

Keynote Speakers



Aqeela Sherrills is a spirit-centered activist, working to promote healing in marginalized communities and community ownership of public safety.

Aqeela Sherrills grew up in the Jordan Downs Housing Project in Watts, Los Angeles. A member of the Grape Street Crips, he fled the devastating violence in his community for college. At 19 he began working with football star Jim Brown and co-founded the Amer-I-Can Program, Inc. to heal gang violence around the country by negotiating peace treaties in those cities. In 1992 he brought his message home to Watts itself, and with his brother Daude and a few other key players in the community, forged a historic truce between the Crips and the Bloods in Watts.

When the ceasefire began to fray, the Sherrills brothers created the Community Self-Determination Institute in 1999 to tackle the overwhelming personal and social issues that underlie crime, drugs, and violence, and to draw attention to communities' Post (and present) Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

On January 10, 2004, Sherrills' 18-year-old son, Terrell, home from studying theater arts in college, was shot in the back at close range. Determined that Terrell's death not be in vein, Aqeela embarked on a new phase of work and activism, launching The Reverence Project ("TRP"). TRP work has been to create intentional space for individual healing and to develop comprehensive wellness centers in urban war zones to introduce those who suffer from high levels of trauma to alternative healing technologies to support our respective healing journeys.

In 2014, Aqeela was tapped by Newark, NJ Mayor Ras J Baraka to build out his community based public safety initiative. In the 5 years that he's led the Newark Community Street Team, Newark homicide rate went from 104 in 2015 to 51 in 2019 respectfully.

Aqeela also serves as the Senior Advisor to the Alliance for Safety and Justice's Shared Safety Initiative----a national nonprofit working to replace justice and prison system waste with common sense solutions that create safe neighborhoods and save taxpayer dollars. In addition to co-founding Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice—the largest survivor network in the country, he's also a subject matter expert on victim service and community based public safety providing consulting services to The International Association of Chief of Police. His primary focus with Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice is meeting the unmet needs of victims of crime, which includes healing, recovery and prevention.

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Nick Muhammad Executive Director of the Black Civic Network (BCN)

Nick is a Twin Cities transplant from Indianola, Mississippi. His journey has brought him from the cradle of white supremacy to the crown of white supremacy in Minnesota. He is a product and advocate for the American Descendants of Slavery ADOS/Black community. As Executive Director of the Black Civic Network (BCN) he is a strong advocate for reparations and repairing of the ADOS/Black families. Under his leadership they have authored the “ADOS Reparative Justice Fund” which is a bill to stabilize the ADOS/Black community and are strong allies in support of the “African American Family Preservation Act”. They are also the consultants on several State, County and Municipal initiatives to impact the ADOS/Black community. www.blackcivicnetwork.org



Robert E. Bailey II is the Program, Communications, and Training Team Lead U.S. for CDC's Division of Comprehensive Cancer Prevention and Control (DCPC)

where his team is responsible for providing funding and guidance to all 50 states and the District of Columbia to advance cancer prevention, early detection and treatment, survivorship supports, and health equity.

He has also served in multiple leadership roles in support of CDC's COVID-19 response, including Strategy, Policy, Partnerships, and Communications lead for the Chief Health Equity Officer; the Program Deputy for the Community Interventions and Critical Populations (CICP) Task Force, and the Communications Lead for the CICP Task Force. Prior to joining the Division of Cancer Prevention, Robert served as an acting Branch Chief and Team Lead within CDC's Division of Community Health, where he provided oversight to the development and implementation of multi-sectorial strategies and funding to support national organizations, networks, state, community, and organizational efforts to prevent chronic illness and promote health and wellness for Americans wherever they live, work, play, worship, and learn through community transformation and health equity initiatives. Before focusing on community health, he led national partnerships, campaigns, and mobilization efforts for CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP), managed the Tuberculosis Epidemiologic Studies Consortium within the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, and worked as a public health analyst on evaluation practices for DHAP's Program Evaluation Research Branch. He has also worked as a consultant for non-profits and small businesses on infrastructure, marketing, and evaluation aspects of their organizations



Sam Simmons, LADC. Behavioral Consultant and owner Samuel Simmons Consulting, LLC

Sam Simmons has over 31-years' experience as an alcohol and drug counselor and behavioral consultant specializing in culturally sensitive trauma informed strategies and working African American males and their families. He is an Adverse Childhood Experience Interface Trainer in the state of

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Minnesota. Sam developed and managed a culturally specific trauma informed project and curriculum that engages African American males to promote healthy relationships to end violence against women and girls and community violence. He received the 2016 Healing the Hidden Wounds of Racial Trauma award and the Black Tear Drop Award for his vision and leadership in culturally sensitive trauma informed work in the community and around the country. In 2017 he received the Champions for Children Award for his trauma work with parents. In 2018 Sam received Public Health Hero Award for his innovative, and culturally specific trauma informed work from the City of Minneapolis. In 2019 he became project consultant for the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation Advisory Council on Opioid Use Disorders in the African American Community. Sam is co-creator of the Community Empowerment Through Black Men Healing conference called "Groundbreaking and Visionary and for that work in 2018 he received recognition from both Minneapolis and St. Paul Mayors and Minnesota's Governor.

Panels

"Community safety in the presents of harm (Internal Community Harm and Safety)"



Panel Moderator: Richard Smith, National Director of HealingWorks - Common Justice

Richard is a nationally recognized expert on trauma and healing for survivors of interpersonal and systemic violence. He is the National Director of HealingWorks, a field building and movement building project committed to the advancement of healing equity for underserved survivors of violence. With over two decades of experience in leading and developing community-based programs, Richard's work has supported the healing process of oppressed groups, specifically those who are currently and formerly incarcerated and young people of color. He also provides training and technical assistance to agencies nationwide.

Currently an assistant professor at LIU Brooklyn's Social Work Department, Richard has guest lectured at numerous colleges and universities on issues such as systemic racism, mass incarceration, and trauma and healing. Richard has received numerous awards and fellowships: Citizens Against Recidivism Award, New Leaders Council Fellowship, and Just Leadership USA LeadingWithConviction Fellowship. He was recently awarded the Robert Wood Johnson Forward Promise Fellowship for Leadership.

Richard holds an M.A. from the University at Albany in Africana Studies and is a doctoral candidate at SUNY Albany's School of Social Welfare where his research focus is male survivors of child sexual abuse. Richard is the proud father of two sons, Kaden and Kaleb.

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TeAngelo Cargile Jr., Youth Injury & Violence Prevention Coordinator for the Milwaukee Health Department's Office of Violence Prevention where he oversees public health strategy around youth development.

TeAngelo is a Milwaukee Native raised by two Deaf parents who believe education is the key to success. He is a graduate of Messmer School, an alumni of UW-Milwaukee with a degree in American Sign Language Studies, a certified Community Health Worker through the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center, and a certified Credible Messenger through the Professional Community Intervention Training Institute. He is a Social and Emotional Learning Program Quality Assessor through the Weikert Center and certified to lead their Youth Methods Trainings. He is a certified Rites of Passage facilitator through the ASENTU, African Centered Rites of Passage Institute of Milwaukee. A few of his volunteer roles are: Committee chair for the Commission on Political and Civic Engagement through the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated District of Wisconsin, Co-chair of the Beautillion Scholarship for the Delta Chi Lambda Foundation, Youth Facilitator with Meta House's Celebrating Families program, and Board Chair of New Concept Self Development Center. His previous role was with the Kellogg PEAK Initiative as their Community Engagement Manager where he served in building partnerships for youth development with education systems (Mount Mary University, Marquette University, UW-Milwaukee, the trades, and community non-profits for the advancement of Black and Brown young people in Milwaukee.



Charles Dixon M.A., Director Ramsey County Social Services, Community Partnerships, Quality and Continuous Improvement

He earned a Bachelor of Arts from the College of Individualized Studies with the emphasis on Youth Development from an Ethnic Studies Perspective. His Master of Arts in Liberal Studies focus was articulating the African American Dream. Both degrees are from Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, Minn. Dixon started working for the Department of Human Services in December 2016 as the Children's Trust Fund Consultant. Where he was responsible for oversight and management of the Disparities Grants. Charles was a member of both the Children and Family Service equity committee serving on the subgroup for retention and retention and the Men of African Heritage Employee Resource Group, in addition to being responsible for parent involvement and community engagement. Management of the Preschool Development Grants will be one of his responsibilities as well. Dixon has specialized in practical culturally sensitive work with the African American community specifically men and adolescents. As a public speaker, Dixon talks about the negative consequences of gang violence, the importance of obtaining and retaining livable wage employment, and the benefits of continuing education. He currently works for Ramsey County as Director of Social Services, Community Partnerships, Quality and Continuous Improvement

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"Reparations as part of the new normal"



Panel Moderator: Curtis W. Marshall, MS, Public Health Strategist/Consultant for the Wisconsin Division of Public Health

Curtis works as a Public Health Strategist/Consultant for the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. He currently leads strategic partnership development and has recently been reassigned as a COVID-19 regional community testing coordinator. He provides technical assistance, and health equity consultation to local health departments, health consortiums, and community-based organizations and national workgroups.

Curtis has over twenty-five years of experience of assessing organizational capacity and readiness for leading population-based health improvement strategies. He is recognized as an engaged change leader who builds, and facilitates healthcare partnerships, to make sustainable progress on community health issues.

Curtis has provided consultation to Wisconsin and national fatherhood agencies and consults on the impact of fatherhood on maternal child health and birth outcomes. He co-authored the Wisconsin Statewide Fatherhood Plan under Former Governor Jim Doyle's Administration.



Thomas Berry is the Program Director at Black Civic Network. Educator, community organizer and father.

Mr. Berry is a Twin Cities resident who's been serving the broader community through volunteer and activism since he was a teenager, from being the vice president of the African American Student Union, to working with Black Civic Network. Mr. Berry has always stood for and fought for the improvement of life for American Descendants of Slaves (ADOS) citizens.

He's served on several boards and even created a youth organization called S.W.I.M that mentored youth ages 13-18 focusing on social skills, health, art, economic development and empowerment. Mr. Berry is currently working for Black Civic Network hosting town hall meetings on topics ranging from reparations to COVID-19. He obtained a degree in world history with a minor in political science.



Mark A. Thompson, Pastor, Radio Boadcaster, MSNBC Commentator and Activist.

The Rev. Mark A. Thompson (Matsimela Mapfumo) was honored at the 104th Annual NAACP Convention in Orlando in July 2013 "for 25 years of crusading journalism and outstanding leadership in furthering the work of civil and human rights."

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Mark has spent most of his life as a political, civil rights & human rights activist and organizer. He not only has been a part of every major social justice movement & event over the past 35 years, he has also been a radio broadcaster for three decades, and he has spent over 10 years as a television commentator, as well.

Raised in Nashville, where Callie House founded the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty and Pension Association, one of the first organizations to campaign for reparations, Mark is a member of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA). He served on N'COBRA's Reparations Litigation Commission throughout its existence from 1997 - 2000. The Litigation Commission renewed the argument for reparations by establishing that reparations must include compensation for slavery's historical and modern-day vestiges. As a result, slavery and its vestiges are included in the latest version of H.R. 40, the Reparations Bill, sponsored by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee. Rev. Mark is actively involved in lobbying and organizing for H.R. 40.. On April 14, 2021, the House Judiciary Committee voted H.R. 40 out of Committee. Mark also was one of the organizers of the 2002 Millions for Reparations March, and its emcee.

Mark hosts Make It Plain, a political, human rights and breaking daily podcast. Mark's lifelong social justice activism intersects with his years of experience broadcasting the news and issues of the day.

Envisioning Healthcare in the new normal Panel



Panel Moderator: Clarence R. Jones, M.Ed, CPH, CHW, CPE., Community Health Strategist for the Hue-MAN Partnership

As Community health Strategist for the Hue-MAN Partnership I focus on working with community organizations in developing public health collaborations to address health disparities. This work is done through relationship building, focus groups, community surveys, health fairs, education, and health screenings. Our partnerships include members of the academic community, governmental agencies, HMOs, FQHCs, community organizations, and other v Panel Moderator: ested individuals. My work with FAITH has been to involve churches and faith-based institution in community health.

For more than 40 years I have been involved with various community projects, both nationally and internationally, that focused on culture, youth development and building healthier communities. I have trained organizations, faith communities, and governmental groups in both cultural awareness and health issues. Each year, more than 150 students and nurses from higher educational institutions and career development schools work with our organization on community engagement projects to prepare them for health service careers. Yearly, we provide more than 15,000 free health screenings to the community using this method.

As a radio host on KMOJ FM Radio, I host a weekly radio program called "Community Health Dialogues". This program provides a public health focus with the intent of

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engaging community members to entertain the questions around environmental health and its impact on their lives.

I serve as a member of the CTSI Executive Leadership team as well as the University of Minnesota's Public Health Disparities Research Board (PHDR). I am also a past board member of the Minnesota Urban Area Health Education Center (AHEC). I have served as the mayor's representative and as co-chair for the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) for the city of Minneapolis, and also served as a National Community Representative for the National Children's Study (NCS).

I co-founded a group called Hue-MAN. The Hue-MAN Partnership Project consists of health care, community engagement, and professional organizations seeking to address the health crisis among our young and middle-aged men, primarily men of color. The Hue-MAN Partnership Project continues to collaborate to reduce health disparities among men in the community. Moreover, the collaborative efforts have further empowered and equipped men to make healthy choices for themselves, their families, and their communities. Hue-MAN has two specific focuses: Medical Health and Community Outreach. The Hue-MAN name refers to empowering men of all "hues" and "humans."

I was an adjunct professor at the University of Saint Catherine's School of Public Health, where I instruct and prepare Community Health Workers (CHWs) for public engagement and community service. CHWs also learn how to work with diverse communities including race, gender, and age.



Ericka M. Sinclair, MS, MPH, Founder and CEO of Health Connections Inc.

Ms. Sinclair has over 17 years of experience in international and domestic public health and clinic operations. Her educational achievements include the following: Bachelors in Microbiology, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Masters in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and Masters in International Public Health, Emory University. She has managed several clinical practices and programs over the last 9 years within the Greater Milwaukee area. Ms. Sinclair's experience working in international and domestic settings has given her the vision to embark on this new adventure.



Brandon Jones M.A. Executive Director of Minnesota Association for Child's Mental Health, Psychotherapist, Professor, and Consultant

Brandon is the Executive Director of Minnesota Association for Child's Mental Health & consultant. He specializes in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Historical and Intergenerational trauma, Social/Emotional Intelligence (EQ), Leadership, and Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). Brandon holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Minnesota, a Masters in Community Psychology from Metropolitan State University,

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and a Masters in Psychotherapy (MFT) from Adler Graduate School. Brandon is also a 2013 Bush Foundation Leadership Fellow. He lives by the motto of "Live life with Purpose on Purpose".

"Collective Healing for a thriving "New Normal"



Panel Moderator: Tiffany Turner-Allen, Founder of Blacktivism -The Collective: The Center for Peace and Prosperity in Black Communities.

Tiffany Turner-Allen is best known for her passionate style. Her work has been intense and across various issues of health, public health and education; her areas of expertise include Violence in the Black Community, Violence Against Women, Engaging Black Men and Boys, HIV & AIDS, Adjudicated Youth, Educational Equity, Animal Abuse, Bullying, School to Prison Pipeline, Infant Mortality, Healthcare Reform & Access, Food Deserts, Technology & the Digital Divide, Returning Citizens, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking and Stalking. She holds a BA in Communications and a minor in African American studies from George Mason University, as well as a Certificate in Community Health Leadership from Morehouse School of Medicine. Lastly, she is very proud of her roles as wife, daughter, mother, pet-parent, friend, advocate, activist, trainer, mentor, mentee, and leader. As a proven leader with remarkable dedication, she is driven to experience new things, people, and opportunities and lives by her desire and determination to enhance the lives of others! Her current focus is on training, education, outreach and policy advocacy around domestic violence, sexual violence, and community violence in the Black community.



Reverend Walter J. Lanier

Walter Lanier is a husband, father, lawyer, pastor, teacher, educator, and social entrepreneur with a deep commitment to being a liberating force in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Lanier is the Senior Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church of Milwaukee, which has a 30-year track record of innovation and service to community Milwaukee. Pastor Lanier also serves as the Director of Student Resources at Milwaukee Area Technical College where he also created the college's Men of Color Initiative. A 1995 graduate of the University of Michigan law school, Lanier maintained a business law practice for over a decade prior to joining MATC. In 2005, he founded the Great Lakes Urban Empowerment Center (GLUE) which focuses on building a network and proposing solutions for urban cities in the Great Lakes area. Lanier has lectured in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Africology in the areas of race and constitutional law. In 2012, Lanier founded MIRACLE, Mental Illness—Raising Awareness with Church and Community Leaders Everywhere. MIRACLE works with faith based and community leaders, mental health organizations, and advocates to raise awareness and decrease stigma around mental illness. He currently serves on a variety of community boards including the Milwaukee Community Justice Council, Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope, Marquette University's Center

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for Urban Research, Teaching and Outreach, the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board and Housing Ministries of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin. Lastly, he is the Chairman of the Board for Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. a federally qualified health center serving patients in Milwaukee's inner city



Ronald A. Legrand is a consultant and an attorney, licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

“Service and a commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others” – this has been the consistent theme underlying Ron’s career. Prior to coming on board with the Addiction Policy Forum as their General Counsel and Executive Vice President for Business Development, Ron has been the CEO of The LeGrand Group, LLC with a focus on prevention of gender-based violence, criminal justice reform, healthcare and legislative affairs, Ron’s clients have included Ujima, the National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community, the District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Fair and Just Prosecution, and Americans for Prosperity. Ron has planned and presented at men’s conferences on domestic violence, planned and coordinated an issue forum on domestic violence during the 2017 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s Annual Legislative Conference, appeared on Prince George’s County cable TV’s “ ”, and co-authored a Domestic Violence Awareness Month Op-Ed with actor Omari Hardwick and his wife, Jay, published in Ebony online: <http://www.ebony.com/news-views/omari-hardwick-domestic-violence#axzz4N3nHsaxr>.

Prior to launching his consulting firm, Ron served as Vice President for Public Policy with the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) where he led that organization’s national policy agenda. In collaboration with other organizations, he successfully advocated for the passage of the Justice For All Reauthorization Act of 2016, as well as for legislation in which annual appropriations were either maintained at current levels or modestly increased in efforts to enhance safety and economic empowerment for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Ron has served as Counsel to several committees on Capitol Hill: The House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse & Control (1985-1987); Chief Investigator & Counsel to the Senate Judiciary (1987-1989); Counsel to the House Committee on Government Operations (1989-1990); and the House Judiciary Committee (2009-2015). He is a former federal narcotics prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Section where he not only successfully prosecuted major drug traffickers but also received the Special Achievement Award following a special assignment in Bogota, Colombia, during which he served as Special Legal Advisor to the U.S. Ambassador while seeking extradition of over 100 narcotraffickers. Ron is also a former Special Agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

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During his tenure with the House Judiciary Committee, Ron's legislative portfolio included domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking and criminal justice reform. He served as lead Democratic Counsel on the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) which was signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 7, 2013, and as lead Democratic Counsel on the House Committee on the Judiciary's Over-criminalization Task Force which provided the basis for the introduction of the SAFE Justice Act of 2015 and the FIRST STEP Act of 2018. As a result of his experience in working on the 2013 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, Ron has worked with House and Senate Republican and Democratic staff on Capitol Hill, as well as with several domestic violence advocacy organizations on the current effort to reauthorize VAWA. He recently served the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence's keynote speaker for that organization's launch of the 2019 Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The recipient of numerous awards for community service. In October of this year, in recognition of his work to end Domestic Violence, Ron was awarded the LOVE Cares Award by Sisters 4 Sisters, Inc. during that organization's 14th Annual Silent Tears No More Domestic and Sexual Violence Prayer Breakfast. Ron is listed in the Inaugural Edition (2009) of Who's Who in Black Washington, D.C., was recognized by The Hill newspaper in 2012 as one of Capitol Hill's 50 Most Beautiful People, and his service to the House Judiciary Committee was cited in the March 25, 2015, U.S. House of Representatives Congressional Record, Volume 161, No. 50. Ron is also an avid member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the 100 Black Men of America and holds a B.A. and a J.D. degree from Boston College.

During a career which Ron describes as "truly BLESSED", Ron has had many titles, but the ones that he most cherishes are "Son", "Dad" and "Husband". Ron thanks God EVERY day for his 95-year old mom, his wife, Kathy, his six sons and six grandchildren (four grandsons and two granddaughters).

**"When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."
Audrey Lorde**