

# Central Texas African American Family Support Conference

*Empowering Consumers, Youth, Families and Providers to Improve Health*



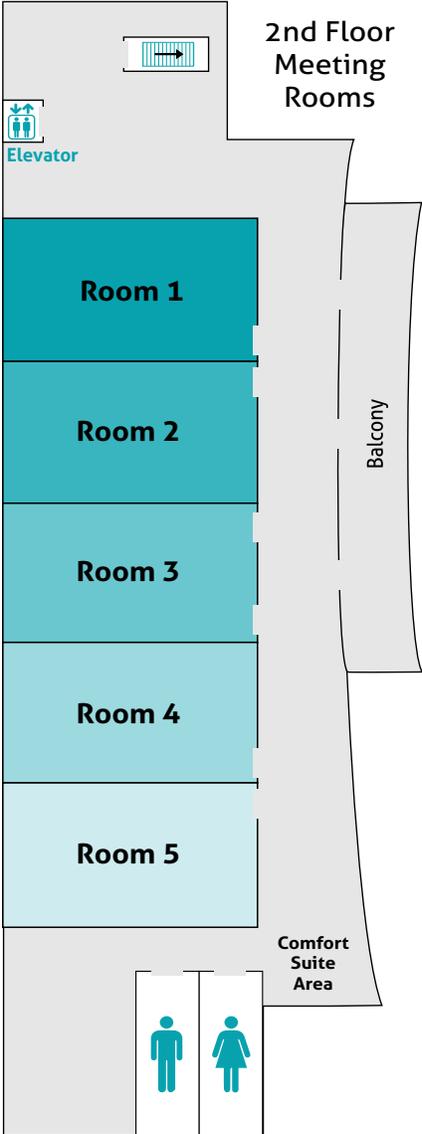
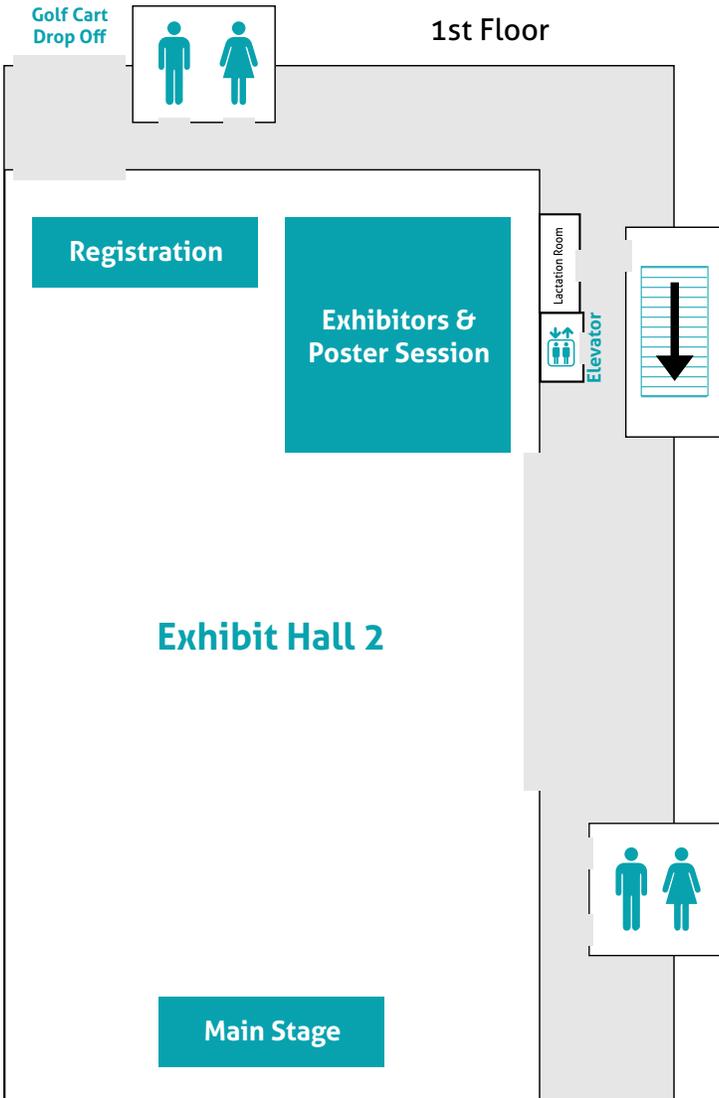
## Conference Program

February 27-28, 2018

*Palmer Events Center*

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# Welcome

Welcome to the 18th annual Central Texas African American Family Support Conference – the longest-running conference of its kind. This conference creates an opportunity for individuals, families and professionals to come together and explore mental health challenges, foster partnerships, raise awareness of healthcare services, reduce stigma and increase access to care.

African Americans are 20% more likely to experience serious mental health issues than the general population. While research on the psychological impact of racism and racial discrimination has only emerged within the last 2 decades, studies show that experiencing either can affect people's health. Studies show that race-related stress and trauma is associated with the development of lifetime depressive and mood disorders.

At this year's conference, we come together through our experiences with trauma, to build a stronger-than-ever network of mental health supports for individuals who may have faced healthcare disparities and discrimination in the past. The CTAAFSC Planning Committee has worked hard to create an outstanding program that examines how mental health affects families, our community, clinical practice and faith. We welcome our keynote speakers, Trina "Titi Ladette" Cleveland and Dr. Ryan Sutton, and special guest speaker Nicole Conway. Ms. Conway and Ms. Ladette share their powerful lived experience and Dr. Sutton brings expert professional experience in countering the effects of traumatic experiences. We are also excited to have police chiefs from Austin and Round Rock here for the Community Engagement with Our Public Servants panel.

Integral Care is honored to offer this conference, year after year, as a way to keep you abreast of research projects, relevant mental health programs, resources and community organizing. We hope this conference inspires you to share the knowledge you gain with your communities and that you use it as an opportunity to grow your network of peers. As we continue to revolutionize the way mental health is seen, discussed and treated in our community, we are closer to eliminating healthcare disparity and bringing about our vision of Healthy Living for Everyone. Thank you for you attending.

Sincerely



David Evans, CEO  
*Integral Care*



Shannon Carr, Chair  
*CTAAFSC Planning Committee*

# Tuesday Program

7:30 AM – 5:00 PM	<b>Conference Registration Open</b> <b>Comfort Suite Area Open</b>
7:30 AM – 4:00 PM	<b>Exhibitors Open</b>
7:30 – 9:00 AM	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>
9:00 – 10:10 AM	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Moderator - <i>Vicky Coffee, Program Manager, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health</i></li><li>— Welcome - <i>Shannon Jones, Central Health Board of Managers</i></li><li>— Moment of Silence and Prayer - <i>Rev. H. Ed Calahan, Agape B.C.</i></li><li>— Pledge of Allegiance - <i>Vicky Coffee, Program Manager, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health</i></li><li>— “Lift Every Voice and Sing” - <i>Brother James McCreary, Sweet Home B.C.</i></li><li>— Motivational Speaker - <i>Pastor A.J. Quinton, Diakonos A House of Servants</i></li></ul>
10:10 – 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM - Noon	<b>Morning Workshop Sessions</b> - <i>Descriptions found on page 4</i>
Noon - 12:15 PM	Break
12:15 - 12:40 PM	<b>Dr. King Davis &amp; Richard E. Hopkins Legacy Luncheon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Moment of Silence and Prayer - <i>Assistant Pastor Granyon Perry-Wooden, Imani Community Church</i></li><li>— Entertainment - <i>Smooth and EZ Dance Troop</i></li><li>— Scholarships<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Austin Area Mental Health Consumers Lodging Scholarship: <i>Annie Powell and Joe Powell</i></li><li>RR Coleman-Calahan Lodging Scholarship: <i>Tracy Green</i></li><li>The Michele Bibby – Person in Recovery Educational and Lodging Scholarship: <i>Tracey Moore</i></li><li>The Wood Group Educational Scholarship: <i>Dominique Jones and Karen Causey</i></li></ul></li></ul>
12:40 - 1:30 PM	<b>Keynote: Dr. Ryan Sutton</b> <p>Individuals face traumatic situations and experiences during the course of their lives. Sometimes these experiences are so chronic that they have become the status quo for that individual. Their symptoms and reactions to these experiences are often explained away by “that’s just the way they are!” Dr. Sutton explores how through our consistent presence we can counter the status quo for individuals and help create a new narrative that liberates. Sometimes people just need to know you truly care.</p>
1:30 - 1:45 PM	<b>Q &amp; A</b>
1:45 - 2:00 PM	Break
2:00 - 3:30 PM	<b>Afternoon Workshop Sessions I</b> - <i>Descriptions found on page 5</i>
3:30 - 3:45 PM	Break
3:45 - 5:15 PM	<b>Afternoon Workshop Sessions II</b> - <i>Descriptions found on page 6</i>
5:30 - 7:00 PM	<b>Reception</b> <p>Hosted by the Austin Area African-American Behavioral Health Network Zax's - 312 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78704. 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm.</p>

# Wednesday Program

7:30 AM – Noon	<b>Conference Registration Open</b>
7:30 AM – 2:30 PM	<b>Exhibitors Open</b> <b>Comfort Suite Area Open</b>
7:30 – 9:00 AM	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>
9:00 – 9:20 AM	<b>Opening Session</b> — <b>Moderator</b> - <i>Vicky Coffee, Program Manager, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health</i> — <b>Welcome</b> - <i>Council Member Ora Houston</i> — <b>Motivational Speaker</b> - <i>Nicole Conway</i>
9:20 - 10:30 AM	<b>Community Engagement with Our Public Servants</b> <i>Moderator: Kenneth Thompson. Panelists: Chief Brian Manley Austin Police Department, Chief Alain Babin, Round Rock Police Dept. Police chiefs from Austin and Round Rock will talk about their mental health strategies, which impact the community, including people of color. Presenters will share data about race relations within each city and discuss building community relations. Upcoming opportunities for police and communities to engage, exchange concerns, and build relationships will be discussed.</i>
10:30 - 10:45 AM	<b>Break</b>
10:45 - 12:15 PM	<b>Morning Workshop Sessions</b> - <i>Descriptions found on page 7</i>
12:15 - 12:25 PM	<b>Break</b>
12:25 - 1:10 PM	<b>Garnet F. Coleman Awards Luncheon</b> — <b>Welcome</b> - <i>David Evans, Executive Director, Integral Care</i> — <b>Moment of Silence and Prayer</b> - <i>Pastor Noah Diggs, Mt. Olive B.C.</i> — <b>Entertainment</b> - <i>A Touch of Class</i> — <b>Awards</b> <i>Richard E. Hopkins "Torch" Consumer - Reginald Smith</i> <i>Richard E. Hopkins "Torch" Community Leader - Gladdie Fowler</i> <i>Richard E. Hopkins "Torch" Professional - Jill Fiorillo</i>
	<b>Legislative Update</b> — <i>Honorable Garnet Coleman, Texas State Representative, Houston House District 147</i>
	<b>Garnet F. Coleman Eternal Flame Award Presentation</b> — <i>Judge Nancy Hohengarten</i>
1:10 - 1:50 PM	<b>Keynote: Trina "TiTi Ladette" Cleveland</b> <i>Ms. Ladette will share her powerful story of a traumatic past which, coupled with addiction and mental illness, led her on the road to destruction. She will share candidly discoveries about mental health that ultimately led her to redemption. She will present the practical applications she uses to successfully manage her life with a diagnosis of bipolar 1-schizoaffective disorder.</i>
1:50 - 2:00 PM	<b>Q &amp; A</b>
2:00 - 2:10 PM	<b>Break</b>
2:10 - 3:30 PM	<b>Afternoon Workshop Session</b> - <i>Description found on page 7</i>
3:30 – 4:15 PM	<b>Raffle, Closing Remarks and Book Signing</b>

# Tuesday Morning Sessions 10:30 AM - Noon

## "Man Up"- Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Men of Faith

*Dr. Calvin Kelly*

Meeting Room 1

\*CEU

The pressures of day-to-day life as an African American man in today's society can weigh heavily on the mind and heart of even the most spiritual of men. Living, working and breathing in an environment that places negative connotations on one group of individuals can be almost unbearable. The emotional stressors of being a black man continues to be a taboo subject in most places of worship. This session will provide participants a safe space to learn, share and participate in an open dialogue about mental health and men of faith.

## Healing from Self Hate in the Black Community

*Charlotte Caples*

Meeting Room 2

Can't we all just get along? Black self-hate has done a number on our psyche and mental well-being. This session will give a historical account of black hate, as well as examine the impact of self-hate on our lives and on our relationships. Participants will look at why we love to hate ourselves and how to restore relationships with ourselves and each other. There will be space to discuss the impact of our self-destructive behaviors and practice skills to change negative self-views.

## Live Better Live Well: A Story of Growing Support

*Dr. Ratonia Runnels*

Meeting Room 3

\*CEU

Depression and anxiety among HIV+ women can negatively impact and impair quality of life, medication adherence, and ultimately affect clinical outcomes. This session will discuss the mental health status of over 200 HIV+ women who participated in a study designed to improve mental health outcomes among HIV+ women in Texas.

## Employment Works! The Wonderful World of Individual Placement and Support (IPS)

*Dominique Simmons and*

*LaToya Kindred-Ray*

Meeting Room 4

\*CEU

IPS is a model of supported employment for people with mental illness. This session will cover the evidence-based, effective ways IPS is helping people achieve their employment and educational goals. IPS focuses on building employer relationships, rapid job search, competitive employment, and integration into a mental health team.

## What Transition-Age Youth Want You to Know

*Camille Clark*

Meeting Room 5

\*CEU

Transition-age youth are unique in that they typically do not fit into services designed for children nor do they fit into services designed for adults. Some might say they are hard to engage, but that can be remedied through understanding their perspectives, wants, and needs. Joining us to share their expertise on the subject will be the LifeWorks Panel of Transition-Age Youth. This presentation will be interactive and will elevate the voice of youth, as we strive to improve the quality of services available to them.

## Addiction and Mental Health Treatment to Recovery: Establishing Whole Health Recovery Models in Communities of Color

*Annie Powell and Joe Powell*

Exhibit Hall 2

Adverse childhood experiences, social determinants of health, stigma and intergenerational toxic shame are consistent barriers to achieving long-term addiction and/or mental health recovery. In communities of color, more than 90% are not receiving treatment or any help for addiction. This confirms the need for an innovative, peer-to-peer, culturally competent recovery approach to health. This session will address the addiction and co-occurring treatment model, medication assisted treatment (MAT), medication assisted recovery (MAR) and the journey of re-engaging the community through a Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC). Participants will gain invaluable knowledge and resources to utilize in their communities.

# Tuesday Afternoon Sessions I 2:00 - 3:30 PM

## Go Tell It on the Mountain: Faith-based Communities Promoting Mental Health

*Dr. Pamela Martin, Sonya Hosey, and Sherrye Willis*

Meeting Room 1  
\*CEU

As the most recognized, trusted, and stable social institution in African American communities, churches have significantly enhanced our psychological, educational and cultural well-being. This session will highlight challenges and lessons learned as well as share data collected from a unique African American faith-based mental health education and awareness initiative in Texas. Panelists will present different strategies and resources African American churches have utilized to engage congregants and community members, in increasing awareness and perceptions of mental health, recovery and wellness.

## Know your Providers Panel

*Dr. William Lawson, Dr. Nakia Scott, Dr. Timothy George, and Dr. Gloria Oyenyi*

Meeting Room 3

This session will highlight African American providers of various mental health services in our community. The panel will be an eclectic group from multiple settings – psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and a neurosurgeon. This session will increase the awareness of the breadth of opportunities available through African American providers.

## Trauma to Treasure: In the Eye of an Emotional Storm

*Flora Releford*

Meeting Room 4

\*CEU

This will be an interactive discussion promoting positive well-being despite emotional crises. Anger, anxiety and depression have detrimental effects and can become problematic to one's mental and physical health. This session will provide realistic, useful tools for responding to problematic obstacles. Topics of discussion will include how to keep a positive mind and live a life of gratitude and how spirituality, effective communication, forgiveness and acceptance play roles in the art of healing.

## The Mental Health and Criminal Justice Conveyor Belt

*Latasha Taylor*

Meeting Room 5  
\*CEU

This session will highlight the disproportionate number of African Americans with mental health issues who are impacted by the criminal justice system. The "conveyor belt" refers to the endless cycle of arrest, detainment, release, and re-arrest of a failed system that criminalizes those with mental health issues.

## Tuesday Afternoon Sessions II 3:45 - 5:15 PM

-  **Community Organizing for Equity**  
*Moderator: Austin Black Caucus. Panelists: Tom Dodds, Assistant Chief Troy Gay, Andy Hofmeister and Louise Lynch*
- In service driven systems, organizing for equitable outcomes for people of color is a must. This strategic panel with Austin-area service providers will discuss a working plan for equity, to lift up voices of those impacted by systems.
- Meeting Room 1
-  **Connecting the Dots: Building Continuity of Care for Veterans**  
*Dr. Ulysses Moore and Kimberly Holiday*
- This session will be an interactive discussion about connecting the dots - building continuity of care for veterans and families within our communities. There will be discussion of military exit, family relocation, and how veterans and families are impacted. Participants will be able to improve access to community resources for veterans and their families by identifying those in need, making proper referrals and understanding how to build a support team.
- Meeting Room 3
-  **How to be an Effective Advocate for your Child**  
*Dr. Sandy Magaña and Felicia Mason-Edwards*
- This session will guide attendees through important aspects of advocating for their child to obtain community and school services. Participants will learn tips for effective advocacy and review important terms for advocating in the schools. In particular, parents of children with disabilities will get empowered and prepared to be champions for their children's rights.
- Meeting Room 4  
\*CEU
-  **Employment Works! The Wonderful World of Individual Placement and Support (IPS)**  
*Dominique Simmons and LaToya Kindred-Ray*
- IPS is a model of supported employment for people with mental illness. This session will cover the evidence-based, effective ways IPS is helping people achieve their employment and educational goals. IPS focuses on building employer relationships, rapid job search, competitive employment, and integration into a mental health team.
- Meeting Room 5  
\*CEU

## Wednesday Morning Sessions 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

### From Trauma To Triumph and From Triumph To Glory

Rev. Dr. Dennis Young and  
Rev. Preston Allen

Meeting Room 1

The African American community has endured a long and tortured past, suffering through crisis and tragedy. While resilient, there are times when we all experience personal and world events that can take a toll on our spiritual, emotional and physical well-being. Our journey of discovery will take us through various methods to succeed, utilizing faith as a tool to maintain and regain emotional wellness during time of storm.

### Race and Criminalization of the Mentally Ill

Dr. Terrence Allen, Dr. Napoleon Higgins,  
Dr. William Lawson, Joe Powell,  
Reggie Smith and Dr. Ryan Sutton

Meeting Room 2

\*CEU

In Texas the correctional system serves more mentally ill individuals than specialized mental health services. A disproportionate number of those incarcerated are African American. This session will address perceived dangerousness of the mentally ill. It will delve into the how and why of police encounters. Participants will gain a better understanding of the relationship between violence and mental illness as well as interventions that reduce correctional involvement with the mentally ill.

### Can We Talk about "IT"?

Rochelle Guillory

Meeting Room 3

"Illegal touching" has been hidden and its impact misunderstood. This session will identify types of illegal touching, discuss treatment of offenders and victims and illustrate the effects of illegal touching on African American families. A collection of family and community advocates will educate and encourage the audience to tell their stories, know their resources, and begin their journeys.

### Mental Wellness: Blacks in Education

Moderators: Alexander Williams and  
Charlotte Caples. Panelists: Tanjour  
Bowman, Shannon Carr, Alexia Taylor,  
Davion Hill, Cydnei Mathis, Micah Moore,  
and Andrew Urdy

Meeting Room 4

This panel of students, parents and caregivers will speak to traumatizing experiences with the education system that spark their passion for advocacy, equity and mental well-being.

### Encountering, Facing and Overcoming Tragedy

Dr. Brittany Hall-Clark and  
LCDR Allah-Fard Sharrieff

Meeting Room 5

\*CEU

Overcoming tragedy is a frequent challenge for community members, veterans and clinicians. This session will discuss trauma and its impact on our bodies, emotional processing of trauma and practical strategies for managing emotions. Cultural considerations for the African American community and military populations will be emphasized. Participants will learn about evidence-based treatment for PTSD, DIY techniques for stress and emotional management and when to seek help.

## Wednesday Afternoon Session 2:10 - 3:30 PM

### Redefining Your Life with Mental Illness

Nicole Conway

Meeting Room 4

Ms. Conway will share her journey with mental illness: trials, tribulations, defeats and victories. This session will open up discussion of ways of coping and living a fulfilling life with mental illness. Successful coping comes through building each other up and opening up to share within our communities & family.

# Garnet F. Coleman Eternal Flame Award



**Judge Nancy Hohengarten** has served as Judge of County Court at Law 5 since 2004. She has collaborated with Integral Care, other community organizations and city/county departments to divert individuals with mental health and substance use disorders from the criminal justice system. She has participated in the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force and has led the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. Currently, she participates in the Psychiatric Services Stakeholders Committee and is the Board Chair of the new Sobering Center for Austin Travis County.

# The Richard E. Hopkins Torch Awards



**Reggie Smith (Consumer)** is a Peer Policy Fellow at Communities for Recovery, where he has contributed to the passage of several pieces substance abuse, mental health and criminal justice legislation. Reggie has come full circle, ending an almost twenty year odyssey of drug and alcohol use, institutions and incarceration. In 2016 he earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work with high honors from The University of Texas. He is currently pursuing a Master's in Social Work, also at UT. Reggie's journey from prisoner to policy fellow proves that with treatment, support and persistence, recovery is possible.



**Gladdie P. Fowler (Community Leader)** is an independent consultant, speaker, author and retired school principal. She is affectionately known as the "Turn-A-Round and Change Agent" for her talent turning around low performing schools. She serves on the Board of the Spindletop Center, a community mental health and intellectual and developmental disabilities center in Southeast Texas. Her work is wide spread – from establishing the first service learning club in the Port Arthur Independent School District to conducting a free summer camp for students four consecutive summers. She is a strong voice for adults and children with special needs. She proudly walks the halls of the Texas Capitol, informing legislators of the critical need for funding and programs.



**Jill Fiorillo (Professional)** is a forensic social worker at Austin State Hospital (ASH). She is an advocate for people who are transferred from prisons. The people with whom she works are in need of mental health stabilization and creative, multifaceted interventions, considering they are often homeless, have little support, and feel trapped in confusing legal complexities. She tenaciously works to make their voices heard when they have become silenced from years of trauma, institutionalization, and paternalism. She forges partnerships with patients, their families and friends, legal systems across Texas, myriad outside agencies, and the ASH treatment team to secure the best possible outcome for the patient. Jill received her Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas after serving as a U.S. Naval Aircrewman for nine years.

# Keynotes



**Trina "TiTi Ladette" Cleveland** is the author of five books, the host of her own podcast, the president and founder of the Remember to Think Pink non-profit organization and a full-time student working towards her degree in Community Advocacy and Social Policy with a concentration in Forensic Social Work. She was also the Spoken Word Slam Champ of the 2014 National Black Book Festival. Ms. Cleveland's gift for writing and poetry was hidden for years as she struggled with addiction and mental illness. After 14 years in prison and more than 25 years in active drug addiction, Ms. Cleveland found a new way to live through writing and poetry. She has managed to become more than a survivor. She has and has become a success.



**Ryan Sutton, PhD** directs the African American Male Research Initiative at The University of Texas at Austin and the Greater Austin Area My Brother's Keeper Initiative. He has worked in various settings ranging from university counseling centers to the criminal justice system, focusing on mental health, trauma and communities of color. Dr. Sutton received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Xavier University and both his Master's and Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Howard University.

# Moderator



**Vicky Coffee, LPC** joined the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health in 2007. In her role as Program Manager, she oversees a team responsible for developing and implementing grant initiatives to advance mental health, wellness and recovery in Texas. She has committed more than thirty years to increasing awareness, enhancing systems and offering services that support individuals, youth and families who live with mental health conditions in Texas. She has served as an executive board member and secretary for the National Leadership Council on African American Behavioral Health and is a founding member and coordinator of the Austin Area African American Behavioral Health Network. Ms. Coffee holds a Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Development and a Master of Education, both from Texas State University.

# Presenters

**Austin Black Caucus** is a group of black community organizers working to achieve racial equity in Austin. They strive to develop a common definition of racism and its impact on people of all races, to recognize and heal from internalized racial oppression, to develop leadership and effectively organize to create a comprehensive strategy for maintaining accountability to the black community.

**Rev. Preston Allen, MDiv, MA** is the Director for Non-Profits and Community Development at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston's Third Ward. In that capacity, he is responsible for overseeing and managing three primary non-profit affiliates, WATMI, WA5C and WAICV. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Morehouse College, a Master's degree from Central Michigan University and a Master of Divinity from the Houston Graduate School of Theology.

**Terrence Allen, MSSA, PhD** is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Texas. Previously, he was the Coordinator of the Juvenile Justice concentration at North Carolina Central University and on the faculty at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. His specific areas of expertise are the intersection between the child welfare, juvenile justice, education and mental health systems and the interaction between police and juveniles in urban communities.

**Allen Banks** is Police Chief for the city of Round Rock. Since his 2014 arrival to Round Rock, the Department has enjoyed a re-energized approach to community policing. Chief Banks is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and holds a Bachelor's degree from Wayland Baptist University. He is a member of International Chiefs of Police, National Organization for Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the Texas Police Chiefs Association.

## Presenters Continued.

**Tanjour Bowman** is Houston Chapter President of Mocha Moms, Inc., a non-profit organization providing support for women of color through all phases of motherhood. She is the State Coordinator and Regional Director of Continental Societies Incorporated, an international public service organization dedicated to the socioeconomic and cultural welfare of underprivileged children. Ms. Bowman is also Co-leader of the Round Rock Black Parents Association.

**Charlotte Caples, MCP, PhDc** is a leadership and organizational development consultant at Charlotte Caples Consulting, LLC. Passionate about racial equity, she helps build networks to maximize community engagement, transforms workplace culture, and improves performance outcomes. She believes her life's purpose is to build shoulders for others to stand.

**Shannon Carr** is a certified peer support specialist. For the past 18 years she has been Executive Director for Austin Area Mental Health Consumers. Ms. Carr currently serves on the Texas Peer Support Stakeholder Workgroup and in other advisory roles, promoting wellness and recovery. She is a motivational speaker, church ministry leader, and singer in a gospel group.

**Camille Clark, MSSW** is Program Director for Community-Based Peer Support and Counseling at LifeWorks, where she has 11 years of experience working with transition-age youth in various capacities. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Analysis from at Texas A&M and a Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas.

**Nicole Conway** is author of the recently published *Coco's Chronicles: A Daily Dose of Inspiration*. Ms. Conway is a person with lived experience of a debilitating mental health condition who is now living in wellness. She is an advocate for those who battle mental illness. The book is one of the many tools she uses to help others conquer mental health challenges that often rob us of our dignity and confidence. Ms. Conway is a property manager for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and has more than 17 years of state service. Outside of state service, she is also a plus size model, wardrobe stylist, image consultant and motivational speaker.

**Troy Gay** is Assistant Chief of the Austin Police Department. He has more than 30 years of experience in law enforcement, and nine years of military experience as a Marine Corps reservist. He served our country in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Assistant Chief Gay is a graduate of Texas State University and the FBI National Academy.

**Timothy George, MD** is Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Dell Children's Medical Center and Professor of Surgery/Neurosurgery/Pediatrics/Neurology at Dell Medical School. He has written over 150 publications and is currently the Editor in Chief for the journal *Pediatric Neurosurgery*. He also holds leadership positions in multiple national and local societies.

**Rochelle Guillory** is the founder of "Discuss Us," an international discussion forum for women centered around the topic of "illegal touching." She is an advocate for community health among women. She envisions the community as an ecosystem, a healthy interacting organism in a physical environment where the inhabitants are thriving.

**Brittany Hall-Clark, PhD** is a licensed psychologist. She works with the South Texas Research Organizational Network Guiding Studies on Trauma and Resilience (STRONG STAR) and is an assistant professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She also has a part-time private practice with InSight Psychology and Behavioral Health Services, specializing in trauma, anxiety, and diversity.

**Napoleon Higgins, MD** is a child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist in Houston. He is the owner of Bay Pointe Behavioral Health Services, a large multispecialty mental health group. His practice is one of the largest practices in the country's 4th largest city.

**Davion Hill** is a musical artist who is passionate about audiovisual production. He co-founded the Austin musical hip hop duo, Know Thyself, with Andrew Urdy. A senior at Eastside Memorial High School, Davion is developing his understanding of race, racism and its impact on communities of color. He aspires to organize a class to help students, parents, and teachers better understand the impact of systemic racism.

**Andy Hofmeister** is a division chief with Austin-Travis County EMS, responsible for the Community Health Paramedic Program and field operations within the department. He grew up in Ventura County, California and completed his paramedic training through UCLA-Daniel Freeman Paramedic Education Program. During his 17-year tenure with Austin-Travis County EMS, Mr. Hofmeister has served in a variety of roles, including special operations, air medical transport and rescue, training and education.

**Kimberly Holiday** is known to most as LadyJoy. She is the on-air radio personality for KAZI 88.7FM, serving as The Voice and Soul of Austin, bringing joy to her audience with a focus on self-care. She is a child and family advocate and motivational speaker. She delivers an authentic message of hope by modeling the potential to live with more joy.

**Sonya Hosey, BSW** is Assistant Pastor of God's Way Christian Baptist Church. She has been instrumental in developing the Wellness and Empowerment program which provides resource information and brings awareness of recovery and wellness to clergy, congregants and family members. She has worked more than 25 years in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ms. Hosey served three years as the Chair of the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference Committee. She is a graduate of Sam Houston State University.

**Calvin Kelly, PhD** is the Dean of Student Development at St. Edward's University. Dr. Kelly has over 22 years of experience teaching in higher education, as well as over 25 years of private practice experience as a licensed mental health professional. Dr. Kelly's interest include trauma and stress, depression and holistic mental health.

**LaToya Kindred-Ray, MEd** is the Supported Employment Manager for Integral Care, where she works with the Adult Behavioral Health Team. She has over 15 years of experience working with special populations that have barriers to employment. She provides the necessary life skills training that will enhance their knowledge and abilities for today's work environment. Ms. Kindred-Ray holds a Master's degree in Education with a specialty in Special Education.

**William Lawson, MD, PhD, DFAPA** is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the Dell Medical School and Director of Community Health Programs and Professor at Huston-Tillotson University, where he leads the Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center. He is also UT Austin's institutional representative for the Health Disparities Education, Awareness, Research and Training (HDEART) Consortium.

**Louise Lynch, MSSW** is the Provider Network and Authority Officer at Integral Care. Previously she worked in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities for over twenty years. She is a lecturer at the University of Texas and field faculty at the University of Texas, St. Edward's University and Texas State University. Louise holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Texas. She has a number of certifications, most recently a certification in Health Care Compliance.

**Sandy Magaña, PhD, MSW** holds the Professorship in Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at the University of Texas. Her research focus is on the cultural context of families who care for persons with disabilities across the life course, and addressing racial and ethnic disparities.

**Brian Manley** is Police Chief Police for the city of Austin. In his 27 years with the Austin Police Department, he has served in and supervised many areas, including Patrol, Narcotics, Child Abuse, Homicide, Highway Enforcement, Internal Affairs, Special Operations & Homeland Security, and Recruiting & Training. Chief Manley holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Texas and a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Ethics from St. Edward's University.

**Pamela Martin, PhD** is the Associate Dean of Prairie View A&M University's College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology. Her research investigates the role of theology in shaping the daily experiences of African Americans. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of South Carolina, a Master of Arts in Psychology from North Carolina Central University and a Ph.D. in Ecological/Community Psychology and Urban Studies from Michigan State University.

**Felicia Mason-Edwards, MMFT** is the Faith-based Division Administrator for Department of Family and Protective Services. She has been in social services for 24 years. She is also mother of a daughter with mental health needs and helps others advocate for their children, families and community members. She holds a Bachelor's degree in African American Studies and Youth Studies from the University of Minnesota and a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Argosy University.

**Cydnei Mathis** is an East Austin native and senior at Eastside Memorial High School where she is a cheerleader. She is a Certified Peer Health Educator with the City of Austin and aspires to become an OB/GYN. A witness to gentrification and health disparities, Cydnei developed the HealthGive app during a people of color hackathon to help the native people of East Austin find healthcare providers they can afford near them.

**Micah Moore** is currently a junior at Round Rock High School (RRHS). She is a founder of the RRHS Black Student Union, designed to create a space for black students to belong and to act as a unifying voice for underrepresented students. Micah serves as President of BSU, is involved in Top Teens of America, Delta Gems, and is an active member of Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church. She aspires to attend an HBCU upon graduation and study dentistry.

**Ulysses Moore, PhD** is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the Veterans Administration and director of the Hope Project of Central Texas, a non-profit organization that provides counseling, peer and family mentoring to both veterans and families. He is a military veteran of 28 years. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, a Master's degree in Education and Ph.D. in Counseling Education.

**Gloria Oyenyi, MD** is a general psychiatrist. She currently serves as Associate Program Director for the Psychiatry Residency Training Program and as Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, both at Dell Medical School. She is also a clinician with Seton Behavioral Health's Seton Mind Institute.

**Annie Powell** is the Chief Executive Officer of Recovery Communities, an outpatient addiction treatment facility in Hurst, Texas. She has over 20 years of experience working as an executive for Fortune 500 companies and leading change initiatives for organizational growth. Ms. Powell is also a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor. In long-term recovery herself, she is an advocate dedicated to a recovery-oriented transformation of systems and services.

## Presenters Continued.

**Joe Powell** is President & CEO of the Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA), a recovery community organization in Dallas, Texas. Mr. Powell is in long-term recovery with twenty-nine years of sobriety from alcohol and other drugs. He is a native of Harlem where he was raised in a family of seven brothers and one sister. All of his siblings have suffered with addiction, five with severe mental illness.

**Flora Releford** has over thirty years of experience with health and wellness. She uses her knowledge, experiential wisdom, and education to empower and guide individuals to a conscious lifestyle transformation, helping them find purpose and meaning. Ms. Releford is an Emotional CPR (eCPR) trainer, Reiki Master, Life and Recovery coach.

**Ratonja Runnels, PhD, LMSW** is an Assistant Professor and Director of Field Education in the Texas Woman's University Social Work Program. Her research focuses on sustainable mental health and social support networks for women and families experiencing chronic illness and effective interventions for women living with HIV/AIDS. She holds a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Texas.

**Nakia Scott, MD** is a child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist. She is also board certified in integrative medicine and a diplomat of the American Board of Integrative Holistic Medicine. She is in private practice at Holistic Mental Health. Dr. Scott is President of the Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

**Allah-Fard M. Sharrieff, PhD, LCDR, HSO, USPHS** is the Deputy Installation Director of Psychological Health at Fort Hood and Deputy Chief for the Department of Behavioral Health at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center. Lieutenant Commander Sharrieff is a commissioned officer of the United States Public Health Service.

**Dominique Simmons, QMHP II, MA** is an Employment & Education Specialist for Integral Care's RA1SE program. She has over 11 years of experience working with at-risk youth through mental health boards and the community. She holds a Master's degree in Human Service Counseling with a specialty in Life Coaching.

**Reginald Smith** is a graduate student at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at the University of Texas. He is the Hogg Foundation Peer Policy Fellow for Communities for Recovery. Mr. Smith's work focuses primarily on advocating for policies and services that improve the quality of life for those with substance use, mental health and criminal justice involvement.

**Alexia Taylor** is the Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX Compliance for Prairie View A&M University. In her current role, Ms. Taylor works with the campus community to raise awareness about discrimination, sexual harassment and relationship violence.

**Latasha Taylor** is a mental health advocate at Grassroots Leadership, under a Peer Policy Fellowship Award from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology. She is the 2017 recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Activism & Advocacy Award from Via Hope for her work during the 85th Legislative Session.

**Kenneth Thompson** is currently serving as the Chair of Austin's African American Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission, and Co-chair of the Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Planning Council. As the former President of the Board of Trustees for the Pflugerville Independent School District, he was the first African American elected to political office in the Pflugerville community. Mr. Thompson is the Wednesday morning host of Wake-up Call on KAZI 88.7FM.

**Andrew Urdy** is an East Austin native and 2017 graduate of Eastside Memorial High School. Born one of four to a single parent, Andrew acknowledges his family's struggles to be more than what other people might see. His motto "be a leader, not a follower" pushed him to cofound the hip hop duo, Know Thyself, with Davion Hill. Andrew writes and produces music that brings light to systemic racism and lifts up families trying to survive.

**Alexander Williams** is a community advocate who leads by example. Since moving to Austin five years ago, Mr. Williams has worked closely with multiple community organizations, and engaged in the school systems, to help develop and refine their adolescent-based programs.

**Sherrye Willis** is Founder and President of Alliance for Greater Work. She has more than 30 years of non-profit experience. During her career, Ms. Willis has led on both sides of philanthropy. In 2012, she was one of 150 U.S. leaders invited to the White House to discuss challenges facing local communities. In 2014, Ms. Willis authored her first book, Launching Greater Work: Turning a God-Inspired Vision into a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit.

**Rev. Dennis W. Young, DMin** is the Pastor of Missouri City Baptist Church in Missouri City, Texas. He currently serves as the Vice-chair on the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Reverend Dr. Young also serves as Vice Chairmen of the Board of Trustees for Baptist University of Americas. He received his Bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College in New York, as well as a Master's and Doctorate of Ministry from Houston Graduate School of Theology.



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## Poster Sessions

- Helping to Establish Educational Resources for Mama Sana/Vibrant Women Clinic - *Chris Abbyad, PhD, RN WHNP, CTTS*
- Prevention 101: Lifestyle Choices to Reduce Chronic Disease - *Crystal E. Wiltz, PhD & Deborah R. Duncan, B.A., MSSW, LMSW*
- Wellness Recovery Action Planning - *Tracey E. Moore, M.Ed., CPS and Veronica Carouthers*