

IN
MY
MIND | IMM
2020

2020 CONFERENCE
**THE ENVIRONMENT
AND ME**

OCTOBER 8, 2020
10AM - 6PM EST

CALLEN-LORDE IS PROUD TO SUPPORT IN MY MIND 2020

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October 8, 2020

Conference Participants and Community Members,

Shortly after the 2019 Conference concluded, our planning team convened. Through the kindness of one of our Community Partners, Pastor Jeff Wells of The Church of the Village, we met at the Church, and there we chose the Conference theme, "**The Environment and Me**". In our choice, we recognized that with climate change and other factors, as marginalized communities we would be further sidelined and felt the need to raise, explore and discuss how these factors impact our mental health, and by extension, the choices and decisions we make, which also affect our quality of life. We were prescient in our choice; our communities were rocked by and still are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. George Floyd and the murders of other Black men and women, the many transgender people of color deaths, and the police violence and injustice ignited already heightened racial sensitivities into protests - on the streets and in many other fora, to dismantle racism in systems and institutions. These issues presented us with external - the pandemic with the isolation and physical distancing, and internal - greater attention to racism in systems, policies, and practices as factors impacting our mental health.

We considered suspending the conference for 2020, but eventually decided that with all that's happening around us and the increased likelihood that members of our communities' mental health are being significantly affected, that the Conference should continue and be a virtual one-day gathering. We proceeded to gather Speakers, and issued a call out for abstract submissions, reflecting the many external and internal environmental factors impacting our communities' mental health.

Our team members shared their thoughts on what planning this conference meant and their thoughts of the future.

"When we chose this year's theme, "**The Environment and Me**" it was prior to COVID-19 [pandemic] and the social [racial]unrest in our country. As a committee we were unaware of how timely and imperative this topic would be. It reaffirmed my commitment to addressing all disparities affecting LGBTQ+ POC. I can attest that the future of the IMM Conference is needed now more than ever to give space and voice to LGBTQ+ POC. My wish is that this year's event, albeit virtual, will provide participants a feeling of visibility, validation and hope," says **Lisette Marerro, MSW, LM Consulting; Voces Latinas.**

“Social factors and physical conditions, that is, social determinants of health, of the environment influence our daily lives, including our mental health. During the program planning process, with my dedicated colleagues, I was continuously reminded of a critical lesson learned from a class in graduate school: to refrain from adhering to the “victim-blaming” approach due to the structural and systemic forces at play, impacting our overall well-being. I further realized that multilevel, multi-sectoral, and multidisciplinary approaches are needed to successfully address the social determinants of health. My hope is for attendees of this virtual conference to have the same realization and to share this important message with their families, friends, and co-workers,” says **Reynaldo De Leon Jr., M.S., Doctoral Student in Health Education, Department of Health and Behavior Studies at Teachers College, Columbia University.**

“Being a part of the planning committee for this conference made me reflect on so many things, including the current climate, the uprising, and what I have to offer to the world. The theme of this conference also made me reflect on the importance of the environment and what it means to me and also to my mental health. A study in the UK suggests that if you [someone] live[s] in an urban area with a lot of green spaces in it, then it is going to have a long-lasting positive effect on your [that person’s] mental well-being. You [a person] would be less likely to suffer from depression, anxiety and other psycho-physical ailments. Some of the findings from my reflections was the several ways in which I can learn and observe the environment's effect on me. For instance, I recorded my mood and thoughts on a sunny day, during the rainy days and colder months,[and] I found radical differences between my thoughts, moods, feelings and behavior. I was able to understand that the environment around us plays a significant role in our mental capital or cognitive abilities,” says **Uchekukwu Onwa, Co-Director, QDEP**

“If we look at the current environment we have a number of issues that are plaguing us and that warrant our attention: Covid-19, climate change, systemic racism, and violence against our Trans brothers and sisters. When I think of the environment and me I think of how all of these factors have affected all of us, at least those of us that are paying attention to these plagues and then some. As a cultural programmer in New York City for The LGBT Community Center, I have seen many events cancelled, postponed, or reimaged. Reimagining this conference meant maintaining contact with our communities. Reimagining a conference like this in a time period such as 2020 is essential for our LGBTQ+ communities of color to know and understand the commitment to work on the issues affecting us historically and as of late. I imagine a future for the conference that continues to invest in people of color issues, that is committed to reaching out and checking in on LGBTQ+ people of color communities. I imagine that many people of color/LGBTQ+ communities will leave more aware of mental health issues that at times can be brought on by the environment we are in,” says **Richard Morales, Manager of Community Partnerships, The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center.**

Conference Planning Team
2020 In My Mind

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE - PARTICIPANT

- Mute your microphone
 - To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
 - Be mindful of background noise
 - When your microphone is unmuted, avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers.
- Position your camera properly
- If you choose to use a web camera, be sure it is in a stable position and focused at eye level, if possible. Doing so helps create a more direct sense of engagement with other participants.
- Limit distractions
- You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and muting your smartphone.
- Avoid multitasking
- You'll retain the discussion better if you refrain from replying to emails or text messages during the meeting and wait to work on that PowerPoint presentation until after the meeting ends.

MEETING ETIQUETTE

These are some general courtesy rules for virtual (and in person) business meetings:

- Respect other participants and the presenter, even if you disagree with something they say.
- The Conference's General Sessions will be recorded and live-streamed. The Breakout sessions will not be recorded. Please **DO NOT** record in the breakout sessions and **DO NOT** take photographs or screenshots.
- Mute your mic when you join the video call, and only unmute if you are invited by the presenter to do so; share your comments or questions in the chat box.
- Toward the end of breakout sessions, in the 15 minutes for Q&A, an evaluation link will be shared with you in the chat box for you to complete and submit.
- If you can, hold off on eating during your meeting. Imagine how unappealing it is to watch someone up close slurping a plate of spaghetti on a big screen. If you can, chow down either before or when the conference is over.
- Even though it's tempting, try not to multitask too much. And if you're going to, at least mute your mic.
- You don't have to be overly prepared for a meeting you're not hosting, but try to be on time; glancing at the conference program so you know where we are.
- Refrain from private behavior – such as, scratching your armpits, your head or face, and picking your nose. We can see you!

LET'S ENJOY THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND COLLABORATE, TO SHARE IDEAS AND PRACTICAL WAYS TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR LGBTQ+ PEOPLES OF COLOR LIVING WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS/CREDIT (CES)

Conference participants who are eligible can receive up to one (1) hour of Continuing Education Units/Credit (CEs) for full attendance at any of the presentations.

Requiring CEs, you will need to provide the following information:

- **Full Name**
- **Email Address to send evaluation and certificate (sending evaluation to participant is required)**
- **Degree Type (e.g., LCSW or LMSW)**
- **New York State License Number**
- **Date of the Presentation**
- **Title of the Presentation**
- **Name of the Presenter**

Please send this information in an email to info@inmymindconference.com

Your email will be forwarded to Callen-Lorde who will evaluate your responses and issue the certificate of completion providing the CE.

SPEAKERS



Program Opening:
Elton Naswood, Navajo Nation

“We Remember Our Own” - Memorial

Remembering, honoring and celebrating members of our communities who died by homicide, suicide or from the COVID-19 pandemic between October 2019 and October 2020.



Speaker: **Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, NY State Executive Office**

NY State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul began her career in public service on her local Town Board before serving as Erie County Clerk, and then as a member of Congress for New York’s 26th Congressional District. Since 2015, she has served as the highest-ranking female elected official in the New York State government. Throughout her time in public service, she has been a fierce advocate in the fight for equality and has stood up for progressive values regardless of the politics of the time. Lieutenant Governor Hochul fights to give the LGBTQ community and working families a voice and has spearheaded a comprehensive women’s equality agenda, \$15 minimum wage and the state's monumental Paid Family Leave program. She also helped champion the passage of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), legalized gestational surrogacy, and banned conversion therapy. She continues to advocate for equal opportunities for all New Yorkers – most recently affordable child care, banning the “walking while trans” laws and eliminating the Pink Tax. She also leads the administration’s economic development and job creation efforts across the state, working every day to advocate for policies that help all New Yorkers make ends meet.



Speaker: **Johanne Morne, MS, Executive Director, NYS Department of Health, AIDS Institute**

Johanne Morne has been with the AIDS Institute for more than 12 years. The AIDS Institute was created in 1983 to coordinate the State's overall response to the HIV epidemic. The AIDS Institute has a broad mission including hepatitis and sexually transmitted disease services, surveillance, drug user health, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender health and human services. Under Johanne's leadership, she advanced the State's **Ending the Epidemic** initiative and the Hepatitis C Elimination campaigns. Her direction of deliberations related to **Undetectable=Untransmittable** led the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to sign on to the **U=U** consensus statement; the first state health department to do so. Johanne served as a board member of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) and served as Board Chair May 2019 to May 2020. In 2019, she was appointed to the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee (CHAC) on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment. The CHAC advises the HHS Secretary, the CDC Director, and the HRSA Administrator on objectives, strategies, policies, and priorities for HIV, viral hepatitis, and STD prevention and treatment efforts.



Speaker: **Kraig Pannell, Director, LGBT Health Services Unit, NYS AIDS Institute**

Kraig Pannell is a native New Yorker originally, from Rochester. He graduated from Bucknell University with a degree in Political Science, and a minor in Black Studies. He has an extensive public health, and health and human services background, including designing and implementing the first HIV prevention and education program targeting gay Men/MSM in Northeastern Pennsylvania; led HIV prevention demonstration projects across the state of Pennsylvania to inform and assist in the development of the State of Pennsylvania's HIV prevention plan; worked with suicidal and homicidal children and adolescents in an effort to avert hospitalization; and coordinated a therapeutic after school program for dually diagnosed young people. Kraig was a Medical Case Manager for Trillium Health, specializing in HIV and LGBT healthcare. He then became the Program Director at the MOCHA Project, an LGBT POC culturally specific HIV Prevention agency with offices in Rochester and Buffalo, New York. At MOCHA, he was instrumental in securing the agency's first two Federal contracts from HRSA and OMH for HIV prevention demonstration projects, tripled their annual budget and increased staff both in the Rochester and Buffalo offices. He is a Fellow of The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Association of Schools of Public Health Institute for HIV Prevention Leadership and successfully completed a multi-year training and mentorship with the Association of Fundraising Professionals. He recently assumed the position of Director of the LGBT Health Services Unit of the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, where he is responsible for the development of goals, objectives and implementation plans for LGBT Health, the development of program policy and standards, data management and the development of initiatives to address emerging needs within the LGBT communities in New York State's 62 counties.

LUNCHTIME PRESENTATION: “I AM WHAT I EAT”, PRESENTED BY THE JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION (1:00PM TO 2:30PM)

Chefs Mavis-Jay Sanders and Sicily Sierra, in their kitchen, chat and a sauté, and followed by a lively panel discussion on nutrition, community resilience, and mental health moderated by James Beard Foundation’s Vice President of Community, Colleen Vincent.

“Healthy Cooking” - a cooking show with

- **Chef Mavis-Jay Sanders** has cooked at Blue Hill at Stone Barns, Blue Hill, Untitled in New York, and later becoming part-owner of the award-winning food truck Pico House in Los Angeles. She returned to New York assumed the role of Director of Operations at The Brownsville Community Culinary Center and in 2019, was honored as one of Star Chefs’ New York Rising Star Chef. Chef Sanders is a James Beard Chef’s Boot Camp alumni, a Chef’s Collaborative scholar, and is a frequently featured chef at New York’s Queer Soup Night. She is now a co-founder of Food Plus People, an organization celebrating Black culture and community through food.

- **Chef Sicily Sierra** became a successful actress as a Power Ranger and on the primetime family comedy, “One on One”. After graduating from Le Cordon Bleu, she started an internship at the Los Angeles Times’ test kitchen, and following which, with her mother co-founded Pinky & Red’s as part of La Cocina’s incubator program. Chef Sicily wants to create a food environment that fosters a space for the Black community to come together and to enjoy each other’s company over dishes that are an ode to her ancestry - an edible piece of culture deeply tied to place and family.



Panel Discussion Featuring:

Moderator: **Colleen Vincent** worked with The James Beard Foundation for more than 12 years and is a champion for diverse leadership in all sectors of the hospitality industry. She was featured on discussion fora at the Food Book Fair and the Minority Chef Summit, and represented the Foundation as a member of the High Road Restaurant Roundtable. Colleen is involved in the Iconoclast Dinner Experience, a fundraiser for Spelman College which celebrates notable chefs of color, since its inception. She was a member of the James Beard Foundation Food Conference steering committee and is a member of the House Programming Committee. She created a book drive to build a culinary library in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and is a proud member of the West Indian Chefs Alliance. Colleen graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelors in Communications and has almost two decades of experience in marketing, account services, and events. In her spare time, she reviews comic books for GodHatesGeeks.com and raises funds for the Hero Initiative, a nonprofit that assists comic book creators in need.



PANELISTS



• **Chef Shorne Benjamin** creates with a disregard for rules, infusing traditional Caribbean cuisine with unexpected flavors from around the globe. The result: an experience as pleasing to the eye as it is to the tongue. His keen sense of flavor and culinary experimentation began at the age of seven in St. Lucia, under the watchful eye of his grandmother. He went on to graduate from the prestigious French Culinary Institute and work alongside such renowned masters as Chef Jean-Georges at ABC Kitchen and Chef James Jermyn at Maloney & Porcelli in New York. In 2010, he joined the Andaz 5th Avenue (Hyatt) as a chef, where he continues today. Over the years, he has added his unique signature to the dynamic realm of culinary artistry, a distinctive style known as New Age Caribbean®. Chef Shorne's career highlights include cooking for the illustrious James Beard Foundation and competing against Chef Bobby Flay on the Food Network's Beat Bobby Flay. He is a regular participant at the Food Network's Annual Wine and Food Festival in New York and South Beach, at Citi's Taste of Tennis events across the world, and at the Annual Rum & Rhythm Benefit Gala. He has appeared on TV as a guest chef on NBC's "6 In the Mix" cooking segment. In 2017, Chef Shorne added "winner" of the Grace® Jamaican Jerk Festival Celebrity Chef Throw Down to his resume. Chef Shorne also gained international acclaim as a featured chef at the "Taste of the Caribbean" festival in Montreal; semi-finalist in the 11th International Iron Chef Competition in Toronto; participant in the 2015 and 2016 Food & Spirits Festivals in Haiti; and the inaugural chef for the 2016 Celebrity Guest Chef Series at the award-winning Cliff Restaurant located at the Five Star Cap Maison Hotel & Spa in St. Lucia.



• **Daphene Altema-Johnson** joined the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future in 2019 as a Program Officer working with the Food Communities and Public Health Program. This followed a year-long dietetic internship that led to her becoming a registered dietitian/nutritionist (RDN). Prior to becoming an RDN, she was an epidemiologist and lead evaluator at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Oral Health Department. While there, she engaged in data collection, analysis and reporting, and served as the chief evaluator for HRSA's workforce grant and CDC's Cooperative Agreements oral health grant. Daphene developed and implemented a five-year evaluation plan for Maryland's oral health program and evaluated legislation to determine its effectiveness and impact. At the Center, she uses her expertise and experience as a nutritionist to support the Meatless Monday campaign. She's especially interested in reaching young people with wellness messages through school programs and community outreach to effect generational change with a saying, "Get them started early."



• **Debra Duby** is a Nationally Certified Personal Trainer and a Board Certified Holistic Health Practitioner specializing in exercise science and nutrition. She holds numerous certifications from the National Strength and Conditioning Association, Institute for Integrative Nutrition, American Association of Drugless Practitioners, and Yoga Alliance. She is also an accomplished athlete. Debra competed in triathlons, long distance cycling events, half-marathons, the New York City Marathon, and natural body building in the World Natural BodyBuilding Federation. With a history of diverse athletic endeavors, she has a wide span of expertise to offer. She graduated from the University of Connecticut with honors, Magna Cum Laude and as a Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology. Immediately following graduation, she entered the corporate world as a technology recruiter for a top-tier executive recruiting firm in Manhattan. Her career quickly advanced, as she was offered the opportunity to become Vice President for a start-up recruiting firm in New Jersey. Five years later, Debra resigned her post to follow her true passion for exercise and nutrition. She founded Soul Salad Ltd., in 2002 and has been dedicated to helping her clients achieve their health goals ever since. Debra lives with her husband and daughter in New York City.

THREE-MEMBER SOUTH EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLAND PANEL



Speaker: **Leow Yanfa, Executive Director, Oogachaga, Singapore**

Leow Yanfa is executive director of Oogachaga, Singapore's community-based, non-profit organisation working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer and gender-diverse (LGBTQ+) individuals, couples and families. As a registered social worker, Yanfa has experience working in Singapore's social service sector, including suicide prevention and working with the LGBTQ+ community. He edited "I Will Survive: Personal LGBT stories in Singapore", a collection of real-life accounts now in its third print edition.



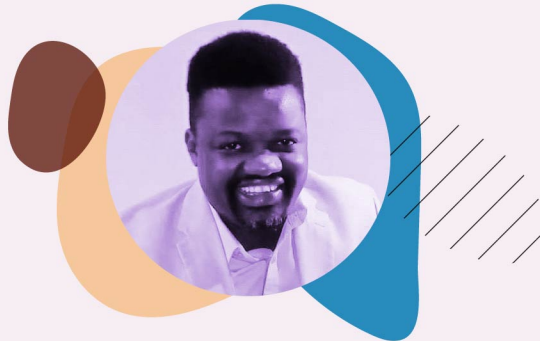
Speaker: **Joey Joleen Mataele, Kingdom of Tonga**

Joey Joleen Mataele is from the Kingdom of Tonga and has a range of experiences, involving running her own business, as a professional Singer, Entertainer, Event Planner and a single parent of three adopted children. She was the Founder/Director Miss Galaxy Queen Pageant to raise awareness and visibility and to support her community. Currently, Joey is the Executive Director of the Tonga Leiti's Association and Co-Founder of the Pacific Sexual Gender Diversity Network. In 1996, she was awarded the Silver Jubilee Medal by the late King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, for her humanitarian work with disabled and sexual minority Groups. In 2008, she was awarded with the "Order Of Queen Salote" Medal during the late King George Tupou V's Coronation, for services for the royal family. Joey was nominated in 2016 by the US Secretary of State for the Women of Courage Award; and in 2017 she was nominated for the APCOM Hero Transgender Award.



Speaker: **Midnight Poonkasetwattana, Executive Director, APCOM, Bangkok, Thailand**

Originally from Northeast Thailand, Midnight has been the Executive Director of APCOM based in Bangkok, Thailand since 2011, working in multi-sectoral partnerships with governments, donors, the United Nations, development partners and most importantly the community and civil society organisations working on advancing SOGIESC rights, and alleviating HIV in the Asia Pacific region. Midnight is a member of various advisory committees, including the global IDAHOT committee, international advisory group of Dignity Network, World Health Organisation Global PrEP Coalition and Guidelines Development Group for HIV Testing Services, and ASHM's Regional Advisory Group member leading on Key Populations of the Taskforce on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19. In 2016 Midnight gave the Closing Plenary Statement at the 2016 High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS at the UN General Assembly.



Speaker: **Brian Kanyemba, MSc., Advocates for HIV Prevention in Africa**

Brian Kanyemba is a Key Populations Prevention Advisor with over 15 years -experience in research, advocacy and epidemiology. His passion is public health, specifically on how it affects marginalized groups and key populations. A former Human Rights and Key Populations Fellow for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Brian was responsible for conducting research that contributed to the strategic design of USAID projects and activities in South Africa, and he is currently their Key Populations Technical Advisor in Uganda, having served previously as USAID's Key Populations Technical Advisor in Liberia. He began his career in Public health as a Volunteer Key Populations Advocate for the South African National AIDS Council before joining the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre at the University of Cape Town as a Senior Bio-medical Clinical Trials Specialist and was later promoted to Technical Advocacy Specialist HIV Prevention. Brian has a Masters in Sciences degree in HIV/AIDS Management and Public Health from Stellenbosch University's Africa Centre Of HIV Management, and an Honours Degree in Psychology from the Open University in Zimbabwe. He is currently completing a PhD in Public Health at the University of Cape Town.

PANDEMIC UPDATE

COVID-19 presented by **Madhury (Didi) Ray, MD, MPH, NYC DOHMH**

Dr. Madhury (Didi) Ray works as an infectious diseases specialist at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on disasters from measles, earthquakes, feline flu, and hurricanes. She frequently presents on COVID-19 topics to a variety of audiences, including businesses, faith-based organizations, and health providers.

Drumming as Therapy presented by **Heritage OP**



Program Closing

Native American Invocation: **Tony Enos**

HIV-Positive 2Spirit pop artist Tony Enos (Cherokee) celebrates more than a decade as a singer/songwriter/producer/actor. The two-time Native American Music Award nominee burst onto the pop music scene with his 2012 breakthrough album “The Heat.” His career defining fourth studio album “POSITIVE,” released in July 2020 on iTunes and all digital music platforms brought Enos out publicly with his HIV status, and amplified the People Living With HIV experience. Additionally, Tony has 14 years of clinical and community-based organizational experience in public health, and serves as the content expert for the American Indian Community House’s “Health Elders Network.”

DRAFT CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 8, 2020

TIME	PRESENTATION TITLES	PRESENTERS
10:00AM	Call to Order, "Pronouns", Welcome, Introductions, Acknowledgements & Housekeeping	Planning Team Member
10:05AM	Invocation	Elton Naswood, Navajo Nation
10:10AM	"We Remember Our Own"	Reynaldo DeLeon, Jr., MS
10:15AM - 11:00AM	Stonewall to Today: How New York Has Led The Nation in Building Safe, Healthy and Affirming Environments for Marginalized LGBTQ Communities	Hon. Kathy Hochul – NYS Lt. Governor.
11:00AM - 11:45AM	Prioritizing Community: The AIDS Institute and the LGBTQ Community	Johanne Morne, MS and Kraig Pannell – NYS AIDS Institute
BREAKOUT SESSION I		
11:45AM - 1:00PM	Breaking Down Barriers and Building Up Communities SelfAwareness and Social Justice: Who Am I in the world of feeling invisible? What are you looking for, RN or LTR?	Mark West Sharde' O'Rourke, LPC, LMHT Rahim Thawer, MSW
LUNCHTIME – "I AM WHAT I EAT"		
1:00PM - 1:30PM	"Healthy Eating" - a LIVE cooking show	The James Beard Foundation: Featuring: Chef Mavis-Jay Sanders, Chef Sicily Sierra
1:20PM - 2:30PM	Post-Show Panel Discussion	Moderator- Colleen Vincent; Panelists: Chef Shorne Benjamin Daphene Altema-Johnson Debra Duby
2:30PM	Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, Acknowledgments and Housekeeping	Planning Team Member
2:30PM - 3:15PM	Speaker Panel LGBTQ+ in the Global South	Leow Yangfa, Joey Joleen Mataele, and Midnight Poonkasetwattana
3:15PM - 4:00PM	The Environment and Me; Where do Black Gay Men Fit?	Brian Kanyemba, MSc., APHA
4:02PM	Gilead Sciences	Gilead Sciences
BREAKOUT SESSION II		
4:02PM - 5:15PM	Impact of COVID-19 on Latino gay/bi men living with HIV Do you have a clitoris, and other questions not to ask FGM/C Survivors? A For Us By Us Model: A Grassroots Initiative to Address Crystal Meth Use in the Ballroom Community	Julio A. Rolon-Mendez, DrPHc, MBA Farzana Doctor, MSW, RSW Jorge Ochoa, BA; Martez D.R. Smith, LMSW; Timothy Tobias, LMSW; Holly A. Taylor, MPH, PhD; Sara C. Hull, Ph.D.
5:15PM	COVID-19 Pandemic Update	Madhury (Didi) Ray, MD, MPH, NYC DOHMH
5:25PM - 5:45PM	Drumming as Therapy	Heritage OP
5:45PM - 5:50PM	Closing Remarks - 2021	Planning Team Member
5:50PM	Closing Invocation	Tony Enos, Cherokee
5:55PM	END	

PRESENTATIONS' DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020

Native American Invocation: Elton Naswood, Navajo Nation

“We Remember Our Own” - Memorial

Stonewall to Today: How New York Has Led The Nation in Building Safe, Healthy and Affirming Environments for Marginalized LGBTQ Communities

Speaker: **Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, NY State Executive Office**

New York has led our nation in building safe, healthy, and affirming environments for LGBTQ and other marginalized communities. More than 50 years after the Stonewall Uprising, New York State has passed the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), which bars discrimination, harassment, and retaliation on the basis of gender identity or expression, banned the discredited and harmful practice of "conversion therapy," and legalized gestational surrogacy. The state continues to move forward and honors its legacy of progress by funding programs and resources addressing the safety and health of LGBTQ New Yorkers.

Prioritizing Community: The AIDS Institute and the LGBTQ Community

Speaker: **Johanne Morne, MS and Kraig Pannell, NYS AIDS Institute**

This presentation will provide an overview of the AIDS Institute's community engagement with the LGBTQ+ Community, our response to emerging and existing priorities, concepts to guide working with LGBTQ+ populations, as well as, an update in LGBTQ+ initiatives.

During the Breakout Session, an artist's gallery - featuring photography work by Jose Ramon's "The White Shirt Project" and fine art by Glori Tuitt.

BREAKOUT SESSION I – 11:45AM TO 1:00PM

CONCURRENT 1 (CE)

Breaking down Barriers and Building Up Communities

Presented by: **Mark West** (Mark West Center for the Arts, House of Mark West Inc., NYU Shanghai)

While many artists and creatives live in the Bronx, many have never worked or showcased their art in their community. Socio-economic and cultural factors, such as the poverty, influx of meth clinics, and gang violence engendered resistance to building creative infrastructure in the community. People of Color (PoC) and LGBT creatives are rarely given a platform that is created with them in mind in their community. For this reason, prior to forming the Mark West Center (MWCA) for the Arts, many Bronx creatives would have to travel to Manhattan or Brooklyn to showcase their works. The Bronx is one of the least accepting boroughs towards LGBT and thus (LGBT Bronx local creatives) would never consider their hometown borough as a legitimate option. MWCA is aimed at tackling this stigma, with a larger goal of changing the public opinion about PoC artists, LGBT, disabled, and Bronx-based. MWCA provides much-needed mental health services and safe spaces in a community [PoC and LGBT and People with Disabilities] that regularly experiences trauma and insecurity. We are one of the only Black-owned and Queer-owned galleries in NYC, making us extremely vital in providing adequate representation for all marginalized communities.

CONCURRENT 2 (CE)

Self-awareness and social justice: Who am I in the world of feeling invisible?

Presented by: **Sharde' O'Rourke, LPC, LMFT, LSATP**

In my experience as a therapist in specializing LGBTQ people of color, I have noticed a consistent pattern of these individuals struggling with self-awareness and discrimination. Seeing many of these vulnerable and fragile individuals with a bewildered look in their eyes, questioning where to go next, has been heartbreaking. I then presented the question: why those two concepts, lack of self-awareness and discrimination have a relationship that challenges the wellness of people of color in a space that tells them they are invisible and unimportant? According to the researcher Helms, racial identity development requires building self-consciousness and refers to a sense of collective identity based on the perception that one shares a common heritage with a specific racial group (Helms, 1990), which establishes the relationship between an ability to manage and identify value and identity when challenged with being devalued daily. The purpose of this presentation is to address the clinical barriers for people of color to express themselves and identify the impact of discrimination in their ability to function daily. It identifies effective interventions for supporting people of color to safely express themselves.

CONCURRENT 3 (CE)

What are you looking for: RN or LTR?

Presented by: **Rahim Thawer, MSW** (Affective Consulting & Psychotherapy Services)

Gay men's mental health is often discussed in contexts of sexual health and HIV prevention. This presentation offers a different framework for understanding gay men's mental health concerns by positioning them as responses to conflicting cultural scripts and representations around casual sex and long term relationships. We will explore what issues arise when working in a landscape where both casual sex and long term relationships are revered and criticized on an ongoing basis without adequate representations and community conversations about what reconciled scripts can look like or what skills are needed to actualize relationship models that work for gay men.

LUNCHTIME PRESENTATION
PRESENTED BY
THE JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION
(1:00PM TO 2:30PM)

“Healthy Eating” - a cooking show featuring:
Chef Mavis-Jay Sanders, Food Plus People
Chef Sicily Sierra, Pinky & Red’s

**Rich and Earthy Blackened Salmon with
a Green Sauce, With Spicy Black Rice**

MISE:

1 - 2 Salmon Fillet
1 Container of Food Plus People Rich and Earth Spice Rub
1/2 Cup of Grapeseed Oil (divided)
1 Cup Black Rice
3 Tablespoon Salt
1 Bottle Food Plus People "OG" Hot Sauce
3 Cups Kale
1 Cup Parmesan Reggiano Cheese
1 Tablespoon Dry Basil
1 Tablespoon minced Garlic
2 ounces of Water + more for boiling
Fresh Cracked Pepper

TOOLS:

1 Sauté Pan
1 Blender
1 Small Pot
1 Cutting Board
1 Knife
1 Spoon
1 Fork

ASSEMBLY:

- Season Filets with Food Plus People Rich and Earthy Spice Rub (coat heavily) and set Aside
- In a small sauce pot (can also be done in an Instapot)
- Water
- Black Rice
- Salt 2 Tablespoons
- Bring up to a boil and down to a simmer approx 20 minutes
- Fluffy with Fork
- Set Aside
- Blender:
- Kale
- Cooking 1-2 mins approx - depending on thickness
- Cheese
- Basil
- Garlic
- 1 tablespoon Salt
- 2 ounces of water
- 1/4 Cup Oil
- Blender to a semi smooth texture
- Sauté Pan
- Heat Pan
- 1/4 cup oil
- Shimmering
- Add fish Presentation Side down
- Cooking 1-2 mins approx - depending on thickness
- Flip and finish cooking
- Plate
- Flip and finish cooking Plate

Panel Discussion - “ **I Am What I Eat: Nutrition and Mental Health**”

Moderator: **Colleen Vincent, Vice President of Community**

Panelists:

Chef Shorne Benjamin, Andaz 5th Avenue (Hyatt)

Daphene Altema-Johnson, Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

Debra Duby, Soul Salad, Ltd

Speakers:

Midnight Poonkasetwattana, APCOM, Bangkok, Thailand

Joey Joleen Mataele, Tonga Leiti's Association and Pacific Sexual Gender Diversity Network, Kingdom of Tonga

Leow Yangfa, Oogachaga, Singapore

The Environment and Me; Where do Black Gay Men Fit?

Speaker: **Brian Kanyemba, MSc; Advocates for HIV Prevention in Africa**

Society describes LGBTQ+ as weak, rare, outcasts, deviants, rapists, pedophiles; the names are endless. But how do they define themselves? This discussion will outline some of the tribulations Black gay men face to achieve self actualization.

Video: **Gilead Sciences**

During the Breakout Session, an artists' gallery - featuring fine art works by Mark West and “**Pandemics**” photography by Ocean Morriset.

BREAKOUT SESSION II - 4:00PM TO 5:15PM

CONCURRENT 1 (CE)

Impact of COVID-19 on Latino gay/bi men living with HIV

Presented by: **Julio A. Rolón-Méndez, DrPHc, MBA (Latino Commission on AIDS)**

Data thus far, on the COVID-19 pandemic indicate that the impact suffered by Hispanic/Latinx communities is disproportionate to the general population. However, it is unclear what the impact of COVID-19 has been on Hispanic/Latinx LGBTIQ communities. Much less is known on the impact on Hispanic/Latino gay/bi men living with HIV. In response to this lack of information, we will be discussing the findings of interviews conducted with Hispanic/Latino gay/bi men living with HIV, residents of New York City, on the impact of the pandemic on their lives. The findings to be discussed will include the perceived consequences on their health, access to services, difficulties during the period of social distancing, among other issues. During this session, strategies will be developed for service organizations to support the issues faced by these communities.

CONCURRENT 2 (CE)

Do you have a clitoris? And other questions not to ask FGM/C survivors

Presented by: **Farzana Doctor, MSW, RSW (WeSpeakOut)**

FGM/C is a taboo subject about which most community and health care providers have little awareness. The practice of khatna (Type 1/4 FGM) is even lesser known. This presentation will link personal and activist narratives, along with short readings from the recent novel, “Seven”, which takes up this topic through fiction. This presenter is a social worker/psychotherapist in private practice and will link trauma-informed care in this presentation. Professional and community members will deepen their knowledge, bust myths and learn how to ask non-judgmental questions, so that they might help survivors break the silence around these issues. A brief conversation about the invisibility of LGBTIQ survivors will also be included.

CONCURRENT 3 (CE)

“A For Us, By Us Model”: A Grassroots Initiative to Address Crystal Meth Use in the Ballroom Community

Presented by: **Jorge Ochoa, BA; Martez D.R. Smith, LMSW; Timothy Tobias, LMSW; Holly A. Taylor, MPH, PhD; Sara C. Hull, Ph.D.** (National Institutes of Health, Department of Bioethics; University of Rochester; Capella University)

In New York City (NYC), crystal meth use among LGBTQ communities of color has risen in recent years. Crystal meth use and its heavy stigmatization present psychosocial challenges for people who use it and their loved ones. These challenges are rarely addressed with culturally competent health services. Amid stigma and gaps in services, leaders within the NYC ballroom community have taken matters into their own hands. The ballroom community is a tightly-knit network of primarily Black and Latinx families of choice, known as “houses”. Houses often serve as vital sources of support for members. This presentation will describe a community-led initiative to address crystal meth use in the NYC ballroom community. Qualitative research methods were used to identify key factors prompting the emergence of the initiative in 2018. Preliminary findings will be shared from a content analysis of data from direct observation of initiative events and semi-structured interviews with initiative leaders and stakeholders. Topics to be covered in the presentation include: challenges and opportunities inherent to the community-led approach; efforts to engage with the community and various health agencies; efforts to foster inclusivity and mitigate stigma; and approaches to accommodate people’s various lived experiences with and philosophies about substance use.

**A PANDEMIC UPDATE:
SARS COVID-19
5:15PM TO 5:25PM**

Presented by **Madhury (Didi) Ray,
MD, MPH, NYC DOHMH**

The Healing Power of Drum and Percussion Music
(African Drums) 5:25pm to 5:45pm

Presented by **Heritage OP**

Healing drum traditions of Africa ("Africa" here includes the Diaspora). Drum music in the African traditions have always been a form of alternative medicine, perhaps the oldest form of alternative medicine, long predating the concept of "doctors as separate from the fabric of everyday life and activity". Drumming in the African tradition has within it rhythmic concepts that sync directly with the body's electrical system, nervous system, and psyche and help to balance and rejuvenate these systems while speaking directly to the organs and energy centers of the body. Drumming at its most basic analysis is heartbeat and pulse strengthening music, but at a closer look much more is revealed, and it may be the most advanced medicinal system known to humankind. Countless rhythms in the African traditions have been used for centuries for their known healing effect. - Kevin Nathaniel, Heritage OP.

Native American Invocation: Tony Enos



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Join us for worship Sundays at 10:30am.

If you have questions, please

contact Pastor.Alexis@churchofthevillage.org.

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Center for Black Equity



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Caribbean Equality Project
Elmcor
Harlem Pride
Katharine Pettit Creative
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Our mission is to empower Harlem's SGL/LGBTQ community *(which includes, family, friends, and allies)* to improve its physical, mental, and economic health and wellness.

harlempride.org/info@harlempride.org/@harlempride

COUNTING THE ERASED

Capturing LGBTQ Mortality Data

Casey Pick, The Trevor Project, Senior Fellow for Advocacy & Government Affairs

BACKGROUND

The Trevor Project estimates there are an estimated 1.8 million LGBTQ youth in crisis every year and government surveys show **LGBTQ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight/cisgender peers** — but because of a lack of systematic sexual orientation and gender identity data collection we have no idea how many LGBTQ youth actually die by suicide each year, complicating efforts to enact policies needed to save lives.

METHOD

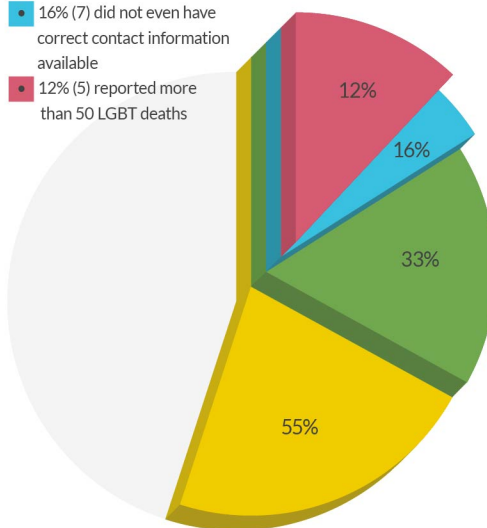
To address this knowledge gap, in 2018 The Trevor Project contacted the 42 NVDRS coordinators across the country who had been actively collecting data at that time to request reports detailing the number of violent deaths where the deceased was known to be LGBTQ. Specifically, we requested data reports regarding variables 3.1.6 (Sex Unknown), 3.1.7 (Transgender), and 3.1.19 (Sexual Orientation) of the NVDRS Coding Manual. We also asked about systems and procedures to collect this data.

RESULTS

With few exceptions, the numbers we received were so low as not to be credible, when we got an answer at all. Often our requests were denied because the numbers were too low to maintain decedent anonymity.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

- 55% (23) of states and territories provided any response
 - data in the form of reportable numbers of LGBT deaths, or
 - censored data due to low reported numbers
- Only 33% (14) reported any LGBT deaths since the LGBT-relevant variables were added to the coding manual in 2013.
- 16% (7) did not even have correct contact information available
- 12% (5) reported more than 50 LGBT deaths



IMPLICATIONS

The sexual orientation and gender identity of Americans who die by suicide is being erased at worst, inconsistently collected at best. As a result, efforts to reduce the disproportionately high rates of suicide among LGBTQ people, particularly LGBTQ youth, lack the evidence necessary to spur serious government action, which is often based on death data. Without such evidence, suicide reduction efforts for this community are less likely to be implemented at all, let alone succeed.

THE LGBT ESSENTIAL DATA ACT

- Create and implement procedures supporting the routine, systematic identification of sexual orientation and gender identity at death.
- Train death investigators, including law enforcement, coroners, and medical investigators, to properly and consistently implement these procedures.
- Federal support through NVDRS and passage of local, state, and federal legislation to require LGBTQ data collection, including the Essential LGBT Data Act.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

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SAGE is a proud supporter of the 2020 In My Mind conference.

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OUT: The National Cancer Survey is designed for LGBTQI+ cancer survivors. The information from this national survey will be used to make cancer care safer and more welcoming for our communities.

If you have questions or want to know more about the survey please send us an email outsurvey@cancer-network.org or call The National LGBT Cancer Network at 212.675.2633.

