

“How does a community heal when it feels like it’s under attack?”



Sam Simmons, LADC. Behavioral Consultant and owner Samuel Simmons Consulting, LLC
<http://www.samuelsimmonsconsulting.com/>

Sam Simmons has over 32-years’ experience as an alcohol and drug counselor and behavioral consultant specializing in culturally sensitive trauma informed strategies and working with African American males and their families. He is an Adverse Childhood Experience Interface Trainer in the state of Minnesota. Sam 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. Sam is co-creator of the Community Empowerment Through Black Men Healing conference called “Groundbreaking and Visionary ” For that work, in 2018, he received recognition from both Minneapolis and St. Paul Mayors and Minnesota's Governor.

“The Future of Black Family”



Tiffany Turner-Allen, Executive Director of Nonprofit Prince George's County
<https://nonprofitpgc.org/>

Tiffany’s passion and work have been intense across various public health and education issues. 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. 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! She was the Program Director for Ujima – The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community. She focused on developing the organization’s communication platforms, training, education, outreach, and policy advocacy around domestic violence, sexual violence, and community violence in the Black community. Her work covered the entire US and the territories. Tiffany is currently embarking upon the next and natural phase in her career as the Executive Director of Nonprofit Prince George’s County. Her mission is to see her community, Prince George’s County, MD,

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become a model of racial equity. Lastly, she is very proud of her roles as mother, wife, daughter, pet-parent, friend, advocate, activist, trainer, mentor, and mentee.

The Future of Black Family Panel



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

<http://huelmanpartnership.org/>

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 interested 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 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.”

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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.



Andre Dukes, Vice President, Family and Community Impact Northside Achievement Zone

<https://northsideachievement.org/>

Andre leads the Family Academy, Early Childhood, Parent Leadership and Community Power initiatives of the Northside Achievement Zone. He oversees the planning, development, management and implementation of strategies to achieve the greatest possible impact in helping improve outcomes for individuals and families to achieve community level change. Throughout his career, he has learned a great deal about how experiences shape child behavior, and how strong communities, environments, and supports can promote healthy development and prevent harmful behavior in children. Before joining NAZ, Andre worked for several years as a community pastor and worked in partnership with Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis on the issue of youth violence prevention. Andre holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Minnesota Graduate School of Theology, Masters of Applied Child and Adolescent Development and a Certificate in Infant Mental Health and Early Childhood from the University of Minnesota Center for Early Education Development. He serves on the board of Think Small and is a member of the Governor's Council of Minnesotans of African Descent.



Devon Gilchrist with the African American Child Well-Being Unit at the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)

Devon Gilchrist is on a quest to reimagine the child welfare system in Minnesota, where racial disparities are some of the highest in the country. In his role in the African American Child Well-Being Unit in the state's Department of Human Services, he has seen the system struggle to meet the unique needs of children of color, thus perpetuating a breakdown of trust and support between the families the system is charged with serving and the system itself. He believes passionately in family preservation, with families offering solutions to their problems instead of the state mandating actions. To advance a more inclusive and equitable child welfare framework, he seeks to develop knowledge of and leadership skills in public policy, organizational psychology and government relations. He also will build a trusted network to share ideas and connect with other leaders to broaden his perspectives.

Devon Gilchrist is a Human Services Program Consultant–Foster Care Policy Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). In that role, Devon leads efforts to improve child welfare practice and make meaningful effective and sustainable change at the state level. He also works closely with Minnesota counties to facilitate dialogue, training, technical assistance, and planning efforts to improve their practice to address ongoing challenges that have affected children. He is committed to reducing disparities for children of color in out-of-home care in Minnesota, and has been a champion to ensure that agency practices are culturally responsive and appropriate.

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He has also been an advocate for improving practice when it comes to engaging fathers of children who are involved in child welfare services. His volunteer service includes starting the Men of African Heritage Employee Resource Group at DHS to provide mentorship and support to colleagues.



Adenike Chon

Adenike is a licensed Social Worker living in Saint Paul and currently consults on a plethora of diverse projects. She volunteered for Family Voices of Minnesota's CONNECTED Peer Support Program as a Parent Support Mentor. Currently, she partners with the Minnesota Department of Health, the Collaborative for Improvement and Innovation Network (CollIN), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the Dakota Children and Family Clinic. Adenike is also a member of the QI Team at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare for Children and Youth with Special Health Care needs (CYSHN), among other racial and equity building endeavors.

“Using Healing Justice to Support Black Youth”



Brandon Jones, Executive Director of Minnesota Association for Child's Mental Health & consultant
<https://macmh.org/>

Brandon is the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health Executive Director. He has a consulting and training background in addressing 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 master's in Community Psychology from Metropolitan State University, and a master's in Psychotherapy (MFT) from Adler Graduate School. Brandon is also a 2013 Bush Foundation Leadership Fellow. Today, he provides the MACMH staff and board with the leadership and vision necessary to keep MACMH at the forefront of Mental Health education and advocacy. He lives by the motto of “Live life with Purpose on Purpose.”

How to Support Black Youth Panel



Panel Moderator: Richard Smith, Trauma Expert
<https://richardsmithspeaks.com/>

Richard is a nationally recognized expert on trauma and healing for survivors of interpersonal and systemic violence. He formally was 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

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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.



Dr. Cory Greene, Co-Founder, Board Member, and Healing Justice Organizer

<https://healwithholla.com/>

I stand on the shoulders of the Green Haven Think Tank, Bedford Hills Sister, and Resurrection Study Group who developed the Non-Traditional Approach to Criminal and Social Justice Issues (NTA). I'm a formerly incarcerated co-founder and Healing Justice Organizer with How Our Lives Link Altogether! (H.O.L.L.A!). I'm currently invested in developing, leading and implementing an intergenerational youth-led citywide and nationwide grassroots movement for Black Liberation centered on Healing Justice. The wisdom of my community and I has been featured in critical documentaries such as Ava Duvernay's 13th & From Prison to NYU.

Cory Greene is a formerly incarcerated co-founder and Healing Justice Organizer with How Our Lives link Altogether! (H.O.L.L.A!). Cory is invested in developing, leading and implementing an intergenerational youth led citywide and nationwide Healing Justice Movement. Cory (39 years old) was born and raised by a single mother in East Elmhurst Queens, NY, during a time when many mothers and urban communities were impacted by the crack epidemic. Cory's ancestors and elders hail from the struggles of delta Mississippi, and the historical reality of being Black in "America" Cory's experiences as a youth growing up in urban ghettos have contributed to his understanding of the systemic inequalities. As a result, Cory has committed himself to a wide range of educational projects, healing, and grassroots movement building that seek to change

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existing conditions for youth of color and our communities. Cory earned his Associate degree in Liberal Arts Deaf Studies from LaGuardia Community College. Cory earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Psychology from New York University. Cory earned his doctoral degree from the Critical Social Personality Psychology program at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY), where his research efforts analyze the praxis of grassroots pedagogy and healing – centered youth organizing within a process of radical healing.

Cory serves as research associate and leader on numerous participatory action research (PAR) projects. Cory is an organizer with the Formerly Incarcerated Convicted People and Family Movement (FICPFM), a national movement led by formerly incarcerated leaders to change the public policy landscape of criminal justice (punishment). Cory is a national organizer with the Education Liberation Project, engaging in a national project to uplift Prison Abolition through an educational toolkit. Cory is a 2013 National Science Foundation Predoctoral Fellow, 2013 Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellow, 2016 Echoing Green Fellow, & 2017 Camelback fellow. Cory's organizing work, humanity and analysis has been featured in critical documentaries such as Ava Duvernay's 13th, From Prison to NYU, and most recently, H.O.L.L.A!'s Healing Justice Movement Documentary "We Came to Heal." Cory has been married since he was 21 years old, a total of 18 years. Cory attributes knowing how to love and understanding of the importance of interpersonal journeying to his wife. Cory is a father. Cory attributes his work, motivation and success to his son's existence.



Marie Humes, MS, LPC-IT

Marie is a compassionate and dedicated mental health professional and public speaker. She consults various schools and community organizations in the Milwaukee area to promote mental wellness within communities of color and across generations. She also works as the Director of Clinical Experience for the College of Graduate Studies at Cardinal Stritch University.

Mental health has always remained at the forefront of her life as she attained a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and two Master's degrees in General Psychology and Clinical Psychology from Cardinal Stritch University. Recently, as the headlining speaker for the "From Healing to Hope" event sponsored by United Methodist Women, Marie empowered guests to practice gratitude when facing grief and loss. She has also consulted with Hope Christian Schools on implementing trauma-informed teaching practices in the classroom.

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Marie's professional goal is to destigmatize the use of therapy as an agent of change and provide equitable access to mental health resources for all people.

In her free time, Marie enjoys being adventurous including skydiving, zip lining, traveling overseas, and trying new delicious food.

"You can't change the world. You can change a person's world. The more people you help, the more worlds you've changed." -Andrew Gifford



Jerome Treadwell. St. Paul NAACP Youth & College Division

Jerome Treadwell is a 17 year old activist, musician, and athlete. He is also the second youngest St. Paul NAACP Youth & College Division elected at the age of 16, following the legacy of Debbie Montgomery-- St. Paul NAACP Youth Division youngest president (13 years old) and youngest on the national board of NAACP (17 years old). Debbie was also the first woman police officer in Saint Paul. Jerome has spoken about different social justice issues on many local and national platforms, while also having his works featured on CBS, NPR, BBC, BuzzFeed, National Geographic, Yahoo News, Teen Vogue, New York Times, Complex, TheShadeRoom, The Guardian, Revolt TV.

Jerome is the executive director of Minnesota Teen Activists, a non-profit organization founded by 15 year old Aaliyah Murray. MN Teen Activists is aimed towards eradicating injustices in schools across Minnesota. Currently, MN Teen Activists has 23,000 followers. In May 2020, Jerome along with other MN Teen Activists organizers raised over \$80,000 for businesses in Minneapolis who were affected by looting and rioting after the death of George Floyd. Later, in April 2021, Jerome along with other MN Teen Activists organizers raised over \$20,000 for businesses in Brooklyn Center who were affected by looting and rioting after the death of Daunte Wright.

During the summer of 2020, many students suffered from isolation and mental health outbreaks due to the pandemic/quarantine, and schools closing. Jerome partnered with many different organizations by co-hosting virtual conversations and check-ins. He was also able to financially assist many youth by paying them for taking surveys and participating in mental health and healing conversations. After the death of George Floyd, the Minneapolis community suffered from trauma and hurt. Jerome actively sought out youth and made sure to it that his peers' mental health was well. Due to the civil uprising, many grocery stores either were closed indefinitely or had limited hours, in response Jerome worked to distribute food to those in need at different locations throughout the community. Jerome has been contracted to lead summits by organizations and Minneapolis Public Schools.

In the beginning of the year 2021, Jerome began his internship with the Mayor of Minneapolis, as well as the first Black House of Representative in district 67A John Thompson. In May 2021, Jerome spoke and performed at the first inaugural peaceful rally & march in Minneapolis with the George Floyd Memorial Foundation alongside Rev. Al Sharpton and Attorney Benjamin Crump. Jerome has been seated on panels and discussions with Dr. James Merdieth (Integrated University of Mississippi) and

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Minnijean Brown-Trickey, Terrance Roberts (Little Rock 9). Jerome has also sat on panels with George Floyd Memorial Foundation alongside Tylik McMillan (National Action Network, National Director of Youth & College) and Myisha Hill (Founder, Check Your Privilege) In June 2021, Jerome performed a tribute to Dr. James Meredith for his 88th birthday, a song Sam Cook dedicated to him 'A Change Gon' Come.' Jerome Treadwell is currently the lead for Highland Park Save The Arts Committee, aimed to fully-fund and create a diverse faculty and curriculum for students across the Saint Paul Public School District. After forming the committee, Jerome went throughout the city of Saint Paul to inform the community of the upcoming school board meeting where the board voted on the fiscal operating budget. He managed to present to the school board the concerns of students, parents, and staff across the district. Currently, he is still continuing his efforts to save the arts.

July 25 2021, Jerome is scheduled to speak and perform at the virtual Music for Emmett, the global 80th birthday commemoration honoring the legacy with the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation.

“Support healers and providers: why and how do we make this a practice?”



Raj S, Associate Professor at Metropolitan State University

Dr. Raj is a recovering criminologist, alcoholic, and survivor of sexual abuse, with over 20 years of community-based activism as a researcher and educator. Inspired by our youth's resilience and the men in our prison systems, he trains school staff, probation agents, community members, and justice personnel on restorative practices, trauma and healing, value-centered leadership, community building, and unpacking implicit biases. He believes in raising consciousness utilizing the restorative circle process. In his latest work, raj explores our justice system's depths and creates a framework in which knowledge, critical consciousness, and heart become the root of our practices.

Supporting Healers and Providers Panel



Moderator: Reverend Aledria "Lee" Buckley

Reverend Aledria "Lee" Buckley is a licensed and ordained minister the founder of LivingFaithfullyLee an online ministry that provides resources for a Christian lifestyle. Buckley has served as an Associate Minister, an Assistant Pastor and is now a member of the clergy team at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston, TX. Her ministry focuses on Christian consulting, prayer, recovery, healing from historical and generational trauma, and community leadership and engagement.

Reverend Buckley served as Assistant Pastor and founding member at Ruach Christian Center (RCC) in St. Paul, MN. At RCC and previously as Associate Minister at Progressive Baptist Church in St. Paul, MN, Rev. Buckley's ministry focus is on

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Christian Counseling, young adult Bible study, prayer, recovery and healing from historical and generational trauma, and community leadership and engagement.

Rev. Buckley is the former Chief Operating Officer at Ujamaa Place, a \$2M non-profit organization in St. Paul that serves marginalized African American Men ages 18-30. For nine years Rev. Buckley was the Community Reentry Coordinator for the MN Department of Corrections (MNDOC) where she led the department's Diversity and Inclusion Civic Engagement Subcommittee, the statewide Transition Coalitions, and the Strengthening Families Affected by Incarceration (SFAI) Collaborative. During this she was awarded the 2017 Outstanding Criminal Justice Program award for the Midwest Region from the National Criminal Justice Association for developing and implementing community-based reentry programs. Her work was also highlighted as an evidenced best practices program funded by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance Act.

From 2005 to 2011 Rev. Buckley served as Special Advisor to two Minnesota Governors leading the Faith and Community Service Initiative. In this role she led efforts to support families and children of military member and veterans and individuals returning to communities from prison. She also coordinated and hosted multiple workshops and conferences educating faith-based and community organizations on applying for, securing and managing government funding for programs serving the homeless, reentry, veterans, mental health, violence reduction, collaboration and capacity building.

Prior to joining state government, Rev. Buckley was a corporate executive serving as Labor Relations Director, Operations Director and Manger for a major airline and as an internal consultant for a major financial services corporation.

Rev. Buckley holds a Master of Arts in Community Ministry Leadership from Bethel Seminary. She recently relocated to Houston, TX where she will attain her Doctorate in Ministry and establish her Christian Counseling service.



Dr. Porshia Cunningham, LMFT

<https://myrootedtherapy.com/>

Dr. Porshia is a licensed marriage and family therapist who values working with diverse family types, such as blended homes, non-normative families, or co-parented homes. Rooted Therapy is a private practice she founded to further her work with couples, families, and individuals who experience high levels of adversity. Much of her work provides practical ways to initiate growth within oneself while also exploring pathways for generational healing. She believes that healing can be just as transmittable as trauma with intentionality and compassionate boundaries. Her research is focused on innovative ways to teach and understand social justice issues, systemic implications, and culture and diversity as it connects to mental health. Dr. Porshia is a professor who teaches graduate studies for student counselors. Since mental health providers have historically proven to be unsafe for people of color and their families, her work as a professor and state approved supervisor is fueled by the deep need for cultural aware and sensitive

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clinicians. She prides herself in collaboratively merging systemic social issues into her trainings in order to equip the next generation of mental health providers with the tools to create safe spaces for marginalized populations. Aside her business and work in academia, her true passion and purpose originates from her role as a mother, because she understands secure love starts in the home.

Career and Training

Dr. Porshia started her academic journal at Lee University where she completed a bachelor's in psychology and a master's in marriage and family therapy. These experiences afford her the opportunities to present at national and international conferences with organizations such as the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapist (AAMFT) and the American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA), and an opportunity to serve on as a board member to the National Honor Society in Psychology known as Psi Chi along with another community-based volunteer program focused on female-teen self-image lead by Image Step Team. She continued to Nova Southeastern University (NSU) and went on to complete her doctorate in Family Therapy. At NSU, she continued her passion for conference presentations and published with colleagues in peer-reviewed journals. While she was completing the Ph.D. program, Porshia was elected student president of her college, and the year she served she and the other SGA elected board members were selected and honored with the NSU Student Government of the Year Award. Her dissertation was published and focused on culture and diversity trainings and was also featured in Forbes Magazine in 2020.

As a mother and co-parent herself, she understands how challenging it can be to establish healthy and safe relationships, and even more importantly how difficult it can be to re-establish generational patterns that cultivate healing. She established Rooted Therapy as a safe space for families, individuals, and couples to grow and heal together, as well as to provide resources that increase one's ability to thrive rather than just survive. Rooted therapy is a proud member of the Miramar and Pembroke Pines Chamber of Commerce. The South Florida based private practice was metaphorically named Rooted Therapy to emphasize her approach using self-empowerment and personal growth in collaboration with one's experiences from childhood up until the present-day life journey. This approach to therapy digs to the root of why we do what we do and how we choose to navigate relationships, friendships, and careers.

Dr. Porshia is certified as an AAMFT Approved Supervisor and Florida State Qualified Supervisor, which means she provides guidance and supervision for therapist in training. Another service she provides is co-parenting coaching and trainings, both for clients and colleagues. At Florida International University, she is an adjunct professor for students training to become mental health counselors. For Nova Southeastern University Dr. Porshia teaches graduate courses for the Department of Couples and Families. Online, she serves as adjunct faculty for Truett McConnell University where she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses. Dr. Porshia is passionate about learning and expanding knowledge on a variety of platforms. It speaks to Rooted Therapy's organizational mantra which is to nurture love, growth, and stability.

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Otis Smallwood (Kemii Aptezi), Presence-Based Coach and Cultural Health Practitioner

He specialized in finding cultural solutions to personal and professional areas of concern. Skilled at coaching high performance and prosperity mindsets, personal and professional satisfaction, organizational effectiveness through employee and cultural engagement, alternative medicine, and creating safe spaces for people to heal themselves.



Jatón White, Director of Community Wellness

<https://www.inspiregroupcoaching.org/>

Jatón is the Director of Community Wellness with the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ), focused on family and organizational wellness, aligning with her life's purpose. She works hand-in-hand with partners, families, and scholars to understand their needs related to conflict, social-emotional, safety, and other wellness concerns. Jatón began her work at NAZ in 2012 as a family achievement coach, working to increase parent engagement and boost scholar outcomes. Through active engagement with systems, families, and scholars, she adopted a belief that when a person or system seeks healing that it should be treated as an emergency — it requires deep, intimate, and personal work and an authentic, supportive team. Armed as a trained facilitator in personal empowerment, EQ practitioner, Awareness Coach under the direction of Jodi Pharr, ACE trainer, and Emergent Embodied Coach under the tutelage of Resmaa Menakem, she is able to provide supportive, evidence-based tools to aid in the spaces that have a direct impact on Northside scholars and families.

**"What Keeps us Safe?
How Social Conditions Create Community Safety"**



W. Curtis Marshall MS, Public Health Strategist/Consultant

Curtis Marshall has a broad background in public health. He recently retired after thirty-one years as a Public Health Strategist with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. He served as the health equity consultant with the Wisconsin State COVID Response Testing and Vaccination Teams, advocating the short and long-term effects in minority communities because of toxic and deep social structural conditions.

His belief that 'public health is everything, and everything is public health', has placed him in multiple public and private strategic discussions and think tanks to develop population-based health and safety improvement strategies. He is recognized as an engaged change leader, building, and facilitating partnerships for sustainable momentum and progress to resolve community issues at the community and system levels.

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Community Safety Panel



Moderator: Artika Roller, Executive Director of Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

<https://mncasa.org/>

Artika Roller, Executive Director of Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) has over twenty years of experience managing projects in the for-profit sector. Ms. Roller plays a key role in public policy advocacy and has been active in our legislative advocacy for the recently passed Safe Harbor Bill. She is a graduate in the Executive Leadership Institute at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor School of Business and School of Social Work. Ms. Roller is known as an effective and talented manager, presenter, motivator, and educator, who has the ability to advocate for the most vulnerable youth and adults in our community. Artika is respected by her peers, staff, and clients for her non-judgmental and holistic approach to providing advocacy and program management.

When away from work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, attending concerts, and exploring new restaurants and gift shops.



Justin Terrell, Executive Director, Minnesota Justice Research Center

<https://www.mnjrc.org/>

Community leader with a record of executing successful issue campaigns and is an expert in Criminal Justice and Democracy reform. He leads MNJRC's efforts to build a balanced and rigorous research program aimed at equipping Minnesotans with information and tools needed to transform the punitive criminal legal system.



Suwana F. Kirkland, Dakota County Community Corrections Director

Prior to the appointment of Dakota County Community Corrections Director Suwana F. Kirkland served as Commander and Executive Officer over the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Detention Division, Background Investigations for employment, Community Outreach and Recruitment all under the Community Relations Division (RCSO). Kirkland joined the RCSO as a Temporary Correctional Officer in March of 2007 and then became a full time Sworn Deputy Sheriff in November of 2007.

Kirkland's experience also includes sworn law enforcement work as:

- Police Officer for the Minnetonka Police Department (She started her law enforcement career with the City of Minnetonka in their very first pilot Cadet Program)
- Part-time Police Officer, Minnesota State Fair Police
- Part-time Police Officer, Metro Transit Police

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Suwana has been a pioneer in other respects, as well. She was the first African American woman hired in the City of Minnetonka as a Police Officer in 2005, and the first African American woman hired as Deputy Sheriff for Ramsey County in 2007, the first promoted to Sergeant in 2016, and most recently (2019) became the first appointed to Commander in the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

Within the RCSO, Kirkland has served as an Executive Officer, SWAT Executive Commander and Hostage Negotiator, Ramsey County Verbal De-Escalation lead instructor, EMS/Medical First Responder trainer. She also developed and implemented the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Women's Academy Training, 2018-2019 a program which has since been replicated around the state and country it has also been featured in Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) research and publications. Kirkland has received two Class C Medals of Commendations, one Unit Citation, and six Letters of Recognition. She was also awarded the Mikulay/Misenick Criminal Justice Scholarship Award University of St. Thomas.

She serves on several boards and committees:

- Member of the African American Leadership Council (AALC)
- Member and co-chair of the Public Policy Safety Committee (Saint Paul, Minnesota).
- Board Vice Chair of the National Black Police Association (NBPA).
- Chapter President, NBPA Minnesota.
- 2020 Bipartisan Justice Center member (co-host 2019 Second Step Presidential Justice Forum Oct 25-28, 2019)

She obtained her Law Enforcement certificate from Minneapolis Community Technical College and her Bachelor of Arts from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Master's degree University St. Thomas Public Safety and Law Enforcement Leadership.

- St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter's Commission Community First Public Safety Committee member

She also completed the FBI LEEDA Supervision Institute and earned a Public Affairs Public Safety Leadership Certificate from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Kirkland has been called a risk taker, innovator and change agent for the profession of law enforcement and public service. She has presented to numerous agencies, organizations, state and national committees on recruitment, retention, background investigations, law enforcement reform, community partnerships and collaboration. Kirkland continues to work to change the face of public service/law enforcement to reflect the communities we serve and the changing demographics of the future.



Charlie Caswell Jr., CEO of Caswell Group Consulting in Memphis, TN
Shelby County Commissioner
<https://www.legacyoflegendscdc.com/>

Charlie Caswell Jr. was born and raised in the projects of Dixie Homes in North Memphis as one of 17 siblings. Charlie had many disadvantages such as a high school dropout, lived in a drug infested neighborhood, son of a single mother, but that did not stop him. Today, he is husband, father, community activist, author, entrepreneur, Outreach Pastor at Impact Church, Shelby County Commissioner, and recipient of many awards; 2021 Community Advocate of the Year, 2017 Visionary of the Year from Methodist Community Health Network, 2014 Frayser Humanitarian of the Year.

When Charlie recognized his calling of revitalizing communities, collaborating partners, and being the voice for the voiceless, 3V Leader was formed. 3V Leader is a movement for leaders to be Visible, Vocal, and Valuable in their community.

These efforts lead to him being invited twice by the Obama Administration to Washington, D.C, to help in efforts to build neighborhood capacity.

Charlie is CEO of Caswell Group Consulting, which is a company with a focus of helping to create trauma informed and trauma responsive organizations and communities.

He serves on Board of Director of Legacy of Legends CDC, Shelby County Board of Health appointed by Mayor Lee Harris, Ladies in Need Can Survive (LINCS), S.O. What Foundation, and Building Strong Brains TN Advisory Board.

In addition, Charlie is the founder of the first Rotary Club in the Raleigh-Frayser communities called "Rotary Northwest Shelby County".

Charlie is the father of six children – Autumn, Destiny, Charlie III, Xzavia, Tiara, and Kiara and the husband of Mrs. Teresa Landrum-Caswell.

**"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**