

# THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH EQUITY TASK FORCE



## HEALING HISTORICAL TRAUMA FROM RACIST RESEARCH, POLICIES AND PRACTICES

### CONFERENCE AGENDA

Entire conference is FREE and open to everyone!

## August 13th A Walk of Healing

#### 4-5:20PM - Pre-Walk

- Park and Ride at Buffalo Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts (BAVPA)  
Shuttle Service Provided by: Canisius College & NFTA
- Convene at the Colored Musicians Club Parking Lot

#### 5:15PM - Pre-Walk Convening

At Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Archway

Sponsor and HOST: Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor

Official Welcome: African American Heritage Corridor Commission

- George Scott, Chair, Heritage Corridor Commission
- Terry Alford, Executive Director, Heritage Corridor Commission
- Audrey Clark, Project Manager, Heritage Corridor Commission

#### 5:30PM - Walk Begins!

- Police Escort to block traffic on streets while walking
- African Drummers
- Photo Journaling
- Inspirational Listening Music Playlist

#### 6:30pm - 9pm - The Freedom Wall!

Program on the Bandshell

- Dedication of the Land
- Community Gathering Song of Inspiration: Lift Every Voice and Sing
- Welcome to the Freedom Wall
- Slavery to present: Impact on health & eating
- African Cultural Dancers
- Souls of Resilience, A Passport to Healing Trauma
- TJ McKissick & Friends - Musical Selection
- Reggae Music with the Rockaz



The Ferry Street Health & Wellness Project



University at Buffalo

Clinical and Translational  
Science Institute



University at Buffalo

Community Health Equity  
Research Institute

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**August 14th**

### Virtual Conference

#### 8:00 AM Welcome and Introductions

Timothy F. Murphy MD, SUNY Distinguished Professor; Director, UB Clinical and Translational Science Institute; Director, UB Community Health Equity Research Institute, University at Buffalo

Opening Remarks. UB President Satish Tripathi

#### 8:15 AM Perspective and Report on Progress

Welcome and Introduction of Pastor George Nicholas

Rita Hubbard Robinson JD, CEO, Neewater & Associates; Associate Director, Community Health Equity Research Institute

Rev. George Nicholas MDiv, Pastor, Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church. Convener African American Health Equity Task Force

#### 8:45 AM Keynote Speaker 1

Thomas A. LaVeist, PhD, Dean and Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Health Equity, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Health, New Orleans, LA

·My Journey to Discover Why Disparities Exist... and What to Do about It.

#### 9:30 AM Questions

#### 9:45 AM Break-out Discussions 1

#### My Journey to Discover Why Disparities Exist... and What to Do about It: Discussion Session

This session will dig a bit deeper in discovery around disparities and activate the participant in practices that will promote equity. Thomas LaVeist, PhD.

COVID 19 and the Delta Variant: A Close Look at the Pandemic and the People

**Myths, Misconceptions and The Facts.** This workshop will look at the various myths and misconceptions that has caused some confusion about the COVID pandemic, and the vaccines. Experts will provide some tips and look to the participants to ask concerning questions about the vaccine, it's efficacy and whether it can be harmful.

- Alan J. Lesse, MD - Infectious Disease and Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Science and J'Leise Sosa, MD, MPH, FACOG, Obstetrics and Gynecology - General Physician, PC will discuss Myths and provide the facts. Q+A also provided.



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#### **Climate Change and Health: A Look at Extreme Heat and Intense Precipitation**

Weathering is changing in our region. What we are experiencing in heat and precipitation is being studied and mapped by university students, government officials and community members. This workshop will focus on understanding the impact of climate, both extreme heat and the frequency of precipitation on the health of the community in three workshops. Workshop 1: What's Going on? This workshop will frame the climate issue in ways that the participant can relate, mold, electric bills, flooding, and impacts on local farming. Eric Walker, Climate Justice Advisor, Energy Affordability and Equity NYSEDA

#### **Fines and Fees: A Work to Reduce Predatory Financial Burdens of the Poor**

There are undue burdens associated with being poor. Efforts have been undertaken by the Fare Fines and Fees Coalition to develop strategies designed to reduce the stresses of being impoverished and the high costs associated with living while poor.

Workshop 1: A Close Look at a Coalition's Achievements This workshop will provide examples of the work of the Fare Fines and Fees Coalition and what that means for Buffalo Residents. Jalonda Hill, Policy Fellow – Partnership for the Public Good and Samantha Nephew, Healthcare Advocate, WNY Region at Healthcare Education Project will share victories and successes

#### **Talking Race with Intent for Change**

A workshop focused on the elements of change through the lens of race and its impact on mental health. We will explore .... Looking at the foundations of mental health with providers and caregivers

Workshop 1: Changing Hearts – A Story of Mental Health in the Workplace: Yvonne T. Dubois, Therapist Educator, Leadership Coach DEI Strategist – NO WOUND UNTREATED and Kelly Wofford will share stories that will enlighten

#### **Food Sovereignty: Moving from Personal Stories to Collective Action**

Moderators: Rebekah Williams & Jarod Strohl, from Food for the Spirit

Workshop 1: Hearing the Stories We will learn about the food stories of Buffalo community members and how those stories have brought them to food sovereignty work: What about food brings them joy? What are their memories of food and where it comes from? What issues do they have today around getting good food for their families? What does food represent for them and their communities? Dennice Barr - grassroots community activist from the Fruit Belt neighborhood; Ras Jomo, Executive Vice-President of the Juneteenth Festival, musician, radio DJ, Pan-African show producer on WUFO Radio & Union Carpenter; Donna Latham-Edwards - Community Leader, Advocate & Food Systems

Organizer; Della Miller - Community Health Advocate



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**10:25 AM Break**

**10:40 AM Introduction of Keynote Speaker 2**

Alan J. Lesse MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

**Keynote Speaker 2**

Heidi L. Gartland

Chief Government and Community Relations Officer, University Hospitals, Cleveland, OH  
·The Anchor Mission: Tackling Economic & Racial Disparities to Create Equitable Health Outcomes

**11:25 AM Questions**

**11:40 AM Break-out Discussions 2**

**The Anchor Mission: Tackling Economic & Racial Disparities to Create Equitable Health Outcomes: Keynote Discussion Session**

This session will further explore ways in which the business community can help to transform community by creating investments that drive equity  
COVID 19 and the Delta Variant

**Workshop 2: Young People, Communities of Color and COVID 19 Hesitancy.** This workshop will feature two young people and their stories and why they decided to take the COVID 19 vaccine. A community health coordinator will share stories from the people and what the people have shared. Dr. Alan J. Lesse moderator and guest presenters: Nadia Vasquez – Medical Student, Jacobs School of Medicine, DeVon Patterson – Youth Organizer at Open Buffalo and Ebony White – Community Outreach Coordinator, African American Health Equity Task Force and CAI/CDC REACH Initiative - BUFFALO

**Climate Change and Health: A Look at Extreme Heat and Intense Precipitation**

Workshop 2: What do the Experts Say? This workshop will feature three experts and discuss where the hardest hit areas experiencing extreme climate issues. Maps, research findings and government initiatives will be shared. Eric Walker moderator, and guest presenters: Zoe Hamstead – Assistant Professor of City & Regional Planning – University of California, Berkeley, Oluwole (OJ) McFoy, P.E. – General Manager, Buffalo Sewer Authority and Bonnie Lange-Lawrence – Deputy Commissioner at Erie County Department of Environment and Planning



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#### **Fines and Fees: A work to Reduce Predatory Financial Burdens from the Poor**

**A Look at Local, State and National Models** This workshop will offer a panel discussion on successful models designed to bring community stakeholders together to change predatory laws that hurt disenfranchised families. Danielle Pelfrey-Duryea, MA, JD, LLM - Director, Compliance Policy Clinic - Boston University School of Law, Jalonda Hill, Policy Fellow at Partnership for the Public Good, Samantha Nephew, MA - Healthcare Advocate - WNY Region at Healthcare Education Project

#### **Talking Race with Intent for Change**

Workshop 2: Changing Minds - Getting a firm foundation for addressing mental health as an organization: Ekuia Mends-Aidoo, Cornell Certified Diversity Professional - Evergreen Health

#### **Food Sovereignty: Moving from personal stories to collective action**

Workshop 2: A focus on Food Initiatives We will learn from people in Buffalo striving to address food sovereignty issues in our communities: What are the initiatives they are working on and how do they collaborate with others? Dr. Jessica Gilbert (via video) visiting professor at SUNY Geneseo, researcher for Partnership for the Public Good and the Policy Committee Chair for the Good Food Buffalo Coalition; Allison DeHoney (via video), Founder & CEO, Urban Fruits & Veggies LLC. & Buffalo Go Green Inc.; Gail Wells, Founder & President, Freedom Gardens and Bianca Davis, Researcher at Food Systems and Healthy Communities Lab. Organizing member of Buffalo Food Equity Network, PanAfricanist, Artist, and Activist.

#### **12:20 PM Lunch Break**

#### **12:55 Welcome- Provost Scott Weber**

#### **1:05 PM Introduction of Keynote Speaker 3**

Jonathan D. Daniels, MD

Associate Director of Admissions, Office of Medical Admissions, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

#### **Keynote Speaker 3**

Donald E. Grant PhD. - Executive Director, Mindful Training Solutions, LLC

·Historical Trauma: A Contemporary Conundrum

#### **1:50 PM Questions**



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#### 2:05 PM Break-out Discussions 3

##### **Historical Trauma: A Contemporary Conundrum: Keynote Discussion Session**

Understanding the impact of centuries of suffering on various systems will be continued discussed further in this session. Donald E. Grant, PhD.

##### **COVID 19 and the Delta Variant: A Close Look at the Pandemic and the People**

Workshop 3: Delta Variant Surge: The Primary Care and Community Organization Response  
This workshop will provide information on methods and procedures used to connect with community to educate, inform and vaccinate to protect further spread of the virus and reduce COVID related fatalities. Alan J. Lesse, MD moderator and guest presenters: Myron Glick, MD – Founder and Chief Medical Officer, Jericho Road and and Dee Johnson, Executive Director – National Witness Project

##### **Climate Change and Health: A Look at Extreme Heat and Intense Precipitation**

Workshop 3: What is community doing? This workshop will layout three community-based initiatives to address climate and how community can get involved and galvanize efforts to address the impacts on the communities in which they live. Eric Walker moderator, and guest presenters: Eddie Bautista, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance and Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Executive Director – People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH Buffalo)

##### **Fines and Fees: A work to Reduce Predatory Financial Burdens from the Poor**

Workshop 3: Call to Action, the work continues This workshop will provide information about current laws, policies and regulations that need to be changed and what you can do to help. Jalonda Hill, Policy Fellow – Partnership for the Public Good and Samantha Nephew, Healthcare Advocate, WNY Region at Healthcare Education Project

##### **Talking Race with Intent for Change**

Workshop 3: Changing Actions – Organizations working to implement people focused cultures for employees, clients, and customers: Chantelle Thompson

##### **Food Sovereignty: Moving from personal stories to collective action**

Workshop 3: A Look to the Future of Food Systems Ownership We will discuss and envision how we can work together to ensure community ownership of the food system. The insights gained through our workshop will encourage BFEN members and welcome all else in the



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community to effectively work together towards food sovereignty and food justice for Buffalo. Panelists and participants will discuss ways to create wealth building opportunities throughout the food system.

#### **2:45 PM Conference Evaluation**

#### **2:50 PM Reporting Back from Workshop Groups**

#### **3:10 PM COVID-19 Pandemic: Community Response**

Alan J. Lesse MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo

Closing Remarks

Rev. George Nicholas MDiv, Convener, African American Health Equity Task Force

#### **3:30 PM Adjourn**