

APA COMPONENT ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH (2021-22)

The following summary of APA component activities relevant to social determinants of health and mental health was compiled by APA Administration and shared with the APA Presidential Task Force on Social Determinants of Mental Health and updated as necessary:

COUNCILS:

- **Council on Addiction Psychiatry**

The Council recommended a Position Statement on the Impact of Structural Racism on Substance Use and Substance Disorders at the October 2021 JRC meeting. The JRC referred the position statement to the Council on Addiction Psychiatry and the Structural Racism and Accountability Committee providing suggested edits for the Council to consider.

- **Council on Advocacy and Government Relations**

The Council recommended a Resource Document on Advocating for Anti-Racist Mental Health Policies, which is focused on dismantling Anti-Black racism at the October 2021 JRC meeting. The JRC approved the resource document and it is now available on the APA website. The JRC referred the Action Paper Addressing Bias in Law Enforcement Personnel and Correctional Staff to the Council on Advocacy and Government Relations, with support from the APA Foundation. The JRC asked the APA Foundation to provide the Council with a list of existing APA Foundation programs and resources. In addition, the JRC requested that Council, with the assistance of the APA Department of Government Relations, identify where there might be policy gaps in terms of advocacy, and, to look at potential near term resources for DBs/SAs with a separate parallel process to pull together information from the APA Foundation.

- **Council on Children, Adolescents, and Their Families**

The Council will support the work of the Task Force through its workgroups including the Council's workgroups on crisis response, immigration, suicide prevention in youth, and disparities. Council member Dr. Tresha Gibbs is also on the Task Force Clinical Workgroup, and Dr. Lisa Fortuna is on the Task Force Policy Workgroup. They are working with Council members to develop a Resource Document on Social Determinants of Mental Health in Youth. The Council developed a Position Statement on Police Interactions with Children and Adolescents in Mental Health Crisis which was approved by APA Assembly at its November 2021 meeting and referred to the JRC by the Board of Trustees at its December 2021 meeting. The Council also supported the consolidation of position statements on immigrant mental health with the Council on Quality Care.

- ***Committee on Women's Mental Health:*** The Committee plans to complement the Task Force on the Social Determinants of Mental Health through its work.

- **Council on Communications**

The JRC referred the Action Paper Addressing Structural Racism in the APA Through Public Outreach to the Structural Racism and Accountability Committee, Division of Diversity and Health Equity, Council on Communications, and the Department of Communications for input and to be made aware and of the efforts that are being made on behalf of improving structural racism and communicate these efforts to the membership and public.

- **Council on Geriatric Psychiatry**
The Council on Geriatric Psychiatry drafted an outline for a Resource Document on the Impact of Racism in Older Adults and submitted it to the Council of Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities for comments. The Council work group will now focus the resource on African Americans with the title “The Impact of Racism in Older African American Adults.”
- **Council on Healthcare Systems and Financing**
The Council recommended a revised Position Statement on the Role of Psychiatrists in Reducing Physician Health Disparities in Patients with Mental Illness at the October 2021 JRC meeting. The JRC referred the position statement back to the Committee on Integrated Care by way of the Council on Health Care Systems and Financing.
 - ***Integrated Care Committee:*** The Committee wants to develop a two-page document on the evidence on how the Collaborative Care Model can address health inequities and highlight ways to address social determinants of health.
- **Council on International Psychiatry and Global Health**
Council members are developing a Resource Document on the Mental Health Impact of Abuse of Power that addresses the mental health effects of state sanctioned violence, including political, economic, and religious examples and perspectives.
 - ***Chester Pierce Human Rights Award Nominating Committee:*** At its December 2021 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved recommendations of the Committee and the Council to award the 2022 Chester M. Pierce Human Rights Award to Stacey Abrams, in recognition of her advocacy for social equity and equal voting rights, and Gregoire Ahongbonon, in recognition of his efforts to provide mental health services and social support to the mentally ill in West Africa.
- **Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities**
The October 2021 JRC referred the Action Paper Addressing Structural Racism in the APA Through District Branch Recognition to the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities, Office of DB/SA Relations, and consultation from the Board Work Group on APA-DB Relations for input and follow-up. The Position Statement on Racism and Racial Discrimination in the Psychiatric Workplace, developed by the Council in collaboration with multiple Councils and components, was approved by the APA Assembly at its November 2021 meeting. The Board of Trustees approved the position statement at their December 2021 meeting and it is now available on the APA website.
- **Council on Psychiatry and Law**
The Council’s racism, social determinants of health, and inequities workgroup will develop a multiyear agenda, intended to identify opportunities for psychiatrists to impact determinants of mental health which will reduce the risk of persons with behavioral health conditions being incarcerated or re-offending. The work group proposes to begin by working on a position statement on mass incarceration and a position statement on the transportation of civilly committed patients in the first year while developing the multiyear agenda.
- **Council on Quality Care**
The Council recommended the Position Statement on Mental Health Needs of Immigrants and People Affected by Forced Displacement and the Position Statement on Immigration, Children, Adolescents, and Their Families which are consolidations of previous APA previous position

statements developed in collaboration with multiple Councils, to the JRC. The June 2021 JRC conditionally approved the position statements pending review by other Councils. The November 2021 APA Assembly approved the [Position Statement on Immigration, Children, Adolescents, and Their Families](#). The Board of Trustees approved the position statement at their December 2021 meeting and it is now available on the APA website. The Council is also leading efforts to consolidate and update APA position statements addressing immigrant mental health.

OTHER COMPONENTS:

- **Ethics Committee**

The APA Commentary on Ethics in Practice is intended to provide practical guidance for managing ethical dilemmas that come up in day-to-day practice. The Ethics Committee recently considered the issue of structural racism and determined that the Commentary should reference the obligation upon ethical psychiatrists to be aware of the issue and the detrimental effects that racism may have on the mental health of their patients.

APA FOUNDATION:

APA Foundation funds numerous programs that focus on minority and under-represented mental health issues, to include health disparities, social determinants of mental health, and cultural literacy. The approximate budget for these programs is \$2.7M per year, which is approximately 34% of the annual APAF budget.

- **SAMHSA Minority Fellowship**: 59 Fellowships to provide training and education to residents and medical students about the cultural aspects of mental health in racial/ethnic and underserved patient populations and improve workforce diversity among American Indian/Alaskan Natives/Hawaiian Natives, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanics. Dr. James serves as the Project Director.
- **Diversity Leadership Fellowship**: 30 Fellowships to minority psychiatry residents or those interested in minority and vulnerable populations who, through the experiential and training opportunities of the fellowship, will become well equipped to teach, administer, and provide culturally competent, evidence based mental health and substance abuse services to diverse minority groups and at-risk populations.
- **Public Psychiatry Fellowship**: 30 Fellowships for outstanding residents interested in the field of public and community psychiatry.
- **Valdiserri Correctional Psychiatry Fellowship**: Two fellowships for residents affiliated with Forensic Psychiatry programs to receive additional experience, training and mentorship in a correctional setting.
- **Helping Hands Grants**: This program was established in 2005 to encourage medical students to participate in community service activities, particularly those focused on under-served populations; raise awareness of mental illness and the importance of early recognition of illness; and build an interest among medical students in the psychiatric field. The Helping Hands Grants Program provides grants of up to \$5,000.
- **Awards for Advancing Minority Mental Health**: The Awards for Advancing Minority Mental Health were established in 2003 to recognize community organizations that have undertaken innovative and supportive efforts to:

- Raise awareness in underserved minority communities about mental illness including the need for early recognition, access to and the availability of treatment, and the cultural barriers to treatment.
- Increase access to quality mental health services for underserved minorities.
- Improve the quality of care for underserved minorities, particularly those in the public health system or with severe mental illness.

The Awards include a financial contribution of \$5,000 given to the recipient organization

- **[APAF Awards](#)** that honor BIPOC members/leaders for lifetime service, outstanding research, and achievements that improve the lives of people with mental illness.
 - Solomon Carter Fuller Award
 - John Fryer Award
 - Kun Po Soo Award
 - Simon Bolivar Award
 - Alexandra Symonds Award
 - Jeanne Spurlock Award
- **[Justice Initiatives](#)**: Provides resources and training to police, judges and county officials to help them better understand, recognize and address mental illness, with the goal of reducing the number of people with mental illness in jails.