



BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Young Adult and Maternal Mental Health Convening

June 17 – 19, 2019

Lord Baltimore Hotel

20 W Baltimore St.

Baltimore, MD 21202



BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Monday, June 17

8:00	Breakfast + Registration		Versailles Foyer
8:30	Welcome + Introductions + Open Healing Practice <i>Meet the CLASP team working on mental health policy and our roles in MOMD and PATH work.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Dustin Richardson, Native American Lifelines· Whitney Bunts, CLASP· Marlén Mendoza, CLASP· Isha Weerasinghe, CLASP	Versailles Room
9:00	Opening Keynote	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Cara Page, Barnard Center for Research on Women, Audre Lorde Project, CLASP Mental Health Advisory Board	Versailles Room
9:50	“Behind the Asterisk*: Historical and Cultural Trauma” Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Yesenia Jimenez, CLASP	Versailles Room
10:00	CLASP’s Project Overview <i>Learn about Moving on Maternal Depression (MOMD) and Policy Advancing Transformation and Healing (PATH).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Ruth Cosse, CLASP· Nia West-Bey, CLASP	Versailles Room
10:30	Team Introduction: Pennsylvania		Versailles Room
10:40	Team Introduction: Utah		Versailles Room

Monday, June 17

10:50 Break **Versailles Room**

11:00 Federal Legislative Update · Alexandra Costello, CLASP **Versailles Room**

The CLASP team will provide updates on what's happening on the Hill and in the Administration that is relevant to our collective work on MOMD and PATH. We'll also answer your questions.

12:00 Team Introduction: New York **Versailles Room**

12:10 Lunch + Stories from the Struggle · Certified Legend, CashKing ENT. **Versailles Room**

Experience and enjoy artistic reflections by a local Baltimore artist over lunch. Certified Legend will center the day as he creatively conveys the reality of the themes of mental health and wellness through spoken-word and rap.

1:00 State & Local Teamwork Time

Team Room #1: Prince George's County, Utah	Versailles Room
Team Room #2: New Jersey	Hanover Suite B
Team Room #3: New York	Hanover Suite A
Team Room #4: Pennsylvania	The Speakeasy

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Monday, June 17

2:45 Small Group Discussions

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Policy Lab

This session will explore the work of the CHOP Policy Lab and its interdisciplinary research to achieve optimal child health and wellbeing by informing program and policy changes.

· Stacey Kallem, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

Hanover Suite A

Getting Upstream: Social Determinants of Health, Community Determinants of Health, and Prevention

Many systems leaders recognize the value of “getting upstream” of mental and behavioral health challenges but have trouble mobilizing their systems to focus on prevention. Learn more about the Prevention Institute’s work with local leaders around supporting individual and community-level health through prevention.

· Dana Fields-Johnson, The Prevention Institute

Hanover Suite B

Data Integration/ Interoperability Across Sectors

Data and data sharing are critical for developing policy that meets the needs of mothers and young adults. Many state and local governments struggle with sharing data across agencies. This workshop will describe best practices in data integration and provide participants the opportunity to troubleshoot their data

· Uma Ahluwalia, Health Management Associates

Versailles Room

Monday, June 17

3:45 Transition Break **Versailles Room**

4:00 Team Introduction: Prince George's County **Versailles Room**

4:00 Financing Strategies for States **Versailles Room**

How have states approached financing maternal depression screening through Medicaid? What innovative ways have states and counties redefined financing services for young people?

- Donna Cohen Ross, DCR Initiatives
- Caitlin Cross-Barnet, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation
- Nathaniel Counts, Mental Health America
- Isha Weerasinghe, CLASP (Moderator)

5:15 Team Introductions: New Jersey **Versailles Room**

5:25 Closing · Stephanie Schmit, CLASP **Versailles Room**

5:30 Reception **The Skybar**

Please join us for a celebration of CLASP's 50th year. Relax, connect informally with colleagues in other states, and learn more about CLASP as well as our past and present mental health work. Drinks and appetizers will be provided.

BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Tuesday, June 18

8:00 Breakfast Versailles Room

8:30 Looking Back, Looking Forward: Tackling Stigma in Mental Health Systems through a Racial Equity Lens Versailles Room

- Kimá Taylor, Anka Consulting
- Bowen Chung, UCLA
- Kisha Bird, CLASP (Moderator)

Join CLASP Mental Health Advisory Board members in a discussion of how racial equity intersects with mental health practice and policy. Panelists will share insights on the progress we've made over time and offer a call to action for participants as they move their work forward.

9:30 Break Versailles Room

9:45 Small Group Discussions "Nothing About Us Without Us": Effectively Engaging Impacted Populations Hanover Suite A

- Kelly Davis, Mental Health America
- Clelie Choute, Raw Uncut Woman
- Lashon Amado, Opportunity Youth United
- Shawnice Jackson, CLASP
- Marlén Mendoza, CLASP

In our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and cities from Ferguson to Parkland, young people are showing that they're not just future leaders; they're also today's leaders. What key principles should guide youth engagement efforts? How do we move beyond asking for feedback on our ideas to partnering with them to implement theirs? It's time to listen to young leaders' policy priorities and follow their lead.

Tuesday, June 18

Medicaid Managed Care Financing: Carve In vs. Carve Out

Many states “carve out” behavioral health care, which generates challenges for achieving physical and behavioral health integration and mental health-physical health parity. Participants will learn about the case for carved-in behavioral health and how carving in behavioral health services can transform service delivery.

· Bowen Chung, UCLA

Hanover Suite B

Building a Vision for Trauma-Informed Policymaking

The term “trauma-informed care” is used frequently these days across many sectors. How can policy be “trauma-informed,” and what does that truly mean?

· Jeff Hild, Building Community Resilience, George Washington University

Lafayette Room

Equity in Policymaking

This session will explore policy and systems of power. We will discuss policy levers for dismantling systems of power. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect and participate in an activity to understand how their influence can make policy more equitable.

· Kisha Bird, CLASP
· Whitney Bunts, CLASP

Lafayette Suite

10:45 Break

Versailles Room

BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Tuesday, June 18

**11:00 Spotlight on Baltimore:
Mental Health and Wellness**

This panel discussion features experts, practitioners, and providers working to address mental health and maternal depression in unique and innovative ways. Hear key strategies, first-hand experiences, and insights from Baltimore's frontline of mental health service providers.

- Annette R. March-Grier, Roberta's House
- Ginna T. Wagner, Baltimore Child and Adolescent Response System-Baltimore Behavioral Health System
- Stacey Jefferson, Baltimore Behavioral Health Systems
- Shawnice Jackson, CLASP (Moderator)

Versailles Room

12:00 Cross-state Lunch

Talk to someone you don't know. Learn something new. The seats will be assigned, but the conversation is up to you!

Versailles Room

1:00 System Dynamics Workshop

*System dynamics is a method for understanding, designing, and managing change. It models the relationships between system elements and how these relationships influence the behavior of the system over time. In this interactive workshop, states will explore the following prompt: **What factors can facilitate integrating a racial equity lens into your work (MOMD, PATH)?***

By the end of the workshop and through guided activities, state agencies should have a shared definition of racial equity, a better understanding of system breakdowns, tools to determine system leverage points, and action steps to improve behaviors in the system.

- CLASP Team
- Whitney Bunts, CLASP (Facilitator)

Versailles Room

Tuesday, June 18

4:00 Break Versailles Room

4:15 "Office Hours": One on One with CLASP Staff Versailles Room

During this session, participants can consult with CLASP advisory board members in small groups. Bring your burning questions, draw on advisory board members' technical expertise, and make connections for more in-depth follow up.

5:15 Next Steps and Closing · Ruth Cosse, CLASP Versailles Room

Wednesday, June 19

8:30 Breakfast + MOMD and PATH Affinity Conversations Versailles Room

The affinity conversations will allow participants to meet with one another based on project.

9:30 Closing Keynote · Naomi Ayala, Poet Versailles Room

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Wednesday, June 19

10:30 Small Group Discussions

For the Culture: Policies that Support Culturally Relevant Practice/Culturally Relevant Reimbursement

This workshop will begin with a video conference panel of leaders from around the country sharing examples of how their states are incentivizing and financing culturally relevant mental health supports. The panel presentations will serve as a jumping-off point for peer-to-peer sharing about how PATH and MOMD project states are reimbursing culturally relevant practices, opportunities to improve and expand these efforts, and concrete next steps to advance these practices.

State and Federal Legislation Opportunities and Challenges

States across the country have introduced or are implementing bills affecting mental health care. Join us for tabletop discussions about federal and state legislation focused on maternal mental health and mental health parity.

- Shelly Craig, Affirmative Research Collaborative
- DJ Ida, National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
- Nia West-Bey, CLASP

Hanover Suite A

- Nathaniel Counts, Mental Health America
- Shiva Sethi, CLASP
- Shawnice Jackson, CLASP

Hanover Suite B

Wednesday, June 19

Social Determinants of Health Reimbursement

People living in low-income households who experience mental and behavioral health issues often have other barriers to care, including housing, transportation, child care, and more. These ancillary issues that affect health and wellbeing are sometimes called the social determinants of health. Learn more about state strategies to provide and reimburse for these services.

· Barbara diPietro, Baltimore Health Care for the Homeless

Charles Suite B

11:35 Teamwork Time

Caucus with your team to discuss lessons learned and what you will take home and implement.

Versailles Room

12:30 Close Out + Healing Technologies: Pathways for Healing

This closing session will provide the participants with an experience-centering activity and information that will support the integration of the content covered during the convening. We will learn how to employ mindfulness practices while dealing with environmental factors such as toxic stress. Participants will learn strategies and tactics to increase conscious energy management to create a mindset for success.

· Isha Weerasinghe, CLASP
· Marissa Stone-Bass, The Living Well

Versailles Room

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CLASP's mental health team



Kisha Bird, Youth Policy

Kisha Bird is CLASP's director of youth policy. Ms. Bird has expertise in youth development, workforce development policy, reentry, and career pathways, with an explicit focus on equity, opportunity youth, and individuals impacted by the criminal justice system.

[@KishaKBird](#) / kbird@clasp.org



Whitney Bunts, Youth Policy

Whitney Bunts is a policy analyst with CLASP's youth policy team, with a focus on juvenile justice, mental health, racial equity, and opportunity youth. Whitney has a competence in education policy, opportunity and at-risk LGBTQ+ youth, racial equity, system dynamics, and evaluation. She is CLASP's PATH co-lead for Utah and Prince George's County.

[@w_bunts](#) / wbunts@clasp.org



Ruth Cosse, Child Care and Early Education

Ruth Cosse is a policy analyst on the child care and early education team. She co-leads CLASP's Moving On Maternal Depression (MOMD) work with New York and New Jersey. Ms. Cosse has a passion for advocating for low-income children of color and addressing the systemic barriers that impact early development.

rcosse@clasp.org



Shawnice Jackson, Youth Policy Consultant

Shawnice Jackson is a consultant and policy advocate committed to using service, policy, and advocacy to build strong, equitable, trauma-informed systems, programs, policies, and pathways to opportunity for youth and young adults from underserved or marginalized communities. Her current consultancy work with CLASP is focused on maternal depression, federal legislation and policy analysis, the opioid crisis and youth mental health. She is also a co-founder of the National Council of Young Leaders and Opportunity Youth United.

[@MissEducateThem](#) / ShawniceNJackson@gmail.com



Yesenia Jimenez, Hunger Fellow

Yesenia Jimenez is an Emerson National Hunger Fellow on CLASP's youth team. Ms. Jimenez has a passion for social justice and ending hunger in the United States. In college, she helped uncover school lunch shaming policies impacting children with meal debt in California. Her passion is driven by her personal lived experiences with poverty and hunger.

[@yejimenez707](#) / yjimenez@clasp.org



Hannah Matthews, Deputy Executive Director for Policy

Hannah Matthews is CLASP's deputy executive director for policy. She provides leadership, strategic guidance, and support for the organization's policy and advocacy agenda. She is an expert on federal and state child care and early education policies and cross-sector policies that affect young children.

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Marlén Mendoza, Youth Policy

Marlén Joanne Mendoza is a research assistant with CLASP's youth policy team. She provides research support and analysis on various issues related to youth of color, youth in poverty and disconnected youth.

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Stephanie Schmit, Child Care and Early Education

Stephanie Schmit is a senior policy analyst with CLASP's child care and early education team. She leads CLASP's Moving on Maternal Depression (MOMD) project, working especially closely with New York and New Jersey. Ms. Schmit has expertise in home visiting, data analysis, and state and federal child care and early education policy.

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Shiva Sethi, Child Care and Early Education

Shiva Sethi is a research assistant for the child care and early education team at CLASP. He provides research support and analysis on various early education, mental health, and immigration issues.

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Isha Weerasinghe, Youth Policy

Isha Weerasinghe is a senior policy analyst focused on mental health and sits in CLASP's youth team. She co-leads CLASP's Moving on Maternal Depression (MOMD), working especially closely with Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Ms. Weerasinghe is an expert on the intersections between poverty, systemic racism, and mental health for youth, young adults, and mothers.

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Nia West-Bey, Youth Policy

Stephanie Schmit is a senior policy analyst with CLASP's child care and early education team. She co-leads CLASP's Moving on Maternal Depression (MOMD) project, working especially closely with New York and New Jersey. Ms. Schmit has expertise in home visiting, data analysis, and state and federal child care and early education policy.

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Bruce Wilson, Youth Policy Intern

Bruce Wilson is an intern on CLASP's youth policy team from the Institute for Responsible Citizenship. He supports various projects on the youth team, with a focus on the team's justice work.

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Guest speakers



Uma Ahluwalia

Uma Ahluwalia is a respected health care and human services professional with extensive experience leading key growth initiatives in demanding political and legislative environments. She is an expert in delivering innovative, reliable, cost-effective solutions and public policy strategies that improve operations and productivity.

Prior to joining HMA, she served as director of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services in Maryland.

During her 12-year tenure, Ms. Ahluwalia led implementation of the Affordable Care Act, oversaw the move to a more integrated and interoperable health and human services enterprise, and managed public-private partnerships and programs. Her work experience also includes leadership as the interim director in the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency and assistant secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services in the State of Washington.

She has a master's degree in social work from the University of Delhi in India and a specialist, post-master's in health services administration from George Washington University. Over her 28-year career in human services, she has progressively moved from case-carrying social work to executive leadership at the state and local levels.



Naomi Ayala

Naomi Ayala is a freelance writer and editor, who has taught in K-12 schools and led community-based education programs. Ms. Ayala teaches poetry and memoir to English-language learners at the Carlos Rosario School as founding faculty of the Write Who You Are Program, a partnership between the school and The Writer's Center. She is the author of three books of poetry—*Wild Animals on the Moon* (Curbstone Press), *This Side of Early* (Curbstone Imprint: Northwestern University Press), and *Calling Home: Praise Songs and Incantations* (Bilingual Press/Editorial Bilingüe).

Translations of her poetry have been published in Afghanistan and Switzerland. Naomi's own translation of Argentinean poet Luis Alberto Ambroggio's book of poetry, *The Wind's Archeology/La Arqueología del Viento* (Vaso Roto Ediciones, Mexico), won her an International Latino Book Award for Best Non-fiction Book Translation. Some of Naomi's work in Spanish appears in *Al pie de la Casa Blanca: Poetas hispanos de Washington, DC* (North American Academy of the Spanish Language).

Translations of Ms. Ayala's poetry have been published in Afghanistan and Switzerland. Naomi's own translation of Argentinean poet Luis Alberto Ambroggio's book of poetry, *The Wind's Archeology/La Arqueología del Viento* (Vaso Roto Ediciones, Mexico), won her an International Latino Book Award for Best Nonfiction Book Translation. Some of her work in Spanish appears in *Al pie de la Casa Blanca: Poetas hispanos de Washington, DC* (North American Academy of the Spanish Language). Among Ms. Ayala's awards are several Artists Fellowships from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Special Recognition for Community Service from the U.S. Congress, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy of Environmental Justice Award.



Shelly Craig

Dr. Shelly Craig is Canada research chair in sexual and gender minority youth and professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto. Her program of research, based on twenty-five years of community and clinical practice, is focused on developing affirmative programs and interventions to enhance the wellbeing of gender and sexual minority youth, particularly using affirmative cognitive behavioural therapy and digital technologies.

Selected experiences include: founder/executive director of the Alliance for LGBTQ Youth, executive director of ALSO for Out Youth; medical/health social worker in the emergency care center of a community hospital; program director residential services (shelter for victims of domestic violence) at Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center.



Barbara DiPietro

Barbara DiPietro, Ph.D. has been working in public policy for 20 years, many of them specifically focused on health care and homelessness. She holds a master's degree in policy sciences and a doctorate in Public Policy, both from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her dissertation research focused on the impact of homelessness on emergency departments in Baltimore City, and she continues to work to ensure that health care systems can better serve vulnerable populations.

For 10 years, she worked for the State of Maryland in the governor's office as well as the Maryland Department of Health, helping coordinate health and human services policy and legislation, interagency children and family services, and the state's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Barbara previously served in the U.S. Peace Corps, working to address maternal-child health issues in Malawi, a small country in southeast Africa. At this time, she is senior policy director for two organizations—for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and for Health Care for the Homeless of Maryland. In these dual roles, she is able to focus on national, state and local health policy, with a specific aim to ensure health care systems accommodate the unique needs of homeless populations.

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Dana Fields-Johnson

Dana Fields-Johnson, MPA, is a program manager at the Prevention Institute, a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing primary prevention and promoting safe, healthy and equitable communities. In her role, Ms. Fields-Johnson works to promote healthy communities, with a focus on strategies that address community determinants of health and multi-sector solutions that prevent violence, injury, trauma and substance misuse.

Ms. Fields-Johnson serves on PI's safety and wellbeing team where she has worked with NYC Department of Health-Center for Health Equity, the L.A. County Department of Public Health, New Orleans Department of Public Health and Milwaukee Department of Public Health, Office of Violence Prevention to advance their efforts to apply an upstream, public-health approach to preventing violence.

She also serves on PI's national Making Connections project team working with the Movember Foundation and 16 communities across the country to apply a gendered, cultured and community lens to mental health and wellbeing by creating environments that support healing and mental wellbeing for men and boys. Ms. Fields-Johnson has more than 25 years of professional experience working in public health to address maternal and child wellbeing, chronic disease and obesity prevention, healthy eating and active living, community safety and violence prevention, and mental health and wellbeing.



Jeff Hild

As policy director at the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness at the Milken Institute School of Public Health, Jeff Hild works with local, national, and global partners to develop, promote, and advance policies to prevent and treat obesity and build healthy and resilient communities. Prior to Redstone Center, Jeff was chief of staff for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF), where he was responsible for day-to-day management of the agency.

His work there included finalizing regulations for Head Start, Child Care, Child Support and other key human services programs. He also led the agency's work related to the water crisis in Flint, Michigan and the Zika virus, and coordinated ACF's work on White House priorities, including human trafficking, Affordable Care Act enrollment and outreach, and the Unaccompanied Children's program.

Before joining HHS, Jeff worked in Congress for eight years. He was Legislative Director for Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke, where he managed the legislative office, with a focus on improving Veterans Administration health care delivery and issues impacting the U.S./Mexico border. Prior to that, Jeff was Legislative Director & Counsel for California Congressman Pete Stark, the Chair/Ranking Member of the Ways & Means Health Subcommittee.

He managed Stark's legislative agenda, with a focus on poverty, child welfare, health, the environment, and Social Security. Prior to joining Mr. Stark's staff, Jeff was a staff attorney at the Homeless Persons Representation Project in Baltimore, where he represented indigent clients in public benefits, housing, and civil rights matters. Jeff was born and raised in Baltimore. He is a member of the Maryland Bar and a graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland and the University of Baltimore School of Law.



DJ Ida

DJ Ida is executive director of the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association. Dr. DJ Ida has over 40 years of experience working with Asian American/Pacific Islander communities. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology and helped establish numerous organizations, including her current organization as well as the Asian American Educational Opportunity Program at the University of Colorado and the Asian Pacific Development Center, a specialty

mental health clinic in Denver. She received the Robert Wood Johnson Award for Health Equity for her efforts to increase health equity by focusing on the impact of mental health and efforts to improve the quality of care for ethnically diverse and linguistically isolated populations. She was the primary author for the Office of Minority Health's Integrated Care for AANHPIs: A Blueprint for Action. She believes that access to care requires improving the current workforce so helped develop the Growing Our Own curricula to train clinicians on how to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services; Achieving Whole Health to train community members to become Wellness Coaches; and the Mental Health Interpreters Training to work in mental health settings recognizing.



Stacey Kallem

Dr. Stacey Kallem is an instructor at PolicyLab and instructor of pediatrics in the division of general pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Broadly, her research focuses on two-generational approaches for improving health and developmental outcomes in the early childhood period. She has a particular focus in screening and referring for postpartum depression in pediatric settings, maternal and early childhood

home-visiting services, and the social determinants of health. Dr. Kallem also serves as the child health policy advisor for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Division of Maternal, Child, and Family Health. In this role, she is leading the city's implementation efforts to create a centralized intake system for maternal and early childhood home visiting services. Clinically, Dr. Kallem practices as a primary care pediatrician at the CHOP South Philadelphia practice.

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Cara Page

Cara Page is a Black feminist queer cultural/memory worker, curator, and organizer for the past 20 plus years through her movement building and cultural work in the reproductive & racial justice, transformative justice and LGBTQI liberation movements. She is the former executive director of the Audre Lorde Project, an organizing center for, by, and about lesbian/gay/bisexual/two spirit, transgender, & gender non-conforming people of color in New York City.

She is also the co-founder of the Kindred Southern Healing Justice Collective, a southeastern network of healers, health practitioners, and organizers responding to and intervening on incidences of violence & generational trauma.

She is a recent recipient of the Soros Equality Fellowship (2019-2021) and former Barnard Center for Research on Women activist-in-residence fellow (2016-2018) for her body of work and curation of public discourse and installations on policing, surveillance, and experimentation in the medical industrial complex, seeking to transform and interrupt medical violence and exploitation of Black/people of color as well as Indigenous, migrant, and LGBTQI communities as an extension of colonialism and state violence.



Maurissa Stone Bass

Maurissa Stone Bass is a social entrepreneur, change strategist, management consultant, facilitator, motivational speaker, executive coach, and community development professional. Through Iona Concepts, Inc., a change management consulting firm founded in 1995, she directs The Living Well, a Center for Social and Economic Vibrancy located in Baltimore City. The Living Well operates as a cooperative of healing practitioners and social justice agents of change.

Ms. Stone Bass also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Baltimore College of Public Affairs and NeighborWorks America National Training Institute. She also provides training and technical assistance for the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration and the National Center for Trauma Informed Care.

She is the mother of Tyjia, a 17 year-old scholar and athlete, and the wife of Michael Bass. Ms. Stone Bass received the Impact Award from the Fashion Umbrella Foundation and a Black Wall Street award from Bmore News. She enjoys mentoring and coaching, traveling, and the healing arts.



Dustin Tyee Richardson

Dustin Tyee Richardson is a licensed professional clinical counselor with a background focused in severe and persistent psychopathology, as well as, trauma. Mr. Richardson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park and a Master of Science degree in Clinical Psychology from Loyola University in Baltimore, MD. He is currently a registered supervisor with the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists in Maryland.

He has over a decade of experience working in public mental health in a variety of settings that include residential, inpatient, outpatient, community, and crisis. Mr. Richardson has advanced trainings and certifications in critical incident stress management, dialectic behavioral therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, stages of change, neuropsychology assessments, personality assessments, complex trauma, sexual health disorders, and integrated dual disorders and treatment. In addition, he has advanced trainings on working with special needs populations including Native Americans, LGBTQ+ identifying individuals, veterans, those impacted by a terminal illness and chronically homeless individuals.

Mr. Richardson has experience in community-based advocacy with Native American populations and has a focus on urban Native Americans. He helped create and design two academic courses in his college career with one focusing on Native American cultures of North America. He has served as an undergraduate and graduate teaching assistant. Mr. Richardson is a Blackfeet descendent.



Certified Legend

Calvin "C.L." Newton, artistically known as "Certified Legend" is a Baltimore Hip-Hop artist, philanthropist, and motivational speaker who has been developing his artistic and creative skills since the age of 9. Born with Cerebral Palsy, he sets himself apart from other hip-hop artists. His mission is to inspire others to do great things and motivate people with disabilities and illnesses, of all forms, to stay strong, persevere over adversity and believe in their abilities, talents and gifts despite

obstacles, barriers, or setbacks. His delivery and style is simply groundbreaking and is anticipated to do and be something that the world has never seen before. Growing up in places like New York, Maryland, and Georgia, he reflects an undeniable east coast flow. Some of Mr. Newton's influences range from The Notorious B.I.G, Lil Wayne, Jay-Z and Kanye West.

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Policy solutions that work for low-income people