



Undoing Racism in Social Work Summit | April 26, 2022

Participant Bios

Event Hosts

Mildred "Mit" C. Joyner, DPS, MSW, LCSW, President, NASW

Mit serves as President of the North America Region of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), which includes Canada and the United States and is a member of IFSW's Executive Committee. She also serves on the boards of the NASW Foundation and NASW Assurance Services, Inc. Her other board service included a community bank, DNBFIRST, where she was the first female and only African American to serve in this capacity, and the Chester County Food Bank. For several decades, Mit was the Director and Chair of the undergraduate social work department at West Chester University (PA) and is Past President of CSWE and BPD.

Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW, Chief Executive Officer, NASW

Angelo joined NASW after serving six years as Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, a position appointed by Governor Deval Patrick. While there, he oversaw a budget of \$850 million and a workforce of 3,500 employees. Prior to that position, he was Vice President and Executive Director of Value Options New Jersey where he built and oversaw administrative, clinical and quality management program infrastructures that increased access to behavioral health services for children and youth, including those in the juvenile justice system.

Education & Ethics Discussion

Gary Bailey, DHL, MSW, ACSW, Professor of Practice and Assistant Dean for Community Engagement and Social Justice, Simmons College School of Social Work

Gary coordinates the Dynamics of Racism and Oppression sequence at Simmons and chairs the School of Social Work Awards Committee. He is Chair of the Simmons University Black Administrators, Faculty and Staff Council (BAFAS); is a member of the Simmons Faculty Senate; is vice chair of the Simmons President's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council (PDIAC) and co-chaired the Simmons University Initiative on Human Rights and Social Justice. He is a former NASW President and IFSW President and the current President and Chair of NASW Assurance Services.

Dawn Belkin Martinez, PhD, LICSW, Clinical Associate Professor, Associate Dean, Boston University School of Social Work

Dawn is the co-author of the book *Social Justice in Clinical Practice: A Liberation Health Framework for Social Work* and co-developed a theory and method for anti-racist/anti-oppressive clinical practice. She is one of the founding members of the Boston Liberation Health Group and gives presentations locally, nationally, and internationally about her work with liberation health theory, immigrant families, anti-oppressive practice, and social justice.

Karen Bullock, PhD, LCSW, Professor and Head of the School of Social Work at North Carolina State University

Karen has more than 25 years of clinical practice experience in mental health and aging, with expertise in health care disparities. Her research focuses on cancer care, social support for older adults with serious illness, and health equity. She has participated on special committees with the National Academies, American Hospital Association, John Hartford Foundation and the North Carolina Institute of Medicine.

Neijma Celestine-Donnor, JD, MSW, University of Maryland – Baltimore, School of Social Work, Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As the School of Social Work's first assistant dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion, Neijma helps lead the school's diversity and anti-oppression efforts and guides the achievement of a new standard for inclusive excellence. As a member of the dean's executive leadership team, she has a strategic position responsible for promoting and enabling an inclusive environment for faculty, students, and staff while championing organizational change.

Phillipe Copeland, PhD, MSW, MTS, Clinical Assistant Professor & Charles River Campus Advisor, Boston University

Phillipe is an Abolitionist and a Clinical Assistant Professor at BU School of Social Work. His personal mission is achieving a world without racism. He pursues this mission through teaching, scholarship and service focused on safety, health, and prosperity. This includes the Black Lives Matter Movement (BLM), health justice, decarceration, and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. He is Assistant Director of Narrative for the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research, with a focus on training and education.

Colleen Dempsey, MSW, LISW-S, Practice Associate, NASW Ohio

Colleen is a Licensed Independent Social Worker and the Practice Associate for the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. In that role, she has testified before the Ohio Senate Health & Medicaid Committee on a resolution that would declare racism a public health crisis. She is also a practicing clinical social worker.

Samantha Fletcher, Ph.D., MSW (Cherokee), Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers, New York State

Samantha joined the National Association of Social Workers, New York State (NASW-NYS) chapter in September 2019. She came to the Chapter with a background in social activism research, administration in social work education, and experience in social justice advocacy. Samantha, along with her colleagues and volunteers, has worked to create an inclusive chapter that is representative of social workers across the state.

Taylor Green, BS (Community Health), Assistant to Vice President of Ethics, Diversity, & Inclusion, NASW

Taylor attended the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) where she studied Family Science. During her time there she was the Office Assistant for the Office of Diversity & Inclusion where she supported the Executive Assistant to the VP of Diversity & Inclusion. She also served as Director of Diversity & Inclusion for UMCP Student Government Association, the Event Coordinator for the UMCP chapter of the National Council of Negro Women and a Peer Educator for the University Health Center, Health Promotion and Wellness Services amongst many other roles.

Deona Hooper, MSW, Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Social Work Helper

Deona created Social Work Helper, an award-winning, mission-driven, and progressive news website dedicated to social work, social justice, and social good. She has experience in nonprofit communications, tech development and social media consulting. Deona has an MSW in Management and Community Practice as well as a Certificate in Nonprofit Management, both from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Waldo E. Johnson, Jr., PhD, Vice Provost and Associate Professor Crown Family School
Deputy Dean for Curriculum, The University of Chicago**

Waldo leads the University's Diversity & Inclusion Initiative, supporting the Center for Identity + Inclusion; the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality; and the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture (CSRPC). In these roles, he collaborates with units across campus to help them advance their diversity and inclusion goals.

**Melodie A. Lopez, MSW (Hopi/Navajo/Pueblo/Mexican), Founder and President,
Indigenous Strategies, Inc.**

Melodie has worked in the Indian Country (urban and tribal) for the past 30 years as a therapist, educator and business owner. She has three decades of experience in social work, education and leadership development. She offers professional development and leadership training of educators and social service administrators and elected leaders in local, state and tribal governments, as well as curriculum development, workshops, and direct services to Native American youth.

**Andrea Murray, MSW, LICSW, Senior Ethics Associate, National Association of Social
Workers**

She is responsible for developing ethics programming, as well as providing ethics consultation and technical support related to the association's peer review process. Andrea holds an MSW degree from The Ohio State University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toronto. She is a certified project manager and mediator. Andrea initiated her social work career in the District of Columbia's child welfare system. In her role as Manager, Systems Improvement Methodology at Casey Family Programs, Andrea provided technical assistance and consultation on a wide array of issues to child welfare agencies and associated systems nationwide.

**Laura Quiros, PhD, LMSW, Associate Professor, Adelphi University School of Social
Work**

Laura's research interests include the social construction of racial and ethnic identity; trauma-informed practice through a social justice lens; and diversity, inclusion and leadership in higher education. Her current research focuses on the nuances of race and culture among multiracial/Latinas and explores the negotiation of identity within various social contexts. Her goal is to identify the impact that skin color has on the racial and ethnic identity development of Latino/as and subsequently on well-being.

Nathan Stephens, PhD, Assistant Professor, Illinois State University, School of Social Work

Nathan has worked for almost 14 years in diversity, social justice, and multicultural affairs areas within the field of Student Affairs, including three and half years as the former director of the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has also worked at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale as the director of the Center for Inclusive Excellence for over three years and as the senior coordinator of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center at the University of Missouri for almost seven years.

Policy & Research Discussion

Tricia Bent-Goodley, PhD, LICSW, LCSW-C, Professor Emeritus, Howard University School of Social Work

Trisha is a researcher and licensed clinical social worker with over 25 years of experience in mental health, administrative, and educational roles. Her research, administrative and clinical career have included a specialized focus on addressing trauma and violence with a focus on community-based interventions. She has developed academic and student support programs in her tenure at Howard working to support the intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

Sarah Christa Butts, MSW, Director of Public Policy, National Association of Social Workers

Sarah is responsible for leading the association's public policy, political and legislative affairs agenda. Prior to joining NASW, Sarah served as the Executive Director of the Grand Challenges for Social Work and was the founding administrator of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.

Karen Franklin, LAPSW, Executive Director, NASW Tennessee Chapter

Karen serves on the Racial Justice Summit Planning Group. She provides leadership for the Tennessee Chapter's partnerships with others working on racial justice including the Tennessee Coalition of Black Social Workers.

Whitney Irie, PhD, MSW, Lecturer on Population Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Whitney is a lecturer at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute and Harvard Medical School. Her primary research focuses on preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) access and implementation. She uses a community-empowerment and practice-guided framework to identify mechanisms and processes at the structural, interpersonal, and individual levels to improve, promote, and protect the sexual health of Black women, with a specific focus on Black women in the Midwest, South, and rural areas.

Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

Chad is nationally recognized in the fields of American race relations and violence prevention among African American males. He has worked with resilient and vulnerable families, youth and communities as they experience normal developmental transitions in challenging environments. His research interest attempts to contribute to a more informed analysis of the diverse ways that adolescents and families – especially people of color – cope with socioeconomic challenges and institutional racism.

Charles E. Lewis, Jr., PhD, MSW, Adjunct Professor, Columbia School of Social Work, and Director, Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP)

Charles served as deputy chief of staff and communications director for former Congressman Edolphus “Ed” Towns and was instrumental in creating the Congressional Social Work Caucus, a platform that would allow social workers to have more of a voice in Congress. Through CRISP, a nonprofit that hosts informational forums and other events for social workers to interact with Congress, Charles supports field placements for social work students in congressional offices and hosts national policy briefings with leading social work organizations and Schools of Social Work.

Elsbeth Slayter, PhD, Professor and Chair of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, Salem State University School of Social Work

Elsbeth leads disability services research related to addictions and child welfare. She has taught social welfare policy, research, evaluation, field, disability practice and forensic social work courses at Salem State since 2005. She has also taught practice evaluation at Simmons University’s School of Social Work, introductory social welfare policy at Boston College’s School of Social Work and a course on qualitative research methods for public policy research at the United Nations University-MERIT program in the Netherlands.

Tanya Rhodes Smith, MSW, Instructor in Residence and Director, Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work, University of Connecticut

Tanya teaches in the University’s policy practice concentration in the areas of program planning and evaluation, political advocacy and political social work. Her areas of specialization include policy development, nonprofit administration, voter engagement and legislative advocacy, electoral participation, and social workers in elected office.

Melvin Wilson, LCSW, MBA, former Social Justice and Human Rights Manager, NASW

Mel worked for NASW serving as Senior Manager in the department of social justice and human rights. In that role, he developed and implemented activities related to criminal justice, juvenile justice, immigration reform, economic justice and voting rights. He has extensive experience working with national coalitions that deal with criminal justice policies, legislation and practices that intersect with conditions of incarceration.

Practice & Workforce Discussion

Gloria Batiste-Roberts, PhD, LMSW-AP, Texas Southern University School of Social Work

Gloria serves as the Director of the Thomas F. Freeman Center for Forensic Excellence at Texas Southern University and adjunct professor of Social Work. She also serves as a Permanency Convener for Children's Protective Services. For 29 years Gloria worked full time at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as a Child Protective Services Supervisor. For 38 years she served as assistant Debate Coach of the TSU Debate Team, and as Head Coach since 2011. Gloria was the 10th President of NABSW.

Yvonne M. Chase, PhD, LCSW, ACSW, Associate Professor, Department of Human Services, University of Alaska – Anchorage

Yvonne's social work experience includes serving as Deputy Commissioner for two state departments in Alaska and one in Washington State. Her areas of interest include social work ethics, child welfare, serving diverse client populations and the global social work community. Yvonne is currently co-principal investigator of a US Department of Agriculture funded research project about the ways in which individuals learn and communicate about sex, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS acquisition, prevention and treatment, alcohol and drug use.

Denise Johnson, LCSW-C, Senior Practice Associate for Clinical Social Work, National Association of Social Workers

Denise is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 15 years. She also is a board-certified clinical supervisor and received her MSW at University of Maryland School of Social Work in 2005. Some of her experience includes providing psychotherapy in community mental health, private practice, and supporting soldiers and families as a Military and Family Life Counselor. During her time as a Military and Family Life Counselor, Denise has received several military awards of excellence.

Anna Mangum, MS, MSW, MPH, Deputy Director of Programs, National Association of Social Workers

Anna oversees Public Policy, Professional Development and Practice for NASW. She has worked in business development, and public health. She has also served as a legislative assistant to representatives in the U.S. Congress.

Joel Rubin, MSW, LSW, ACSW, CAE, Executive Director, NASW Illinois

Joel is a non-profit executive, advocate and educator. At NASW Illinois he recommends and implements policies that serve thousands of social workers in the state. He plans, organizes, directs, and coordinates chapter staff, programs, and activities, including large grants studying workforce shortages and retention strategies in Illinois. Joel also teaches at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Loyola University on mental health policy, organizational leadership and professional development.

D. Natasha Scott, Ed.D., MSW–Student Services Executive - Cumberland County Schools, Adjunct Professor - Fayetteville State University School of Social Work

Natasha has over 20 years of experience serving as a school social worker and student services coordinator. Her social work journey began when helping a high school classmate return to school after a family tragedy and then as an undergraduate student at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. In addition to being a board member for NASW North Carolina, Natasha serves as Chair of NASW's School Social Work Specialty Group.

Deborah Son, MSW, Executive Director, NASW California

Deborah is an experienced nonprofit executive and public health leader with a focus on advancing organizational strategies to innovate, strengthen impact, and deepen social and political reach. She is skilled in movement-building related to prevention, health advocacy, anti-violence and equity issues. Deborah was a national trainer in domestic violence homicide prevention, helped strengthen medical-legal partnerships in public health care systems, and facilitated community leadership development across California.

Leticia Villarreal Sosa, PhD, MA, Professor, Dominican University Graduate School of Social Work

Leticia is a professor of social work with a specialization in school social work and clinical social work. They also co-chair the International Committee at the Graduate School of Social Work, where they work to develop long term and sustainable relationships with university and organization partners with a focus on student exchanges and faculty teaching exchanges and research collaborations. Leticia writes and researches in the areas of school social work, international social work, immigration, Latino/as, and education.

Rita Webb, ACSW, DCSW, former Senior Policy Associate, NASW

Rita represented NASW for more than 20 years in numerous coalitions and interdisciplinary partnerships and staffed all NASW equity committees. She served on the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the Health Collaborative on Violence and Abuse, the Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally and the National Task Force to End Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence. Rita was recently invited to the White House to celebrate the passage of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization.

Lee Westgate, MSW, MBA, LCSW-C (he/ him/ his), Manager of Policy & Advocacy, National Association of Social Workers

Lee is an out transgender advocate with more than 15 years of professional experience in social work policy, practice, research, and education. He continues to serve as a Clinical Instructor at the University of Maryland, School of Social Work and his scholarship includes integrated behavioral health, clinical work with LGBTQIA+ populations, healthcare policy, and health equity.

Tracy R. Whitaker, DSW, MSW, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Advancement, Howard University School of Social Work

Tracy is an associate professor and the associate dean for academic and student advancement at the Howard University School of Social Work. In this role, she provides leadership and coordination for the curriculum offered by the School of Social Work, including strategic planning, resource allocation, implementation, evaluation, reaccreditation and continuous improvement. Prior to joining the faculty of Howard University, she directed the Center for Workforce Studies & Social Work Practice at the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) for over a decade. Her research includes poverty and health, homelessness, workplace discrimination and bullying.