Grand Hyatt Resort, Tampa, Florida
Overall Conference Agenda

**Friday, May 17, 2019**
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  Registration

7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.  Welcome to the FAMMily Meet-and-Greet
Grand Hyatt Hotel

**Saturday, May 18, 2019**
7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.  State Based Meetings*

7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.  Breakfast & Keynote
Welcome & Overview: Kevin Ring and Tanesha Williams
Keynote: Desmond Meade

9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  Break-out Sessions I and II

9:15 a.m.-10:35 a.m.  Session I workshops

10:50 a.m.-12:10 p.m.  Session II workshops

12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  Lunch & Listen: “The Power of Family Advocates”

2:15 p.m.-3:35 p.m.  Session III workshops

3:50 p.m.-5:10 p.m.  Session IV workshops

5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.  Break

7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.  Dinner – followed by music and dancing outdoors
Grand Hyatt Hotel – Entertainment TBD

**Sunday, May 19, 2019**
8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.  Breakfast & Plenary

9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.  Self-Advocacy: “Take Care of Yourself” with Veda Ajamu

9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.  FAMM Speaks: Matthew Charles & Selected Speakers

10:45 a.m.  Closing Remarks: FAMM President Kevin Ring
**Plenary Sessions:**

**Keynote with Desmond Meade: Empower. Advocate. Win. Reforming our Criminal Justice System.**
Desmond Meade is a formerly homeless returning citizen who overcame many obstacles to eventually become the current executive director of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC), chair of Floridians for a Fair Democracy, chair of the Florida Coalition on Black Civic Participation’s Black Men’s Roundtable, and a graduate of Florida International University College of Law. He is a frequent guest and contributor on national news outlets and is married with five beautiful children.

**Lunch & Listen: The Power of Family Advocates**
“When a loved one is locked up, the family does the time, too.” Time and time again, we’ve heard this phrase. Families endure the hardships that incarceration brings when a loved one is away. Families also advocate and bring issues to light in powerful ways. Listen to a family as they share their journey and the power they used on behalf of their loved one. This event features Rudy Valdez, director of the Sundance Award-winning documentary “The Sentence,” and his sister and documentary subject, Cindy Shank, along with her daughters.

**Self-Advocacy with Veda Ajamu: Take Care of Yourself**
Veda Ajamu is on the frontlines fighting for freedom and justice for her brother and others who have received harsh sentences. Veda facilitates workshops called, “Inspired Women: Dream it. Write it. Believe it. Speak it. Do it.” In these she teaches goalsetting and self-care techniques. She is currently the manager of Community Outreach at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN. She is married and has three children.

**FAMM Speaks**
FAMM Speaks puts a human face on harmful policies. This platform elevates the voices of those impacted by the criminal justice system. Whether you are an affected family member, a person formerly incarcerated, or an advocate and supporter of reforming our system, this is your time to shape hearts and minds by using your voice to tell your story.

**FAMM Speaks – Matthew Charles**
Matthew Charles was originally sentenced to 35 years in prison on a drug charge. He was released in 2016 after a federal judge ruled that Matthew should benefit from the 2010 Fair Sentencing Act. An appeals court reversed the judge’s decision, and Matthew was forced to return to prison in May of 2018 after a year and a half of freedom. Fortunately, the First Step Act included a provision to apply the Fair Sentencing Act retroactively, allowing Matthew to become the first beneficiary of the First Step Act.

**FAMM Speaks – Anyé Young**
At 16 years of age and a rising high school senior, Anyé self-published her first book on Father’s Day 2018, *Teen Guide to Living With Incarcerated Parents (#TGLWIP)*. The book guides teens with parents in prisons with tips, morals, and coping mechanisms. It also offers a glimpse into her life as a teen still coping with the fact that her father is serving a 12-year prison sentence. Through her work as an advocate, Anyé aims to motivate and empower children who have parents in prison to speak up to promote prison reform and do away with mandatory minimum sentencing on a national level.
Organization Leaders - Session Descriptions:

Session I: Empower. Amplifying the Voices of Families in Your Advocacy
How do we translate the needs of the families with whom we work into reform? How do piles of letters turn into laws? On this panel we’ll take a look at how we mobilize families to engage in the boots-on-the-ground work and the more general work it takes to make reform a reality. We will also talk about how to communicate with lawmakers effectively.

Discussion Leaders: Dr. Grace Gamez – Reframing Justice Project Coordinator, AFSC
Molly Gill – Vice President of Policy, FAMM
Tanesha Williams – Director, Organizing and Community Building, FAMM

Session II: Advocate. Getting the Media to Share Your Message and Stories
“This would be a great story. I just need to get someone to write about it.” How many times have you thought that? Earning media is a great way to get your message and stories out, but journalists can be choosy about what to cover. For advocates, you know it takes more than just sending out press releases. You need relationships and a solid understanding of what reporters are looking for.

Discussion Leaders: Julieta Martinelli, Justice Media Fellow at Open Society Foundation
Ben Conark, Investigative Reporter for the Florida Times-Union
Kevin Ring, President, FAMM

Session III: Win. Issue Focus: Bringing Light to a Dark Place: Prison Oversight and Accountability
Pennsylvania Prison Society volunteers are authorized to visit any prison or jail in the state and privately interview any inmate in any prison or jail for any reason. How do prisoner and family advocates in other states ensure humane conditions and treatment? How can we make sure the public and lawmakers know about what goes on in prisons? In this panel, we’ll discuss keeping prison staff and the DOC accountable, establishing family presence in prisons (Family Advisory Councils, for example), how to be an information line between our loved ones and influences on the outside, and how to advocate so these mechanisms become law.

Discussion Leaders: Josh Alvarez, PA Prison Society
Jennifer Erschabek, Texas Inmate Family Association
Denise Rock, Florida Cares

Session IV: Un-Conference & Networking
An un-conference is a participant-driven meeting. The agenda will be set by attendees at the beginning of the session. Do you have a topic you would like to address or discuss? Expert or knowledgeable about a topic that didn’t come up? You’ll be able to use this time and space to discuss that topic. The flow is open. People can chose which topics to listen to and have the liberty to leave that discussion and hop in another discussion as they wish. This will also be a time for networking and brainstorming how to use collective power to create change.
Individuals – Workshop Descriptions:

Organizing: Building Power: Projecting Our Values in the Public Arena
This workshop will provide leaders and organizers with the fundamental tools needed to build power that reflects their values in the public arena. We will discuss the importance of language in creating power, specific tactics to build social power, and the essentials of building relationships to connect with other people for the explicit purpose of creating change.

Facilitator: Evans Moore, FAMM Pennsylvania Regional Organizer – Pittsburgh

Advocacy: Taking Actions that Create Change
How do I advocate for my loved one? What actions can I take to reform our criminal justice system? If you have asked yourself these questions, this session is for you. We will discuss the power of using humanizing language in advocacy and specific steps and actions you can take to best advocate for your loved one and the broader justice-involved community. From writing an op-ed to engaging with social media, find the action that fits for you.

Facilitator: Celeste Trusty, FAMM Pennsylvania Regional Organizer – Philadelphia

Storytelling: Telling the Hard Stories & Shattering Stigma
Storytelling for criminal justice reform is almost never about happily-ever-afters. How can we tell the important stories that will make change happen—and tell them so people will want to listen ... and then act? “Telling the Hard Stories” is a deep dive into storytelling for reform. We’ll explore what kind of stories can potentially soften the hearts of lawmakers and donors, techniques to get people to listen instead of look away, and how to invoke storytelling to unite and organize communities that otherwise may be isolated in fear and pain. We’ll learn about how the act of telling our stories can go a long way in relieving our own pain and frustration.

Facilitators: Ann Espuelas, Director, Family Outreach & Storytelling
Debi Campbell, Deputy Director, Family Outreach & Storytelling

Thinking Back, Looking Forward
Gather in your session break-out village and use this time to reflect on what you have heard and how you can use this information to advocate not only for your loved one – but also for the broader criminal justice community. Hear about how you can take action with FAMM and the many ways you can get involved with us to reform our criminal justice system.

Facilitators: Ann Espuelas, Director, Family Outreach & Storytelling
Celeste Trusty, FAMM Pennsylvania Regional Organizer – Philadelphia
Evans Moore, Evans Moore, FAMM Pennsylvania Regional Organizer – Pittsburgh
Tanesha Williams – Director, Organizing & Community Building