



**Central Texas African American Family Support Conference  
Planning Committee Meeting**

**Date: March 24, 2021.**

**Time: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting**

In Attendance: Nell Watts, Sonia Hartman, Deborah Duncan, Emmitt Hayes, Kye Tavernier, Vicky Coffee, Jacqueline Miller, Kimberly Holiday, Mallinee Smith-Diggs, Jodie Eldridge, Kacey Hanson, Sonya Hosey, Debra Price, Lady Jane Acquah, Shannon Carr, Carl Hunter, Fabian Woods.

**Minutes:**

**Welcome and Introduction:** Members welcomed each other.

**Stephany Bryan:** Vicky Coffee shared some kind words about Stephany Bryan who passed in February. Members observed a minute silence in her honor.

**Overview of 2021 Virtual conference:** Members watched the video highlight reel of the conference. Members were impressed with the video and the conference in general. They applauded Integral Care staff and all volunteers as well as committee members for rising to the challenge and producing one of the best conferences in our history.

**Responses and observations from Committee chairs:** Members wanted to know how many people had access to the conference and questioned whether some people missed the conference because it was virtual. Over 800 people registered to attend. Lady Jane explained that the entire conference was recorded and streamed live on Facebook. The videos can be accessed on the conference website on YouTube as well, thus, the conference will continue to reach more people over time.

**Outreach:** There are opportunities to improve on outreach to reach more African Americans. Members reviewed the impact of the Together We Will Heal Forum and other activities that helped promote the conference. Members agreed on the need to adopt a system that attached sponsorship to the

**Pre-conference Reception:** Members were satisfied with the 2021 Reception and recommended the Reception team – Mallinee Smith-Diggs, Deborah Duncan, Emmitt Hayes, and Fabian Woods - for a good production. Members wanted to know how much sponsorship came in for the reception.

**Awards:** the award ceremony was simplified by the pre-recording which allowed attendees to hear from the winners. Members agreed to engage with the 2021 winners to promote the awards schemes. Some members expressed the concern that the award schemes often do not include people who are well known for serving the community. Vicky Coffee explained that the awards are advertised and so winners are chosen from a pool of applicants. Members were encouraged to promote the awards.

**Fundraising:** Lady Jane gave an overview of the expenses for the conference. The information available was tentative. Members requested a detailed report for the budget for the conference. Members also wanted to know how much sponsorship came in for the pre-conference reception.

**Suggestions for future conferences:**

- Start promoting the Pre-Conference Reception early
- Consider having a gospel extravaganza for mental health mid-year to promote mental health in the African American community
- Organize a MHFA as a pre-conference event
- Use the conference videos to do outreach to organizations/groups such as CPS, DHS, ASH, Austin State Hospital; case workers, CRCGs and community coordination groups, Texas System of Care Communities, Juvenile and Adult Justice Systems, schools etc.

**Other business:** Members were encouraged to renew the Committee participation agreement in order to join a committee.