

Acknowledgements

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| Peer Advocate | Niki Mejia |
| Peer Advocate | Barbara Berry |

Special Thanks

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Event Consultation | LA Jones & Associates |
| Initial Event Coordinator | Emily Esparza, MSW |
| Event Coordination | Laura McCoy |

Our Mission

To deploy culturally competent mental health counselors and peer advocates to assist no and low-income individuals, groups and communities in need of mental/emotional support and who identify with the African American experience.

Our Vision

To ensure socioeconomically disadvantaged women, families and transitioning youth in the East Bay have access to free, high quality mental health counseling, case management, and supportive services; and local opportunities to maximize their potential and be part of a thriving, multicultural community network, connected to and respectful of the African American cultural experience.

G.O.A.L.S. For Women
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G.O.A.L.S. For Women, Inc.

In conjunction with
California Black Women's Health Project
present



Deepening The Dialogue

Awakening Community Change!

Saturday, August 29, 2009, 10am-4pm
Malcolm X Elementary School
1731 Prince Street, Berkeley CA

Welcome



African Americans across the lifespan are suffering from a lack of access to culturally competent health care services. During the current economic crisis this suffering continues to deepen as parents struggle to keep their families safe and healthy. There is an urgent need for local community members, leaders, mental health professionals, and families to come together to discuss their experiences and needs.

This “Deepening the Dialogue” event will be the first opportunity since the financial crisis for local community members to meet and begin to intensely learn about and discuss the unmet mental health needs and historical barriers to access issues. The goal is to ensure culturally sensitive and competent services are put in place to serve the African American/Black community.

“It is past time to do the work that is needed to meet our communities mental and emotional health needs. Now that we’re sitting down to do the work, we need to halt the denial that everything is fine. Open, honest dialogue is what is required but everyone needs to speak out and be heard to help our community heal.”

Gwen Wilson, LCSW
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
G.O.A.L.S. for Women, Inc.

Facilitators



Alona Clifton has many years of activism and engagement in political, social and economic grassroots efforts. Her lifelong commitment to social justice has led her to work with community organizations ranging from Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency to Black Alliance for Just Immigration to the Jack London Aquatic Center. She has served her community as a Peralta Community College Trustee, Chief of Staff to Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, and as a foundation grants director. Alona now works as a consultant to non-profit organizations with an emphasis on infrastructure and capacity-building.



Crystal Crawford, Esq., is CEO of the California Black Women's Health Project (CABWHP), where she performs legislative, educational, and policy advocacy to improve the health of California's Black women and girls. Prior to joining CABWHP in 2000, Crystal gained advocacy experience as a litigation associate with premier corporate law firms in Los Angeles, Boston and New York. After spending several years in the private for-profit sector, she decided to transition to the non-profit, public interest sector. Crawford serves on a variety of Boards.



Jumoke Hinton Hodge is a community and youth development consultant who has worked in the Bay Area for the last two decades. Jumoke is co-founder of the Parent Leadership and Engagement Academy Initiative (PLEA), a community-building project dedicated to the education and support of West Oakland parents and families. PLEA is dedicated to creating meaningful and powerful collaboration among parents of all West Oakland school children, a goal that is also served by the West Oakland Education Task Force (WOTEF).

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Gloria Morrow, Ph.D. is one of the nation's leading clinical psychologists. As a top-rated professional with profound insight in her trade she has shared her expertise on many topics including depression, anxiety, marriage and relationship issues, and a variety of issues relative to people of color from all ethnic backgrounds. She has become well known throughout the faith community because of her willingness to address the issue of mental illness in the church and the role of pastors and church leaders in granting permission for parishioners to seek mental health services outside the church when appropriate.

During her early career she taught in undergraduate and graduate psychology

programs. She has served as Associate Professor of Psychology at University of LaVerne, in LaVerne CA, and Associate Professor at Cal State University Fullerton, and has presented scholarly papers all over the world including at the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

In addition to her published work in scholarly journals and books, she has been cited in critically acclaimed national publications such as *Psychology Today*, *Jet*, *Heart and Soul*, *Essence*, *Woman's Day*, and *Black Enterprise*. Dr. Gloria has been interviewed on a variety of radio talk shows and is a frequent guest on Michael Baisden's radio show and has appeared as an expert guest on his television show. She is a recurring guest on CNN, has been interviewed on television shows such as the Bobby Jones Gospel Show and Jazzpel.

Because of her concern about the mental health needs of people during a depressed economy, Dr. Gloria is currently on the **Ask Dr. Gloria Tour**, visiting select cities to respond to mental health and relationship questions by audience members and provide vital resources to those in need.

Dr. Gloria holds an earned PhD in Clinical Psychology from Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, CA; a Master of Science degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA; and a Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology from the University of La Verne, La Verne, CA.

Program

- 9:00 am **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 9:45 am **Invocation** by **Awon Ohun Omnira**, Voices of Freedom
- 10:15 am **Welcoming & Introduction to Panel Discussion** by **Crystal Crawford, Esq.**
- Panel Discussion with Gigi Crowder, Linda Compton, Carolyn Thomas-Russell, Francine Ramsey, Janet Stickmon, Shawn Taylor, Hazel Wesson & Gwen Wilson**
- *Facilitated by Crystal Crawford, Esq.*
- 11:30 am **Introduction to Breakout Discussion Sessions** by **Honorable Jumoke Hinton-Hodge**
- Breakout Discussion Sessions A**
"Trauma & Mental Illness in the Black Family" with **GiGi Crowder**
- "Homophobia in the Black Church"* with **Francine Ramsey & Hazel Wesson**
- 12:30 pm **Lunch** featuring traditional soul foods (with Pan Ecstasy reggae band, networking opportunity & chair massage)
- 1:45 pm **Keynote Address with Gloria Morrow, PhD**
- 2:30 pm **Breakout Discussion Sessions B**
"Surviving Domestic Violence" with **Carolyn Thomas-Russell**
- "Intimacy & Relationships"* with **Shawn Taylor, Janet Stickmon & Linda Compton**
- 3:30 pm **Open Discussion on Breakout Sessions**
- 3:45 pm **Special Acknowledgements / Forum Wrap Up** by **Honorable Alona Clifton**
- 4:00 pm **Forum Ends**

Panelists



Linda Compton is a Personal Life Consultant, Coach, Teacher, Counselor, Diversity Trainer, Facilitator, Mediator, Arbitrator, Retreat Facilitator, and Planner. She supports and assists individuals, couples, families, and groups to see clearly what they perceive as problems and/or issues. She creates and facilitates The Endless Dreamer Spiritual Retreats, is a presenter at the Black Women Health & Healing Conference, Whole Woman Conference, and the African American Health Summit. Since 1994, she has facilitated



Gigi Crowder is the Ethnic Services Manager for Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services. She has worked in the mental health field for the last 20 years. In 2002, she was inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame as an acknowledgement for her dedicated work with this special population. Keenly aware of the injustices facing African Americans with psychiatric disabilities, her new position allows her to advocate change to better address disparities facing mental health consumers from all communities.



Francine Ramsey is executive director and co-founder of Zuna Institute, the oldest and only national Black organization whose primary mission is to serve and support Black lesbians. She has been a community activist for over 20 years working with civil rights organizations and various LGBT organizations of color. She has served on several boards and committees including NIA Collective, Oakland Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club, and the Outreach advisory committee for the first national health study for African American lesbians.



Janet Stickmon, author of *Crushing Soft Rubies*, is a teacher, writer, and spoken word artist whose work has influenced hundreds of adolescents and adults over the last ten years. She holds a Master's of the Arts Degree in Religion and Society from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and is now working on a Master's of the Arts Degree in Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University. She currently lives in Oakland, CA with her husband, writer and performer, Shawn Taylor and teaches at a high school in Richmond, CA.



Shawn Taylor is a performance poet, martial artist, spiritual seeker, and philosophy graduate student. Taylor is the author of *A Tribe Called Quest's People's Instinctive Travels And the Paths of Rhythm (33 1/3)* and *Big Black Penis: Misadventures in Race and Masculinity*, which won the 2006 DIY Book Festival Award for best self-published book and has since been published by Lawrence Hill Books. Taylor holds degrees in philosophy and religion but says he doesn't believe in any dogma. A native of Brooklyn New York, he currently lives in Oakland .



Carolyn Thomas-Russell, MSW, has served for twenty-two years as executive director of the domestic violence group, A Safe Place. Her excellent leadership has been instrumental in building a collaborative committed to decreasing violence in the community. Carolyn is a founding member of the Workforce Development Agency whose mission is to establish by-laws, personnel policy and procedures and job development for the homeless .



Hazel Wesson has served as Program Director since May 2009, of the Another Road to Safety at the Prescott-Joseph Center for Community Enhancement in Oakland, CA.. She manages the day-to-day programmatic aspects of the ARS program, coordinates supplemental services, programs, family engagement activities, events, and resources, not clinically related, for ARS families. She also manages the West Oakland Food Pantry and provides staff support to the West Oakland Community Collaborative. Ms. Wesson has been an AIDS activist for over 17 years.



Gwen Wilson, founder, executive director and CEO of G.O.A.L.S. for Women (Greater Options and Assistance for Life-long Success) in Berkeley California, is a licensed clinical social worker with a master's degree in community mental health. She has more than 13 years experience advocating for high quality mental health and supportive services for underserved African American and other women of color and their families, and has over 9 years providing direct clinical psychotherapy and dual diagnosis services.