

## Racial Justice News Items - July 2020

Laura Danforth is a member:

[How Barbers Are Stepping Up for Black Men and Mental Health](#)

[HealthLine](#)

**Laura Danforth, PhD, licensed clinical social worker and assistant professor of social work at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock** points out that only 4 percent of mental health professionals are Black. “As a white woman, I know that I can go to a mental health provider who will likely have a similar cultural background as me, and who will likely understand my lived experience. A huge barrier is not only access, but also being able to sit across from your therapist and have them hear you, see you, believe you, and understand your pain,” Danforth told Healthline.

Tyra Goodman is a member:

[Finding happiness during times of collective grief](#)

[Mountain Xpress](#)

Whether you’re grieving a personal loss, the absence of your pre-COVID-19 existence, the killing of George Floyd or some combination of the above, so many of us are in mourning these days. Fatigue, apathy and volatility are common symptoms of grief, says local **clinical social worker Tyra L. Goodman**. Often, she notes, clients struggling with loss “feel like their brains are failing. And meanwhile, the rest of the world is just going on as normal.”

Kurtis Young is a member:

[For Mental Health 911 Calls, Dallas Found Success In Social Workers](#)

[D Magazine](#)

**Kurtis Young, the director of social work for behavioral health services at Parkland**, would welcome two more teams. With three teams, he said he would maintain a team in the south (where behavioral health emergency calls remain “plentiful”) and place a team in the northwest (where behavioral health emergency calls have risen the most), leaving one roaming team, which would deploy wherever depending on the day’s demands. The important thing, Young stresses, is developing relationships wherever they operate.

Kristin Miller is a member:

[The ABC’s of trauma: Coping strategies from Morris County webinar](#)

[Morristown Green](#)

We may not know what to call the malaise that has gripped the country. But clinical social worker **Kristin Miller, an adjunct professor at Seton Hall University**, does. It’s Trauma, a many-faceted condition that is her specialty. The Rev. Alison Miller, a minister at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship who serves on The [Morris County Human Relations Commission](#), introduced Kristin Miller, no relation, at a wide-ranging webinar last week. Having just returned from a vigil for Amani Kildea, the young black man [found hanging](#) in Lewis Morris Park last month, the Rev. Miller said the presentation was especially timely.

[\[Video\] Denton PD to Create Mental Health Division](#)

NBCDFW

Later this year, when 911 gets a call about someone in crisis in Denton, an officer partnered with a social worker will be the first responders asked to take the call. This week, Denton Police Chief Frank Dixon told the city council he is fast-tracking the creation of the Mental Health Division of the police department by **reallocating current open and frozen positions to hire licensed clinical social workers**. The department plans to hire five social workers. Four of them will partner with officers and one will oversee the unit.

Devyn Beswick is a member:

[How I'm Prioritizing Black Joy in Our Fight for Justice](#)

Bon Appetite

After weeks of grieving the lives of **Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade**, and **George Floyd**, and taking to the streets to protest amidst COVID-19, I was losing momentum. As a writer, a social worker, and a Black woman, I have been given countless gifts to contribute to this world and yet, I felt stuck.

Talor Hawkins is a member:

[Our Time To Rise as Advocates: Social Workers Seeking Justice](#)

The Chronicle of Social Change

Social workers cannot be silent in this tremendous moment in American history. We are not just child welfare workers. We are therapists and we are advocates. **The National Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics** focuses on service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. Similarly, the Black Lives Matter statement is centered on both social justice and the dignity and worth of a person.