



WEBINAR ON

Mental Illness in Communities of Black and Indigenous People of Color

27 OF FEBRUARY 2023

18:00 GMT/ 13:00 EST



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Dr. Shervin Assari



Charles R. Drew University
of Medicine and Science

A Private University with a Public Mission



Dr. Shervin Assari is an associate professor and researcher with the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles, California. Prior to his current position he was a faculty member at the University of Michigan and the University of California - Los Angeles. Dr. Assari received his Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan and a Medical Degree from Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences. He has received many awards including becoming a fellow at the Scientific Association for Public Health in Iran (SAPHIR). His research and clinical interests lie in the observation of patterns of mental health disorders in BIPOC.



Ms. Michele Martin



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Ms. Michele Martin has spent the past 15 years working in health and wellness with the collegiate population. She started as a Fitness Director and worked her way to an Associate Director with campus recreation prior to being tasked with creating a new Student Wellness & Health Promotion department. She has played integral roles in helping to design and open two campus recreation centers, which have received national recognition within the field of campus recreation. Additionally, she has served as chair of university staff council, in multiple volunteer capacities in the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA), and as a Clinical Advisory Board Member for the Jordan Porco Foundation (a suicide prevention organization in CT).

She specializes in building infrastructure, process improvement, training and development, and building partnerships. Her passion for mental health was realized through her own lived experience, volunteering with the National Alliance of Mental Illness, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and Postpartum Support International. She volunteers in the community and even received a "Key to the City" for organizing a group to distribute over 90K reusable face masks during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr. Catharine McKinely



Dr. Catharine McKinely has been a professor, researcher, and social worker at the Tulane University School of Social Work since 2013. Her work focuses on family health, women's health, sex differences, violence, mental and behavioral health and the historical oppression of indigenous peoples. Indigenous communities face unique stressors; thus, this has encouraged Dr. McKinley to explore the ways in which non-indigenous people can work with such communities to improve health outcomes.

As she specializes in the health of indigenous communities, she continues to conduct extensive research in tribal communities and is working to develop an evidence-based programs to prevent substance abuse and violence in the aforementioned communities. She is dedicated to taking a pluralistic approach to such issues by catering to the particular needs of the communities. She works by incorporating a wellness approach and the mental, physical and spiritual approaches of health.



Mr. Gabriel Johnson



Gabriel Johnson is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar. His work focuses on the experiences of Black men and how the intersection of heterosexism, racism, and gender influences their mental health. By using critical methodologies, he aims to use asset and culturally based approaches to inform research and intervention to improve the lives of Black men. Such approaches have included feminist practices, participatory action research and community engagement models.

Ms. Katherine Delgado



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Katherine has worked in the nonprofit sector for 15 years supporting crisis services and trauma-informed programs. Her work began at the local crisis and 2-1-1 referral line, evolving into program leadership with a special interest around understanding systems and analytical applications while keeping a heart for the frontline work of serving and supporting those who do critical work. She specializes in process and data management, incorporating analytics into strategic development, change impact consideration, and the streamlining and operationalizing of system training, literacy and documentation. She promotes partnership collaboration to optimize systems and leverage organizational strategies, leading to collective impact opportunities, publications, and receiving the prestigious Presidential Volunteer Service Award in Service-Learning which honors those who use their skills to solve tough challenges.

Katherine is currently a technical consultant and mentor in nonprofit program data analytics, data privacy, and technology at Nashville Software School and Geek Cause, serves on iCarol's Crisis Product Advisory Board, and volunteers as a board member for Nashville's Girls In Tech. She often serves as a translator, storyteller, and mobilizer between the technical side of the work and the experience, helping stakeholders identify opportunities for innovation and improvement leading to more agile progression of implementations and improvements. She earned her Baccalaureate of Science in Psychology from Cumberland University in 2010.

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