (1) Making the Case for Integrated Service Approaches: Theory, Research, and Practice, (2) The Current state of HIV Education and Case Management and Intimate Partner Violence, (3) An Overview of the Cycle of Violence and the Process of Transitioning out of Violent Relationships, (4) A Closer look at the Faces of Female Survivors of Domestic Violence, (5) Making the Connection Between HIV Risk Factors and other social and health needs among women experiencing violence: "A View from the Client", (6) How to Screen for IPV Risks in HIV Services and Education: The Art and Science of Motivational Interviewing, (7) How to use the Conflict Tactic Scale for IPV Screening in HIV Service Settings, and (8) Helping Clients with Resources, Referrals, and Immediate Action.