



**Community Empowerment Through
Black Men Healing Conference**
www.samuelsimmonsconsulting.com

**African American Babies Coalition
Healing Vessels Conference**
www.africanamericanbabies.org



June 23rd & 24th, 2016

Metropolitan State University 700 East Seventh Street, St. Paul MN 55106

WWW.BROTHERSHEALING.COM

CONFERENCE HOSTS/ORGANIZERS



Sameerah Bilal-Roby is the Director of **African American Babies Project and the African American Babies Coalition "Brains Are Built Campaign"**. Her career includes foster parent, mentor, coach, instructor and trainer in colleges and community based institutions. The focus of her work is on early childhood education, culture diversity, and trauma and toxic stress awareness. Her past experience as Executive Director has given insight into non-profit leadership and emerging trends in the field. She devotes most days sharing expertise through adult training and

development. Her leadership prioritizes exploring concerns of the underrepresented and then highlighting their voices. She feels the most useful as a catalyst for systemic change by enhancing cross-cultural communication and community action. Her passion is working on strengthening the community's awareness to ethnic, cultural and social equity by building authentic relationships supporting efforts that leads to inclusion. Sameerah was honored to be presented with the Friend of the Family Award from the Minnesota Family Council on Relationships (MCFR).



Sam Simmons, LADC is licensed as an Alcohol and Drug Counselor who has over 25-year experience as a behavioral consultant in the areas of chemical dependency, violence abatement and historical trauma. He specializes in practical culturally sensitive trauma informed work with African American males and their families. He is currently SAFE Families Manager at The Family Partnership managing the federally funded Be More Project to engage African American young men and boys to stop violence against women and girls. Also, Healing Generations culturally-

specific relapse support program for African American men. He is an Adverse Childhood Experience Interface Trainer in the state of Minnesota. Sam was awarded the 2009 Governor's Council on Faith and Community Service Initiatives Best Practices Award for his work with MN Department of Veterans Outreach Services, prison reentry and in the African American community. He is co-host of "Voices" radio show on KMOJ FM that addresses issues of the urban community. Sam is respected for his highly informed work around African American historical trauma around the country.

YOUTH SUMMIT HEALING FORUM JUNE 22, 2016



Andrea G. Mosby is a national/international motivational speaker. She is a graduate of the University of Denver with a degree in Business Administration and the University of Colorado with a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Andrea is a consultant and founder of the International Parent Institute (IPI). IPI works with communities, organizations and businesses across the United States and Internationally to help parents tap into their strengths to be the best possible parents they can be. Andrea works with Universities and Colleges throughout the United States

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inspiring students to be strong leaders with a high degree of integrity. She currently lives in Denver, Colorado. Contact info: andreamosby.com or hopeforkiddenvr@msn.com

Andrea G. Mosby has written the book *The Power of Personal Decisions*. I sat in on her presentation and really liked her technique working with youth especially women.



Brandon Jones, M.A. is a Mental Health Practitioner. Brandon comes from an African Centered perspective in the therapeutic realm. Specializations in male development, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Historical and Intergenerational trauma, domestic violence, adolescents, healthy relationships. Born and raised in Saint Paul, Minnesota, Brandon has survived living in a home of domestic violence and various other forms of trauma. Now, He holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Minnesota, a Masters in Psychology from

Metropolitan State University, and a Masters in Psychotherapy from Adler Graduate School. Brandon is also a 2013 Bush Foundation Leadership Fellow.



Lonna Hunter, is the Resilience and Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Planner within the Minnesota Department of Health. Lonna is responsible for providing technical assistance and capacity to communities with an emphasis on 11-tribal communities in Minnesota to expand resiliency and prevention efforts around adverse childhood experiences and historical trauma. Lonna works with tribes and communities on building community resiliency plans and tools to prevent adverse childhood experiences, building on strength based, cultural preventions, interventions and assets. Lonna is from the Tlingit and Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Nations. Lonna is

married to John Hunter, they have three daughters, Shiana, Mila and Stella, and a grandson Malachi

Lonna most recently coordinated an extensive federal Office of Victims of Crime statewide needs assessment for legal needs of victims of crime at state and tribal levels at the Council on Crime and Justice. Lonna has worked for the statewide coalitions of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and the National Director of the Sheila Wellstone Institute.

CONFERENCE KEYNOTES



Dr. Shawn Ginwright is a leading national expert on African American youth, youth activism, and youth development. He is an Associate Professor of Education in the Africana Studies Department and Senior Research Associate for the Cesar Chavez Institute for Public Policy at San Francisco State University. In 1989, Dr. Ginwright co-founded Leadership Excellence Inc. with his friend Daniel Walker. Leadership Excellence is an innovative youth development agency located in Oakland, California that trains African American youth to address pressing social and

community problems. In 2002 he also created the Research Collaborative on Youth Activism, a network of scholars activist who study, advocate and support youth organizing efforts around the country. Dr. Ginwright currently serves on the Board of Directors for the California Endowment with oversight of a 3 billion dollar endowment to improve the health of California's underserved communities. Additionally, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Institute for Sustainable Economic, Educational and Environmental Design (ISEEED) in

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Oakland, CA. ISEED is a research, community building, and advocacy organization that addresses the interconnected challenges of environmental sustainability, educational achievement, and workforce development.

In 2011, he was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Senior Specialist award from the State Department for his outstanding research and work with urban youth. He has advised the Ford Foundation, Spencer Foundation, and The Heinz Endowments on philanthropic strategies to support young people in urban communities. He also serves on the Advisory Board for the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning (CIRCLE) at the Johnathan Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University.

In 1999, he received his Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley. His research examines the ways in which youth in urban communities navigate through the constraints of poverty and struggle to create equality and justice in their schools and communities.

He is the author of “Hope and Healing in Urban Education”, “Black Youth Rising, Activism and Radical Healing in Urban America”, “Black in School- Afrocentric Reform, Black Youth and the Promise of Hip-Hop Culture” and co-editor of “Beyond Resistance!: Youth Resistance and Community Change: New Democratic Possibilities for Practice and Policy for America’s Youth”.

He has published extensively on issues related to urban youth in journals such as Social Problems, Social Justice, Urban Review, and New Directions in Youth Development. He is a highly sought speaker to national and international audiences.



Tobeka G. Green, President and CEO of National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) is a strategic management veteran with extensive experience in program development and implementation. Ms. Green possesses a wide and unique set of skills that range from family engagement and youth development to technology integration and data-driven decision making. Ms. Green came to NBCDI from the District of Columbia Promise Neighborhood Initiative (DCPNI), where she provided leadership in the implementation of two-generation strategies designed to improve educational and developmental outcomes for children from cradle to career through community-driven, place-based efforts. Prior to DCPNI, Ms. Green served as CEO of Communities In Schools of the Nation’s Capital; Vice President at America’s Promise Alliance; and Director at the Points of Light Foundation.

When Ms. Green took on the President and CEO position at NBCDI she said. “I am honored by my selection as the leader of this organization,” said Ms. Green. “I look forward to expanding our innovative and exciting collaborations with our members, partners, staff, Board, and Affiliates in communities across the country as we work together to advance culturally relevant policies and programs that support, strengthen, and uplift our Black children, families, and communities.”

Ms. Green earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Florida A & M University and her Master of Public Administration from Baruch College – The City University of New York (CUNY), where she was a National Urban Fellow. Ms. Green is a member of Community of Hope African American Episcopal (AME) Church, The Recording Academy (GRAMMYS), and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Sam Simmons, LADC (see above)

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MORNING WORKSHOPS



Nedra R. Robinson is the Early Childhood Specialist for the Young Parent Program at Simpson Housing Services where she works with young parents experiencing homelessness. She is an adjunct instructor teaching undergraduate early childhood education courses at St. Paul College, MN and undergraduate and graduate early childhood education courses for Concordia University, St. Paul.

She consults and trains extensively and nationally on topics regarding early childhood education, multicultural education, diversity, and cultural issues. She received her B.A. at Hamline University, St. Paul, and her M.A. Ed, Early Childhood Education at Concordia University, St. Paul.

Nedra has been an active member in the Minnesota early childhood professional community working in several capacities and roles for over 20 years. One of her most recent projects is researcher for the African American Babies Collation.



LEE BUCKLEY, MA, COMMUNITY REENTRY COORDINATOR FOR THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. In this role she coordinates with field service offices and community corrections agencies as well as works with other government, faith-based and community based organizations that deliver reentry services to individuals transitioning from prison to community. She serves on a number of committees, workgroups and advisory boards, including leading the Strengthening Families Affected by Incarceration Collaborative. She holds a M.A. in Community Ministry Leadership from Bethel Seminary, is a licensed and ordained minister and an Associate Minister at Progressive Baptist Church in East St. Paul.



Ebony Ruhland is the Research Director for the Robina Institute's Parole Release and Revocation Project and the Probation Revocation Project. She received her Ph.D. from the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota and her M.A. from St. Mary's University. Previously, Dr. Ruhland was the Research Director for the Council on Crime and Justice, a nonprofit agency specializing in criminal justice research, policy, and direct service. Her research interests include examining how individuals, families, and communities are impacted by crime and the criminal justice system.



CURTIS MARSHALL, MS is a Public Health Educator and Consultant for the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (WDPH). From 1991-2005 he worked with the Sexually Transmitted Disease Program as their Syphilis Eliminator Coordinator, reducing congenital, primary and secondary syphilis in Milwaukee County. Through the mobilization of the community by the Community Action Team, this team was recognized by the Center for Disease Control as a model for public health and community partners.

Currently, he works with the WDPH as a consultant with local health departments, health consortiums and community based organizations and disparity workgroups. He provides technical assistance to assist the

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development and implementation of strategies, policies and protocols toward achieving 2010 Healthy Wisconsin objectives.

He provides consultation to fatherhood service providers to increase awareness and skills to increase father paternal education and involvement. He served 2005-2008 on the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative Board of Directors as Program Chairperson.



KAMYALA HOWARD MSW, LICSW has over 13 years of experience working with young children, families and various communities facing multiple challenges, which include poverty, intergenerational trauma, and exposure to violence. She has a proven ability to create innovative models aimed at dismantling barriers, supporting positive change and inclusive leadership while integrating an intercultural framework.

She is the Director of Children's Services for Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, where she oversees the trauma-informed respite programming, and crisis intervention services. Her role allows her to build intercultural relations fostering healthy development across the agency. In addition, Kamyala is an independent consultant and trainer who specialize in creating an array of innovative models and is currently certified in a range of professional certifications that aid in her inspirational delivery methods and learning. Other focus areas include intercultural theory and development, culturally responsive reflective practices, trauma-informed care, and community based interventions towards building resiliency and addressing Adverse Childhood Experience

Kamyala is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social and graduate of the University of Minnesota. She has obtained a Masters in Social Work and an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Graduate Certification. In addition, she obtained a Bachelor's of Arts in Child Psychology, as well as a minor in African American Studies.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS



Ruth Richardson is the Director of Programs for the Minnesota Organization on Fetal alcohol Syndrome. She provides on-going professional education, training, and consultation to criminal justice professionals. She has her JD from William Mitchell College of Law, is a community faculty member at Metropolitan State University, and is a current public member and past Chairperson of the Minnesota Board of Social Work.

Tiffany Morgan is a consultant with the Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and conducts Changing Course a supportive and educational chemical health series for women in recovery with children exposed to alcohol and or drugs prenatally. She is also on the MOFAS Birth Mother panel and shares her story of recovery and hope throughout the state.

Mary Ann Turner is a volunteer with the Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. She is grandmother that has adopted 4 of her maternal grandchildren and she deeply understands the impact of addiction and FASD.

Brandon Jones, M.A. (see above)

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Doris Moore, MS, NCC, CPC, LMHP is the founder and CEO of the Center for Holistic Development, Inc. (CHD). She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Master of Science in Community Counseling. She has met the requirements of the National Board of Certified Counselors and the State of Nebraska to hold licenses as a National Certified Counselor, Certified Professional Counselor, and Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner. Doris Moore's passion for behavioral healthcare is to "work herself out of a job" because providing preventative care is preferable to extinguishing a crisis. Since

CHD's incorporation in June 2001, the agency has been at the forefront of providing community based behavioral healthcare that focuses on prevention, education, community outreach, as well as outpatient counseling. Capitalizing on a unique holistic approach, the staff of the Center for Holistic Development, Inc. provides uncompromised, professional care using a "unique" holistic approach that is predicated on the need for balance to achieve optimal well-being. This approach is the brain child of Ms. Moore's and suggests that focused attention to the "S.P.E.C.I.A.L." areas of life will yield a fulfilled and sustained life. One of her favorite quotes is: "To deal with reality, we must know reality. We need not like it or accept it, but we must know it..."
Anonymous.

Doris has been a resident of Omaha most of her life; attending Saratoga elementary school, McMillan Middle School, and Omaha North High School. She has been married for over 25 years and the mother to 2 adult daughters.



DR. NADARAJAN "RAJ" SETHURAJU, PROFESSOR AT METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY. Dr. Raj Sethuraju is a recovering criminologist with over 20 years of community-based activism as a researcher and educator. Inspired by the resilience of the youth and the men in our prison systems, he trains probation agents, community members, and justice personnel on implicit biases and raising consciousness utilizing restorative justice practices. In his latest work, Dr. Sethuraju explores the depths of our justice system and creates a framework in which

consciousness becomes the roots of our practices.

"STANDING UP FOR THE CHILDREN" PANELISTS



Panel Moderator: Alida Abdullah, Educator and Motivational Speaker. Alida Abdullah is a native of Columbus, GA and moved to Minnesota during the Polar Vortex of 2013. She has a Bachelors Degree in Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a Masters Degree in Education from Walden University. Mrs. Abdullah is a self-proclaimed "Jill of all Trades" and has excelled in a variety of pursuits, from teaching middle school to college recruiting. She is passionate about helping young people pursue their college and career goals, but works in the community to make an impact in all areas of education. Together, she and her husband

maintain a vibrant and loving household with their four children.

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Melvin W. Carter III was appointed Director of the Office of Early Learning at the Minnesota Department of Education in July 2013. Prior to joining the department, Carter served on the Saint Paul City Council from 2008 to 2013. In that capacity, he sponsored legislation to address some of the city's most pressing issues, including: forming the city's Department of Human Rights & Equal Economic Opportunity (HREEO); "Banning the Box" to eliminate employment discrimination against people with criminal backgrounds, requiring landlords to notify tenants of a pending foreclosure on their property; and prohibiting the sale of candy cigarettes and toy lighters to reduce "practice smoking" among children.

In addition to crafting policy, Council Member Carter was a constant advocate on social justice issues, primarily education and transit. In 2009, he created a partnership between City, County, School and grassroots leaders to support high quality education outcomes which later became the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood. As part of a broad community movement, Carter also worked as part of a broad community movement to secure additional stations; support local businesses; and train residents for jobs along Saint Paul's new "Green Line" Light Rail Corridor.

Having become engaged in electoral politics after his brother was turned away from a Florida polling precinct during Election 2000, Melvin is passionate about helping others engage. He has trained political candidates, community organizers and campaign workers in over 30 states with several national organizations, including Wellstone Action, People for the American Way Foundation, Black Organizing for Leadership & Dignity (BOLD) and Progressive Majority, and is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Minnesota –Duluth, where he teaches a graduate level course on campaigns and elections.

For his committed service to community, Carter received the 2011 Barbara Jordan Leadership Award from the National Young Elected Officials Network and was recognized in Ebony Magazine's "30 Under 30" issue in 2008.

Carter holds a Bachelor's Degree in business administration from Florida A&M University and a Master of Public Policy from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. In his free time, Melvin enjoys tennis, running and spending time with his two daughters, Maylena (7) and Naomi (5)

Brandon Jones, M.A. (see above)

Doris Moore, MS, NCC, CPC, LMHP (see above)



Rena Moran Minnesota State Representative sense of community came from her large family and a neighborhood where people truly looked out for each other. The home she grew up in was a welcoming place for all the neighborhood kids. A strong family and sense of community are at the very core of who Rena is today.

Rena is the mother of seven children. The oldest, LaSheeka, is married with a son and daughter. The youngest, Silver, is now a Junior at The University of Mankato in Mankato, MN. As the mother of seven, Rena knows what it is to sacrifice for the greater good of her children.

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Ten years ago, she moved to the Twin Cities in search of a better life for her kids. Homeless, she and her children stayed in a Minneapolis shelter for several months. It wasn't long before she and her family went from homeless to homeowners. She found her first job in Minnesota earning minimum wage at Camp Snoopy, then at the YMCA on University Avenue before moving on to work at a commodities trading firm in downtown Minneapolis for five years.

During this time, she began to get involved in social change work. A defining moment came when the city only paved half of her street, even though the entire street would be assessed for the cost. She started knocking on doors, organized her neighbors and began meeting with elected and city officials. Soon after, the city paved the rest of her street. An activist was born.

After five years, she left the comforts of her corporate job to become a Wellstone Organizing Fellow and embark on her new vocation of community organizing. She was quickly hired on by Urban Embassy, where she would go on to lead the efforts to engage the African-American community during the 2008 election.

Rena is a proven educator, organizer, and a leader. We need a Representative who will do more than just vote "the right way" at the capitol - we need someone like Rena who has proven her ability to unite diverse groups of people and opinions, and then have the passion and experience to fight the battles at the state capitol.



Dr. Artika R. Tyner is a passionate educator, author, sought after speaker, and advocate for justice. At the University of St. Thomas College of Education, Leadership & Counseling, Dr. Tyner serves as a public policy/leadership professor. She trains graduate students to serve as social engineers who create new inroads to justice and freedom.

Tyner received her B.A. from Hamline University (Major: English; Certificate: Conflict Studies). Due to her passion for advocating for social justice and educational policy reform, she decided to pursue graduate studies at the University of St. Thomas. She began her journey with law school since she recognized that the law is a language of power and therefore she sought to become well versed in the law.

Subsequently, Tyner earned a Master of Public Policy and Leadership in order to gain tools for effecting social change through policy reform efforts. Later, inspired by the legacy of W.E.B. Dubois, she obtained a Doctorate in Leadership. Her doctoral studies provided her with key tools for serving in her community and promoting social justice.

Dr. Tyner is committed to empowering others to lead within their respective spheres of influence. She provides leadership development and career coaching for young professionals. She has also developed leadership educational materials for K-12 students, college/graduate students, faith communities and nonprofits. Additionally, Dr. Tyner teaches leadership coursework on ethics, critical reflection, and organizational development. Her research focuses on diversity/inclusion, community development, and civil rights. She has presented her research and conducted leadership training programs both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Tyner leads by example by organizing policy campaigns, fostering restorative justice practices, developing social entrepreneurship initiatives, and promoting assets-based community development. She serves as a global citizen by supporting education, entrepreneurship, and women's leadership initiatives in Africa.

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Michael Walker in July 2014 was selected to lead the Office of Black Male Student Achievement. Walker is a longtime MPS employee, having held multiple roles at Roosevelt High School since 1999. In his new position, Walker will lead efforts on behalf of the school district to eliminate the achievement gap between black, male students and their MPS peers.

To this role, Walker brings a career focus on youth development and helping black youth achieve success. He earned his undergraduate degree in physical education from Southwest Minnesota State University and his master's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. From 1998 to 2006, Walker served as community outreach, program and youth development director at the YMCA of Greater St. Paul and Minneapolis, where he developed programs for social, academic, athletic and employment skills for youth and served as the coordinator of the Black Achievers program, an academic achievement and career development initiative for middle school and high school youth and teens. Walker worked as a career and college coordinator for AchieveMpls at Roosevelt High School from 2006 to 2009 before serving Minneapolis Public Schools as Roosevelt's dean of students from 2009 to 2011 and assistant principal from 2011 to the present.

Walker is a product of MPS, having attended Holland Elementary, Franklin and Sanford middle schools and Roosevelt High School. He and his wife have three children, two of whom are school-age and attend MPS.

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