

MENTAL HEALTH IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

"We are Each Other's Medicine: It Still Takes a Village"

IN- PERSON SYMPOSIUM

JULY 13 JULY 14 JULY 21 JULY 26

Rochester, NY Buffalo, NY Syracuse, NY Binghamton, NY



Welcome and thank you for joining us!

Partners in Community Development Inc- BIPOC PEEEEEEK Parent Mental Health Project is proud to host this professional development opportunity in partnership with many organizations and stakeholders.

In May of 2008, the US House of Representatives announce July as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. Bebe More Campbell was someone who saw injustice and turned it into action. She fought for equitable mental health care, especially for Black and African American communities.

The aftermath of Covid-19, natural disasters, social determinants of health, heightened levels grief, loss, and violence; and the persuasive and persistent systemic racism, have been devastating for our communities. Now is the time to take bold and intentional action. These unexpected and tragic experiences also present unprecedented opportunities to do things differently, with freshly culturally informed and equitable lens at all levels.

This year's **theme "We Are Each Other's Medicine"** will feature Mental Health experts, Faith Leaders, Parents, Youth, Faculty experts, Health and Behavioral Health Providers, Researchers, Community leaders and Stakeholders. They will address several topics of interest including stigma, cultural perspective, provider bias, violence, suicide, the criminalization of mental health in communities of color, disaster related trauma and increasing the pool of black mental health professionals.

Our goals and community learning objectives include:

- Provide a cross system community educational opportunity to offer long-term strategies for addressing trauma, mental health and substance use in communities of color and highlight the diversity of needs related to "healing".
- Advance opportunities to address the intersection of Social Determinants of Health and Behavioral Health Care through the lens of Equity.
- To elevate community voices across systems with intentional and targeted goals of promoting neighborhood outreach models that include natural healers.
- Offer educational learning opportunities to address distrust and stigmas and how to leverage youth, family and adult peer advocacy initiatives when implementing services and programs.
- To present emerging research, practice based and best practices models of culturally responsive care across systems.
- To provide a forum to build collaborative partnerships that elevate the voices of patients, parents, caregivers, faith leaders and grassroots neighborhood centers to inform and improve policies and practices through system change and collective impact activities.

Approved for 3 contact SW hours.

Binghamton University, SUNY, College of Community and Public Affairs, Department of Social Work is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0143.

Thank you for joining us for this historic and enriching professional development opportunity.

Sara Taylor

Host and Event Coordinator

Sponsor and Partner Thank You

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JULY 21 | JULY 26
Syracuse, NY | Binghamton, NY

www.positivestepsny.com
www.bipocparentvoice.org



Dr. Nadjete Natchaba
Keynote Speaker



Pascale Noel
Keynote Speaker



www.bipocparentvoice.org



Amanda Saake



Charles Anothy Rice



Willie Elliott



Emily Childress



Dr. Geoffrey Hopkins



Dr. Ada Robinson Perez



Dr. Myra Sabir



Dr. Junior Dillion



Vincent Sears



Aprecia "Preem" Cabey



Dr. Angelia Smith-Wilson



Latoya Jones



Susan Lyons



Sara Taylor



Schedule

8:30am-9:00am breakfast buffet, registration, and exhibits and slide show.

9:00am -9:30am Welcome and Sponsor Remarks

- Sara Taylor, BIPOC PEEEEEEK Parent Project
- Dr. Geoffrey Hopkins, VP of Behavioral Health ExcellusBCBS
- Dr. Kristina Marty, Senior Associate Dean, College of Community and Public Affairs at Binghamton University

9:20am Keynote Speakers- Dr. Nadjete Natchaba and Pascale Jean- Noel

******Stretch Break******

10:30am – 11:55am

Expert Panel- Moderator, Professor Sky Moss

Please complete the symposium evaluation

Featured Speakers

Dr. Nadjete Natchaba -as a clinician and administrator, Dr. Nadjete Natchaba, LCSW, has worked with people living with mental illness, substance use disorder, and homelessness for over 20 years. Dr. Natchaba began her journey with S:US in 2001 as a student intern and quickly became a full-time employee by taking on a case manager role. Since then, Dr. Natchaba's work, dedication, and commitment to people served and staff earned her several promotions, culminating in her role of Vice President, Recovery and Treatment Services. She leads a team of devoted clinicians and administrators responsible for programs consisting of Assertive Community Treatment Teams, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, Care Coordination Services, Home and Community Based Services, and 24-Hour Congregate and Crisis respite residences. Dr. Natchaba's commitment to excellence led her to embark and stay on the quest for knowledge and co-learning. Her latest educational achievement was the completion of Doctorate of Education in Executive Leadership. Her dedication to understanding and supporting our workforce motivated her to focus her dissertation on *Evaluating the Effectiveness of Clinical Supervision in the Care Coordination Workforce*. Dr. Natchaba also joined the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College as a faculty member teaching fundamental courses in the MSW program to expand her work of preparing our workforce to "show up" for people served. Supporting the workforce at S:US and in the larger community is Dr. Natchaba's way of living up to her core value of interdependency. Dr. Natchaba is a true leader and embodies so many of our core values of individual potential, integrity, diversity, and professionalism.

Pascale Jean-Noel- is the Director of Training for the ACT Institute at the Center for Evidence-Based Practices. Working with the New York State Office of Mental Health, she helps design coordinate and facilitate extensive training curricula in treatment planning, cultural Humility and awareness, engagement, working with mandated clients, and ACT core daily principles based on person centered recovery-oriented principles. The training curricula are used by 108 ACT teams, consisting of over eight-hundred people collectively, throughout the state. Pascale is also an adjunct lecturer at the Columbia University School of Social Work and Fordham University School of Social Work. At Columbia University, she teaches Adult Psychopathology and Wellness in a residential and on-line setting. At Fordham University, she teaches Assessment and Diagnosis and Clinical Seminar. Pascale Jean-Noel received her BSW and master's degree from Adelphi University School of Social work, Garden City, NY. She holds a Clinical License in Social Work and has over twenty years' experience in social-service settings. Prior to her current position Mrs. Jean-Noel worked in managerial as well as direct-care roles in Foster Care, Outpatient Substance abuse, Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital and on ACT.

Aprecia "Preem" Cabey- is a social and environmental justice advocate currently residing in the Capital Region of New York State and an active member of the Healthy Kids Healthy Minds statewide advocacy campaign. Preem created Our Art Class for their two sons as a recreational activity in 2016. Our Art Class reclaims recreational time, transforms interpersonal communication skills, and creates physical, visual, and performing works of art.

Geoffrey Hopkins, MD- is a psychiatrist with board certification in Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He is the Senior Medical Director for Behavioral Health for Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Charles A. Rice- currently works as a Community Engagement Specialist for New York State Office of Mental Health. Charles is a dedicated husband, father of five and “dog dad” to Baloo (the official live mascot of Siena College), who has always had a heart for helping to bring support and resources to underprivileged and underserved communities. With more than 10 years of experience, Charles has focused his time, attention, and skills on working within communities that have been labeled and/or considered to be “at-risk”. Through his own lived experiences as a youth and young adult, Charles has overcome significant hardship. Since beginning his own journey of holistic recovery healing from his own involvement within several systems and knowing firsthand the importance and positive impact something as simple as relationship and understanding can have, he desires to be a bridge in ensuring all people regardless of where they are from or their situation are given this same opportunity. He strives to lead by example in his home and in his community through honesty, openness and transparency as a means of creating hope for a brighter future for the people of New York State and beyond.

Emily Childress- is the Director of the CORE Peer Navigator Project at the NY Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS). She is proud to be a provisionally certified Peer Specialist in NYS. Emily attended Binghamton University where she completed a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and a Master of Public Administration. It was during her undergraduate studies that Emily first learned of NYAPRS by attending Legislative Day in Albany. Prior to joining NYAPRS as a staff member, she served for two years on the NYAPRS board of directors as the Southern Tier Regional Coordinator and caucus chair. Emily has 8 years of experience providing and advocating for peer support services, including being the director of the first peer-run crisis respite house, Our House, in the Southern Tier. Emily is a distinguished trainer and finds her passion in empowering peers to advocate for themselves.

Dr. Junior Dillion- is currently CEO of Volunteers of American Upstate, NY. Dr. Dillion has more than 18 years of non-profit experience and extensive expertise developed while working across a variety of human service systems, including the British Criminal Justice System, outpatient service, settlement projects, and community college settings. Most recently, Dr. Dillion has served as the Senior Director of Programs at the Wilson Foundation, where he has enhanced the foundation’s efforts in reducing poverty by addressing residential instability, trauma, and racial inequities. Dr. Dillion is passionate about equity in education, and recently graduated with a Ph.D. in Human Development and Education from the University of Rochester where he teaches Research Methods and Minority Youth Development in Urban Context. His research focuses on educational equity, with close attention to culturally affirming asset-based practices that ameliorate academic struggle. Junior has also served as the Lead Evaluator on several program evaluations for Dillion Consultation LLC.

Dr. Myra Sabir- is an Associate Professor of Human Development (emerita) at Binghamton University. She earned a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies at Cornell University in 2004. She has spent more than 30 years as a trauma repair researcher and practitioner, helping people to work through childhood trauma for lifelong health and well-being. Her work has currently evolved toward energy psychology, particularly Shadow Work for the "Child-of-ACEs-Turned-Parent". She is also a Holden QiGong Certified Qigong Instructor.

Dr. Ada Robinson-Perez- has been a NYS licensed social worker for over 20 years. Her professional experience ranges from leading Binghamton University's Employee Assistance Program and working with faculty and staff, to providing community based mental health services for children and families. Dr. Robinson-Perez began her career in higher education as an adjunct instructor in the Social Work program at Keuka College and later joined faculty in the Social Work Department at Binghamton University as an assistant professor and later as an adjunct instructor. Her diversity, equity, and inclusion experience formally began in 2020 as the Student Affairs Divisional Diversity Officer at Binghamton University leading diversity initiatives across campus, to include the New Student of Color Mentor Program, Critical Conscious Conversations, and the Diversity Empowerment Education Program (DEEP) for MSW interns. Since 2021 she has served as the Affirmative Action Officer in the Division of Diversity Equity and Inclusion at Binghamton University. Her research interests and publications expand to examining racial microaggressions from an intersectional framework (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation) and its implications on the mental health of underrepresented minority students, faculty and staff. This body of work also includes; identifying and analyzing antiracism practices to develop high impact pedagogical strategies in field placement for MSW students and identifying culturally-responsive supervision practices in MSW field placements.

Amanda Saake, LMSW, CPRP, NYCPS-P (she/her/hers) is currently the Chief Advocacy Officer, overseeing the Office of Advocacy and Peer Support Services at the New York State Office of Mental Health. In this role, she serves as the interface between individuals and families served by the public mental health system and OMH staff responsible for programmatic and policy decisions. She also provides leadership for Peer Support services. She is dedicated to strengthening the opportunities for the Peer workforce to have upward mobility in their careers and expanding opportunities for Peer Specialists to work in positions throughout the behavioral system of care. Before this appointment, Amanda served as the Director of Training at The Coalition for Behavioral Health in New York City. In that role, Amanda oversaw training and technical assistance efforts that were intended to build the capacity of community-based providers to deliver high quality, recovery-oriented services so more people can achieve the promise of recovery. Amanda has more than 17 years' experience providing direct service and supervision in the human services workforce. Amanda has worked in a broad range of settings, including supportive housing, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), harm reduction, LGBT youth outreach, Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS), and outpatient mental health as both a practitioner and supervisor. Amanda's commitment to high quality, person-centered care is also personal, stemming back to her first encounters with the mental health system at the age of 17. Amanda attributes her career as one of the most important aspects of her recovery journey. For most of her career as a social worker, Amanda did not share her personal lived experience with mental health issues, in part due to the stigma that still permeates our system of care. Today, however, Amanda intentionally shares her recovery story hoping that more traditionally trained practitioners will be comfortable sharing their stories, too, which will help combat stigma within our system.

Dr. Angelia Smith- Wilson- is currently executive director at For Recovery NY. Dr. Smith-Wilson brings over 20 years of human service and addiction experience to Friends of Recovery-New York. Angelia's career spans across working with human service agencies that have served individuals with mental health, substance use, residential, and homeless issues. She has worked as an intensive case manager, a primary therapist, a director of client services and eventually progressing to level of vice president throughout the greater Rochester area. Dr. Smith-Wilson has a B.S. in Psychology from SUNY Brockport, Master of Social Work from Roberts Wesleyan College and a Doctorate in Education from St. John Fisher College. Dr. Smith-Wilson is an adjunct faculty at the School of Social Welfare, Graduate MSW Program, University of Albany, where she teaches Macro Practice Social Work. Dr. Smith-Wilson comes to For Recovery NY from her most recent position as the Assistant Director of Local Program Operations at the New York State Office for the Aging, within the Local Programs Division.

Vincent Sears - is an adjunct professor at Henderson State University and a PH.D. student in the Counseling Education program at Liberty University. His research and writings focus on Black Mental Health, racial experiences, family dynamics, intergenerational trauma, and their impact on the well-being of Black and multiracial men and youth. He received his Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology/Counseling from Trevecca Nazarene University in 2012; from there, he began practicing at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. In addition, he has supervised at Meharry Medical College and Drexel University and worked all around the country. He is currently a counselor that serves Tompkins County.

He is a contributor and writer for the Association for Spiritual, ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC) and also a member of Chi Sigma Iota Rho Eta (Academic fraternity), the American Counseling Association (ACA), and the North Atlantic Region Association for Counselor Education and Supervision.

Vincent is committed and invested in promoting and advancing the mental health and well-being of people of color. In addition, he wants to bring awareness to mental health disorders that are a part of our global community.

Dr. Kristina Marty- is the senior associate dean of the college and professor of public administration. She has worked for a variety of organizations including a public housing authority, county government and a nonprofit organization. Her research focuses on the management of health and human service organizations which assist individuals to meet basic needs, including in crisis situations. In addition, she has used her research to reflect on what it means to be teacher in an applied field and has published several articles examining university-based civic engagement efforts. More recently, she has begun exploring leadership in her scholarship, especially in local government sustainability efforts. Her work appears in a variety of prominent public administration, nonprofit, public policy, and higher education teaching journals. She has also published a book on the extent to which community members have a voice in the delivery of local health and human services.