Rebecca Kottler-Wein has returned to her hometown of Pittsburgh and is currently working in the Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl as a Weed and Seed Site Coordinator. Operation Weed and Seed is an innovative, community-driven public safety initiative sponsored by the Department of Justice that focuses on crime prevention and community revitalization. It takes a multi-agency approach, engaging the Bureau of Police, the U.S. Attorney of Western Pennsylvania, and various other city agencies and community stakeholders in federally-designated high-crime neighborhoods. The Weed and Seed strategy is two-pronged: to “weed out” guns and drugs from the communities, and to “seed” human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs.

Rebecca continues to ground her community-based work with a deep respect for the human capacity to surmount tremendous challenges and an appreciation of individuals’ strengths that may be used to affect positive change. Her goal is to ensure that historically disempowered people experience power and voice so that they may have the chance to become changemakers themselves.