



Vermont Care Partners Annual Conference
Stepping Forward Together: Creating Solutions that Promote Health Equity

Conference Agenda

March 13, 2020
University of Vermont
Davis Center

8:30 - 9:30

Zoom Room 1

Welcome – Lorna Mattern, Executive Director, United Counseling Services & Senator Tim Ashe, Chittenden

Keynote - Call to action! Lead from where you are!

Vivian H. Jackson, Ph.D., ACSW

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Senior Policy Associate

National Center for Cultural Competence
Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development
Washington, DC

9:30 - 12:30

Zoom Room 1

Exploring the role of faith, faith-based organizations, and collaboration in the promotion of health and health equity

Sidney Hankerson, MD

Co-Director, Columbia University Wellness Center

Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Columbia University, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, Assistant Attending, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Research Scientist, NY Psychiatric Inst.

Dr. Hankerson will provide a 3 hour workshop exploring the role of faith, faith based organizations, and spirituality in the promotion of equity, mental health, and community involvement. This interactive session will involve faith leaders from Vermont who work actively in this area.

Objective 1 Understand the root causes of mental health inequities

Objective 2 Review different models of increasing clinical engagement, with a specific focus on partnering with faith-based organizations

Objective 3 Develop strategies to increase collaborations with faith leaders and community based providers and mental health clinicians

1:30 - 4:30

Zoom Room 2

Disrupt White Supremacy Culture in Our Organizations! A Call for Healthcare Leaders to Craft Equitable and Sustainable Responses Towards Social Justice

Mary M. Gannon, Ed.D.

Strategies for Growing Diverse Organizations

White supremacy culture is the air we breathe! We are all impacted by it, we are all a part of these structural systems but for many reasons, we avoid naming it. Using Tema Okun’s Components of White Supremacy Culture Framework, this asks participants to come ready to identify how structural oppression is operating in their organizations and in their professional work, particularly with the populations who are most at risk when receiving services. Participants will be invited action plans and best practices and return to their organizations prepared to bring voice and courage to the practice of building and sustaining humane and just healthcare delivery and organizational culture. This session is designed to be hands on, so participants who see themselves as peer leaders can feel prepared to take this work to the next level. It is participants have a working knowledge of social justice and systems of oppression and are interested in looking at creative for bringing equity and social justice work to their professional spheres of influence.

- Objective 1 Identify and explore aspects of white supremacy culture in our organizations and our role in it.
- Objective 2 Deepen our understanding of the impact of white supremacy culture - how does it maintain healthcare disparities and practices?
- Objective 3 Identify current and best practices for interrupting unjust and oppressive practices and craft individual actions to take back to your organization and begin implementing.

1:30 - 3:30

Zoom Room 1

Health Care Disparities in Vermont: Hearing Refugee and Immigrant Voices

Maria Mercedes Avila

University of Vermont Larner School of Medicine, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Nursing

Panelists:

Dr. Symphorien Sikyala

Mrs. Pari Motia

Dr. Mona Tolba

Mr. Noor Bulle

Mr. Bidur Dahal

Ms. Gina Carrera

This educational documentary “Health Care Disparities in Vermont” was developed with the goal of positively impacting the health care delivery system in the state, that in turn will result in addressing disparities and ensuring all patients have access to quality health care. Building awareness and cultural and linguistic competence in health care is an essential step towards ensuring all patient-provider communication is effective, all patients receive understandable and respectful care; and above all, building a health care workforce that is culturally responsive and sensitive to the specific needs of those we serve.

- Objective 1 Demonstrate an understanding of effective strategies for working with refugee and immigrant populations
- Objective 2 Describe health related traditions and customs in specific immigrant and refugee populations
Identify barriers and conflict between traditional western medicine and cultural, complementary, or alternative practices

Objective 3 Describe and identify manifestations of microaggressions and demonstrate an understanding of how culturally responsive care can impact health outcomes

3:40 - 4:30

Zoom Room 1

What's Culture Got to Do With It? Tackling "Isms" in Systems for People with Disabilities

Sarah Launderville

Executive Director, Vermont Center for Independent Living

Vivian H. Jackson, Ph.D., LICSW

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Senior Policy Associate Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development

Jesse C. Suter, PhD

Executive Director, Center on Disability and Community Inclusion, University of Vermont

This session will be a panel discussion, presenters all have been engaged in a Community of Practice on Cultural and Linguistic Competence in Developmental Disabilities from organizations around the state. Also on the panel will include Vivian Jackson from Georgetown University who has provided the VT team technical assistance in this work, and is a keynote presenter at this conference. Panelists will share with participants why they've committed to being part of the community of practice work and what work and learning has happened. Panelists will then challenge participants to develop their own plans of challenging racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia within the structures they work in and identify ways to shift and educate within their systems of work. Panelists include leaders with lived disability experience as well as professional organizational experience.

Objective 1 Increase participant knowledge of the intersection between policy initiatives and community practices that promote inclusion and cultural competency

Objective 2 Expand participant knowledge and understanding of the impact of racism, sexism, classism, ableism

Objective 3 Increase participant knowledge of peer driven programs within the Vermont Community of Practice



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