EXPLORING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN RACIAL HEALING & HEALTH

Observing the 6th National Day of Racial Healing

January 18, 2022

countyhealthrankings.org
YOUR FACILITATORS TODAY

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GROWING COMMUNITY POWER TO IMPROVE HEALTH EQUITY

DATA

EVIDENCE

GUIDANCE

STORIES
OBSERVING NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING!

Emanuel AME Church
Charleston, SC

Photo credit: NPR

Photo credit: Blackpost.org

MEET OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

Amber Johnson, JD
Equity, Inclusion and Racial Conciliation Manager
City of Charleston, SC

Crystal Robinson Rouse, BS, MEd
Chair, Youth and Education Subcommittee
City of Charleston’s Special Commission for Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation
WHAT IS RACISM?

- Can be interpersonal and structural (e.g., interacting with others negatively based on racist beliefs or institutionalized.)
- Prevents those affected by it from attaining their highest level of health, and consequently, affects the health of our entire nation.

CDC DIRECTOR DECLARES RACISM A 'SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT’
WHY ISSUE RACISM DECLARATIONS?

‣ Declaring racism as a public health crisis or emergency positions communities to...

Leverage data to prompt action  Create action steps  Embed anti-racism practices

STORY ALERT! HOW THREE JURISDICTIONS RESPOND TO RACISM

Exploring Community Actions to Respond to Racism as a Public Health Crisis

City of Minneapolis

Milwaukee County

State of Nevada

RACIAL HEALING IS KEY TO CREATING HEALTH

- Brings people together to take collective action for a more just and equitable world.
- Recognizes the need to acknowledge and tell the truth about past wrongs created by individual and systemic racism and address the present consequences.
- It can facilitate trust and build authentic relationships that bridge divides created by real and perceived differences.
- Is essential prior to making change in a community.

HOW DO I GET STARTED WITH RACIAL HEALING?

- CHR&R’s Suite of Equity Action Learning Guides
  - Introduction to Equity
  - Understand and Identify Root Causes of Inequities
  - Develop Strategies to Promote Health & Equity
- The Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE): a national network of local governments working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s National Day of Racial Healing website
Living Cities’ Commitment

The Living Cities team is holding our commitment to doing racial equity work in a way that can transform systems.

We are asking how to best move the long-term work of closing racial gaps in income and wealth through partnership with city governments, while acknowledging and affirming the crisis that public servants have been addressing.

We are committed to our vision of a united, multi-sector movement for racial equity, while recognizing the ongoing importance of physical distancing and grieving the losses of life our society is facing.
The city has supported civil rights and social justice initiatives including:

- **Public Accommodations Ordinance** providing equal enjoyment and privileges to public accommodations.
- **Fair Housing Practices Ordinance** making discrimination in housing illegal.
- Establishing the **Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprise Office**.
- Partnering with Charleston County School District and education-focused organizations and programs to improve the quality of education in our schools.
- Supporting efforts of religious institutions including the community of the Mother Emanuel AME church following the tragedy of June 2015.
- **The Charleston Illumination Project** as a response to the murders at Mother Emanuel AME Church to shine a light on the need to improve relationships between citizens and police.
- **City of Charleston Police Audit** to allow the Charleston Police Department to hire an external company to examine CPD’s policies and procedures in several areas.
- **Slavery Apology Resolution of 2018** to apologize for the City of Charleston’s role in regulating, supporting, and fostering the institution of slavery. Also, an expression of gratitude for the significant contributions made to our community by talented and skilled African Americans.
- Created the city’s **Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation office**.

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**Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation Manager**

**Primary Responsibilities**

- Development of organizational strategy and goals to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Lead Racial Equity Core Team
- Provide leadership on formatting policies, benefits, and practices
- Manage Special Commission on Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation
KEY PARTNERS

- College of Charleston
- Living Cities Closing the Gaps
- Government Alliance on Race and Equity
- National League of Cities
- Community Organizations represented on SCEIRC

The Equity Commission

- City’s Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation Manager; city staff; councilmembers. The Equity Commission was charged with making the City’s Apology for Slavery a commitment to revealing and dismantling systemic racism through policy-level change.
- 90 days to map out a vision of achieving racial equity in the community with the mission of eliminating institutionalized racism in the city.
- Diverse group of community stakeholders, subject-matter experts, and volunteers and was structured into seven subcommittees:
  - Housing and Mobility
  - History and Culture
  - Health Disparities and Environmental Justice
  - Youth and Education
  - Economic Empowerment
  - Criminal Justice
  - Internal Review
Challenges

The Complexity of Racial Issues:
• Discussions on social issues and particularly the issue of race and advancing racial equity is uncomfortable.

City Council:
• The process of bringing the full 545-page report to City Council
• As elected officials, the election cycle challenge, and fears of how they vote on this social issue of race.

Hope is essential to any political struggle for radical change when the overall social climate promotes disillusionment and despair.

— Bell Hooks —

1952 - 2021
### HOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN SUPPORT RACIAL HEALING

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<tr>
<th>Ask</th>
<th>Speak</th>
<th>Hold</th>
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<td>...questions for clarification.</td>
<td>....your truth while being confident that your viewpoint and lived experience is valuable.</td>
<td>....your elected officials accountable.</td>
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**POLL**

- Do you feel that you could adapt the strategies shared today to use within your community?
  - Yes
  - No

- Please share in the chat any challenges you anticipate adapting the strategies in your community.
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Click the link to answer a few questions about today’s webinar

REIMAGING A PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM TO BUILD AN EQUITABLE TOMORROW

Georges Benjamin, MD
Executive Director
American Public Health Association

Nastassia Walsh, MA
Associate Program Director
Community Health and Justice
National Association of Counties

Ankit Sanghavi, BDS, MPH
Executive Director
Texas Health Institute

February 15, 2022
JOIN US FOR MORE DISCUSSION – TODAY!

- When: Immediately following the webinar
- What: Interactive learning experience, opportunity to share ideas and ask questions
- How: Videoconference and/or phone via Zoom
- Why: Deepen the webinar learning, allow further exploration

THANKS TO LIVING CITIES

- CHR&R thanks Hafizah Omar for submitting the slides and information related to Living Cities shared in today’s webinar.

- To learn more about Living Cities and their work, checkout LivingCities.org
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