



HAMPTON ROADS SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD TOGETHER

APRIL 11-12, 2022
CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

FROM THE ORGANIZERS

Welcome to the 2023 Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference!

Society's most pressing challenges — from racial justice to economic inequality to climate change and far beyond — have profound implications for creating a more equitable and socially just future for all. Yet all too frequently people and groups from different sectors working on similar issues never have the opportunity for meaningful conversation and interaction with others working on similar justice and equity-related issues.

The purpose of the Hampton Roads Social Justice conference is to facilitate deeper interdisciplinary and cross-sector dialogue by bringing together researchers, policy makers, nonprofit organizations, community activists, business leaders, and the faith community from across the country for two days of panels, workshops, and networking on the pressing social justice issues present in our world today.

This conference would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Cities United, Anthem Health-Keepers+, Thrivent, and Made to Flourish, and the solidarity and vast efforts of all of you who have come from near and far to work toward building a better world together.

Thanks for everything you do!

Sincerely,

The Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference Organizing Committee

Dr. Laine Briddell

Center for Crime, Equity, and Justice Research
and Policy, Christopher Newport University

Charles Cheek

Made To Flourish Hampton Roads,
Hampton Roads Christian Community
Development Network

Dr. Johnny Finn

Department of Sociology,
Social Work, & Anthropology,
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Rev. Kerry Greenhill

Caring Neighbors Program Manager,
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Justice Research and Policy,
Christopher Newport University

William Shackleford

Shackleford Designs LLC

Dr. Linda Waldron

Center for Education
Research and Policy,
Christopher Newport University

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, APRIL 10

8 - 9 A.M.	On-site check in and breakfast
9 - 10:30 A.M.	Opening Plenary
10:45 - 11:45 A.M.	Morning Sessions
NOON - 1 P.M.	Networking lunch
1 - 2:30 P.M.	Afternoon Sessions 1
2:45 - 3:45 P.M.	Afternoon Sessions 2
4 - 6 P.M.	Non-Profit Fair and Poster Session

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

8 - 9 A.M.	On-site check in and breakfast
9 - 10:30 A.M.	Morning Sessions 1
10:45 - 11:45 A.M.	Morning Sessions 2
NOON - 1 P.M.	Networking lunch
1 - 2:30 P.M.	Afternoon Sessions 1
2:45 - 3:45 P.M.	Afternoon Sessions 2
4 - 5 P.M.	Keynote Address

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

8 - 9 A.M.	On-site check in and breakfast
9 - 10:30 A.M.	Morning Sessions 1
10:45 - 11:45 A.M.	Morning Sessions 2
NOON - 1 P.M.	Networking lunch
1- 2:30 P.M.	Afternoon Sessions
2:45 - 4 P.M.	Closing Plenary

DAVID STUDENT UNION SECOND FLOOR



CCE ENGAGE ROOM | DSU, FIRST FLOOR

From the second floor lobby, go down the main stairs and the CNU Engage room will be ahead on the left.



LIBRARY THEATRE | TRIBBLE LIBRARY, SECOND FLOOR

Go down the main stairs of the DSU and exit the doors straight ahead. The Tribble Library is directly across the plaza, past the fountain. Go up the stairs curving to the left, turn right and head down the hallway. Follow signs for the Library Theatre, halfway down the hall on the left.

MONDAY SCHEDULE

8 - 9 A.M.

Breakfast and registration

David Student Union, second floor lobby

9 - 10:30 A.M.

OPENING KEYNOTE

10:45 - 11:45 A.M.

MORNING SESSIONS

WASHINGTON

DEQ Tidewater Air Monitoring Evaluation Project

Grace Holmes | Virginia DEQ

Charles Turner | Virginia DEQ

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will give an overview of particulate matter and the air quality index, explain why they are relevant to communities, and how PurpleAir sensors measure them. A demonstration will then take place with a PurpleAir sensor temporarily set up on site at CNU. This will involve an in-depth dive into how the PurpleAir Map functions, including how to view data and manipulate the software. DEQ will also briefly review the goals and background of the Tidewater Air Monitoring Evaluation (TAME) project, which is currently deploying PurpleAir sensors in the East End of Newport News and Lamberts Point in Norfolk.

JEFFERSON

Building Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Through an Inclusion and Equity Lens

Frank Robinson | Econsult Solutions

Electric vehicles are going to revolutionize the current infrastructure and future of economic mobility. However, like other economic shifts, often people of color are the last to benefit from economic and health impacts, thus, continuing the gaps in wealth building and delay in economic parity. The presentation is designed to talk about the future electric vehicles, the impact on regions and nations, and give thought of how to advance in an equitable way to ensure we all can participate in economic impacts.

BOARDROOM

The Invisible Black Woman

Syntheia N. Newby | Greater Works Consulting Group LLC

The impact of racial, economic, educational, health, housing, and environmental inequities faced by disadvantaged and under-represented communities is felt at the community, family, and individual levels. At the individual level, injustices experienced by Black women are often minimized or, worse, overlooked in place of prioritization of majority race groups, such as Black men and White women. This social justice phenomenon has been explored through the intersectional invisibility theory. It is revisited in this presentation as we critically assess the social justice landscape and explore opportunities to broaden the conversation.

MADISON

Domestic Violence: A Community Approach

Christina Bellino | Newport News Victim Services

This presentation includes advocates from several organizations and agencies that work with survivors of domestic violence discussing how domestic violence affects us all. We will discuss what services are available and how the community can support efforts to assist victims, survivors and community partners.

HARRISON

Emerging Leaders: Supporting Youth for Transformation

Mike Ramer | The Focus Center, Fuller Seminary, CCDA

Shana Hicks | Breaking Barriers, Limitless Church, Young Life

Young people are a crucial but often forgotten part of social justice movements. This workshop explores ways for organizations to support youth leadership in community transformation. We explore ways to partner with public schools and churches for student wellbeing and utilize Paulo Freire's critical pedagogy to develop student-led analysis and praxis.

CCE ENGAGE FIRST FLOOR

Refugee Housing: Challenges and Barriers

Andria Timmer | Christopher Newport University

Kristen Larcher | Catholic Commonwealth Charities

Tracy Nguyen | Christopher Newport University

Finding and procuring affordable and adequate housing for newly resettled refugees is one of the largest challenges in refugee resettlement. This panel will discuss the reasons why housing provides such a challenge and will work collaboratively to pose solutions to this problem.

NOON - 1 P.M.

NETWORKING LUNCH

Ballroom

1 - 2:30 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION 1

SHORT TALKS: CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

WASHINGTON

Mapping Gun Violence: Promises, Challenges, and Scenarios in Hampton Roads

Alexander Fella | CityWork / Christopher Newport University

Carolanne Briscoe | Youth Activism Project

Since 2018, gun violence has steadily increased in Hampton Roads. This research examines the increased trends of gun violence using GIS and spatial analysis, and focuses on redlining, transportation access, food access, and affordable housing. By using spatial statistics to analyze the relationship between gun violence and this broader set of socio-economic dynamics, this study aims at highlighting deeper structural issues in Hampton Roads that give contours to the rise in shootings. This research offers a set of potential policy options that move municipal and community responses to gun violence beyond a 'prevention/intervention' divide, and toward a deeper understanding of gun violence in Hampton Roads.

WASHINGTON

Prisons of the Imagination

Dan Avant Blachman | Old Dominion University

This presentation will discuss preliminary findings of a proposed study of representations of prisons in film and television depictions of future societies. Work that has been done on this topic largely ignores the ways futuristic prison imaginaries perpetuate white supremacy and generally tends to whitewash prisons of the future and push aside the all-important lens of race. This research responds to this gap in knowledge and draws from Adrienne Maree Brown's theorization of emergent strategy and traditions of Afrofuturism. This discussion will seek to unearth new avenues of study and analysis into the ways mass media has the power both to limit citizens' ability to envision anti-racist, anti-carceral futures as well as to potentially energize the public imagination and facilitate progress toward liberation.

WASHINGTON

Understanding Prosecutorial Decision-Making in Domestic Violence Cases: A Focus on Context as a Preliminary Step

Ruth A Triplett | Old Dominion University

Narissa Haakmat | Old Dominion University

Randy Gainey | Old Dominion University

In the summer of 2022, two researchers from ODU spent time observing assistant commonwealth attorneys prosecuting cases before the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in one Virginia city. The intent was to establish some groundwork for understanding prosecutorial discretion. Spurred by the number of domestic violence cases that ended by being nolle prossed or dismissed, the researchers started their framework for understanding prosecutorial decision making by establishing the context in which they make decisions. Four contextual factors form the focus of this presentation: Virginia law governing domestic violence cases, the structure of the criminal justice system in Virginia, policies of the office of the Commonwealth Attorney, and caseload.

WASHINGTON

Can the Police Reduce Fear of Crime?

If so, Can they do so Equally Across Racial Lines?

Randy Gainey | Old Dominion University

Allison Chappell | Old Dominion University

Daniel Pryce | Old Dominion University

In attempts to "protect and serve," the police provide many services to the community, including attempts to reduce fear of crime and victimization. Unfortunately, different demographic groups, often persons of color, tend to have very different (more negative) experiences with the police and this likely affects the ability of law enforcement to serve, protect and reduce the fear of crime among certain racial and ethnic groups. In this presentation, we analyze recently collected self-reported data from Hampton Roads residents to: 1) describe racial/ethnic differences in attitudes toward and experiences with the police, 2) test for racial/ethnic differences in the fear of crime, and 3) estimate and compare how models relating attitudes and experiences with the police in terms of the fear of crime differ across racial and ethnic groups. The results are discussed in light of theory, policy and practical difficulties in terms of changing current practices to promote social justice in the Hampton Roads area and beyond.

JEFFERSON

Challenges and Solutions to Creating Safe Spaces for Queer Students in Schools

Hannah Ajluni | Education Consultant

Cynthia Connell | English Teacher, Gildersleeve Middle School

Leah Horrigan Smith | School Counselor, Point Option

Educators and communities must work to intentionally create safe spaces for LGBTQ+ students in public schools. Simply not discriminating is not enough. This panel will address challenges on individual and systemic levels, including the current political climate, community backlash, banned books, curriculum restrictions, and school culture. Panelists will comment on the discrepancy between student and teacher perceptions of safe spaces in schools, and give solutions for teachers and community members to provide safe spaces for queer students inside and outside of the classroom.

BOARD ROOM

CVI and Youth: What is Our Role and Where to Begin

Kaaleah Jones | Abu Unity

LaTonya “Abys” Denson | Victor Program Director

This session offers a comprehensive overview of Community Violence Intervention (CVI) strategies and tactics and the collective ecosystem through which these strategies are crafted and implemented. This session will highlight youth voice and experiences and the integral role they play in the world of CVI by educating young people and their support systems on where they fit into the ecosystem, different avenues of engagement, and a framework on how to embark upon their journey into advocacy. Participants will engage with facilitators as they absorb, learn, and observe CVI methodologies and best practices for effective engagement.

MADISON

The Mobile Justice Tour, Legislative Advocacy that Works

Lillie Branch-Kennedy | ?

Richard Walker

Experienced justice reform advocates encourage and provide important and necessary information and on-site services to influence the introduction, enactment, or modification of justice-related legislation. The Mobile Justice Tour campaign has contributed to passing several important pieces of justice-related legislation that exist today.

HARRISON

Hospital-based Violence Intervention: Violence is a Healthcare Issue

Ashley Xavier | VHHA Foundation

Rachelle Hunley and Darrell Anderson |

Virginia Commonwealth University

January Serda and Felicia Wilson | Riverside Regional

Angela Parker and Holly Stevens | Sentara Norfolk

General Hospital

Kamron Blue | Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters

By using a public health approach to violence, the focus moves to root causes of violence in hopes of preventing further injury. Hospital-based violence intervention programs are multidisciplinary programs that combine the efforts of medical staff with trusted community-based partners to provide safety planning, case management services, and trauma-informed care to violently-injured people. Community violence happens between unrelated individuals who may or may not know each other and generally occurs outside the home. It can be a devastating result of systemic racism and is currently the leading cause of death for Black/ African American men ages 15-34. The Virginia HVIP Collaborative began in 2019 with funding from the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Capitalizing on the experience and expertise of Virginia's first HVIP at VCU, the VHHA Foundation has implemented 5 community violence HVIPs across the Commonwealth. This session will address what an HVIP is, what it is to take a public-health approach, and why violence is a healthcare issue. In addition, panelists will share why they got into HVIP work, why they view it as rewarding, the challenges of building and implementing a new program, and their hopes for the future of violence prevention.

2:45 - 3:45 P.M.

WASHINGTON

AFTERNOON SESSION 2

Rewriting the Narrative: The History and Redevelopment of Newport News

Dayman Parrish | Christopher Newport University

Brooke Convington | Christopher Newport University

John Finn | Christopher Newport University

Tina Vick | Councilwoman for South District 3

In this panel-style discussion, participants will discuss the history of the Southeast Newport News area. The issues concerning redlining and the narratives surrounding the area due to the systematically racist policies set in place in the past will be the key topic discussed. In addition to this information, they will discuss the redevelopment project in progress and what can be done to assist areas affected by prejudicial policies like the Southeast District. This presentation will provide professional and personal insight regarding the betterment of Southeast Newport News. The goal of this panel discussion is to inform participants about the issues still lingering due to redlining policies, what is being done in the community to counteract this issue, and what they can do in their respective communities to improve areas similar to the Southeast District.

JEFFERSON

Behavioral Health Court Dockets in the Hampton Roads

Judge Correy Smith | Hampton General District Court

Behavioral health court dockets provide a unique opportunity to divert individuals away from incarceration and provide them with a mental health treatment plan. The Hampton Roads region now

has these diversionary court dockets in multiple jurisdictions. This presentation will focus upon how the goals and vision of these dockets and how they operate in the Hampton Roads. The presentation will also present the data they have obtained regarding the short-term and long-term outcomes of individuals that have been on this docket. The session will conclude with discussion and question and answer regarding these dockets.

BOARD ROOM

Going Beyond the Vote

Delegate Marcia Price | State Delegate, Newport News

Voting is extremely important, but what can we do beyond the vote to create the world we all deserve? This interactive workshop will highlight relevant aspects of civic education, the importance of residents in the legislative process, and best practices for advocacy for policy changes.

MADISON

Care-frontation and its use in Academia

Newzaira Khan | Old Dominion University

Melissa Miller-Felton | Old Dominion University

This workshop intends to highlight “care-frontation,” known as confronting another person with care, in the hopes of developing more productive dialogue. Drawing from evidence-based practice, practicing social workers Melissa Miller and Newzaira Khan will introduce motivational interviewing skills that can support “care-frontation” in the setting in which you work. These skills include ways to help you navigate difficult conversations in academia, fieldwork, organizational meetings, faculty-student interactions, and many more! This workshop will prepare you to build a quick and efficient route to “micro-trust,” “transactional trust,” and “sustainable trust.” These tools can be crafted to meet a diverse range of emotional needs. At the end of this workshop, you will be equipped with effective strategies to tackle situations through understanding the function of feelings, initiating transparent communication, and the use of appropriate phrases, all while maintaining professionally-caring boundaries. So, bring your worst-case scenarios, feelings of angst, and perhaps a little skepticism. “Let’s initiate care-frontation.”

HARRISON

Youth Development Program Uses Conservation Agriculture to Bring Hope

Hayden Blythe | Hope For Suffolk

Sarah DePhillips | Hope For Suffolk

Michelle Herman | Peninsula Healing Gardens/Six House, Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church

Telvin Howe | Peninsula Healing Gardens/Emmaus Church
HRVA

Communal work has the power to transform lives of high school students, the potential for conservation agriculture to heal soil and feed nations, and the possibility of creating more hope in our world and local communities. Join us to hear about the unique impact of paid internships for high schoolers on organic vegetable farms in Hampton Roads. Hope For Suffolk has been running such paid internships since 2010 and we’re excited to share our results and lessons learned. By eliminating barriers to entry for marginalized youth, providing extensive training and feedback for each intern, and hosting life-skills workshops that enable teens to thrive, we pursue social and economic justice. Also, learn how this initiative is being replicated in other Hampton Roads cities to reach the youth and provide opportunity for them and their families.

4 - 6 P.M.

NON-PROFIT FAIR AND POSTER SESSION
Ballroom

TUESDAY SCHEDULE

8 - 9 A.M.

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

David Student Union, second floor lobby

9 - 10:30 A.M.

MORNING SESSION 1

WASHINGTON

My Brother's Keeper/My Sister's Keeper: A Youth Development Approach to Violence Prevention

Bridget Adams | Newport News Public Schools
Youth Development

Michael Nichols | Newport News Public Schools
Youth Development

Christina Buckingham | Newport News Public
Schools Youth Development

Terry Fenner | Heritage High School

Shasta Rodriguez | Denbigh High School

Kimtrese Slaughter | Hummingbird Counseling

The My Brother's Keeper/My Sister's Keeper program is a prevention and intervention initiative offered in 5 Newport News Public Schools, with more than 250 student participants. The program targets youth who have demonstrated aggressive behaviors, who have had repeat disciplinary infractions, or other challenges which impact their education and overall well-being and focuses on empowerment (skill building), future orientation, academic achievement, and mental health. The presentation will discuss the program of work, implementation strategies, data, and student stories which demonstrates the program's effectiveness. The presentation will feature a student panel; participants highlight the power of healthy relationships and bonding with nurturing adults, creating a future orientation, and building skills and social capital, the impact of youth trauma and experiences on their behavior and decision, and the effectiveness of targeted interventions in changing the narrative for youth. The presentation will also address how community collaborations, specifically between school divisions, community organizations, and government agencies are critically important in the fight against youth violence.

JEFFERSON

Fair Housing And People with Disabilities

Mahalia “Mally” Dryden-Mason | ndation.org

Under the Federal Fair Housing Act and The Virginia Fair Housing Law, individuals with disabilities have the right to request Reasonable Accommodations and Reasonable Modifications. These are adjustments, changes and exceptions to rules, policies, services and practices, allows individuals with disabilities to have use and enjoyment of their units, public and common use areas, plus all of the amenities available to able bodied individuals. This is part of the law many have no idea exists. Landlords should know about these equalizers they do not share information about and in many cases have no idea that they are required to make those changes. An example would be a landlord with a “no pets policy”. Though the policy exists and is part of the agreement, if a resident or their guests has a service, assistance, companion or emotional support animal, they get an exception to the policy.

BALLROOM

Earth Observations for Environmental Justice: How NASA Data Can Support Community Action

Amanda Clayton | NASA DEVELOP

Lauren Childs-Gleason | NASA DEVELOP

Julianne Liu | NASA DEVELOP

Shobhana Gupta | NASA Applied Sciences

This session will highlight how data and information from space can help inform fair and just decisions and policies here on Earth. Satellite data from NASA and other space agencies are a freely available resource that can be harnessed by communities to better understand spatial variations in their surrounding environments and their implications on human health. With the goal of empowering communities to harness the vantage point of space in their advocacy of just environmental practices and policies, NASA aims to build awareness of and access to freely available Earth observation data and products. This session provides a brief introduction to the science of remote sensing and specific satellites that provide insights into surface temperature, flooding, air quality, and land cover, and discusses several example projects where NASA partnered with non-profits and local municipalities on environmental justice-focused projects, which highlight how satellite data can help inform decision-making processes by discerning spatial differences across cities for issues including urban heat islands, tree canopy coverage, and flood risk. In addition, it will provide an overview of relevant data sources and resources for using satellite data, and describe opportunities to engage with NASA and partner organizations on future EJ projects and activities.

BOARD ROOM

Truth-telling and Repair: A Next Step Forward for Societal Wellbeing and Structural Change

Michelle Ferrigno Warren | Virago Strategies

Rev. Terrance McKinley | Sojourner's

Rev. NL Transou | Agape Child & Family Services

The health and wellbeing of our racialized society remains significantly fractured. Radical truth telling and repair, led by frontline, faith-rooted practitioners is an integral way forward toward the beloved community. The US has funded and overseen reconciliation and healing commissions in over 40 countries, across 4 continents, while the US has yet to benefit from this type of structural support. Without truth there can be no hope of repair. This workshop will help build context providing participants with: historical and policy background of South Africa's TRC efforts and US AID's global efforts outside the US, foundational, theological teaching on truth-telling and repair, practical steps to take to move these practices forward in local contexts, all while connecting that work with both national & grassroots efforts, affording the most significant, systemic impact for societal change and wellbeing.

MADISON

Race and Health Inequity: A Problem Created for Us, Being Solved by Us

Rickeya Smith | Virginia Peninsula Foodbank

Vanessa Hill | Sentara Health Equity / Project Nana, Inc.

Alisa Lofton | Alzheimer's Association

Briana Ricks | American Heart Association

Priyanka Montagna | Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and Eastern Shore

There is a substantial history of racial inequality in regards to issues of health. With health inequities being of extreme concern for traditionally marginalized groups of individuals, these underserved populations tend to suffer more from health inequities than those that have adequate representation. This panel, made up of women representing underserved populations, will illustrate the problems that health inequities have created in the Black and Brown communities from multiple health and nutrition aspects, and will also offer up real-world solutions that are being instituted in communities to solve this problem and make health equity a reality for all, not just some.

CCE ENGAGE FIRST FLOOR

Targeted Opioid Prevention and Strategies for Black Families

Shuntay Z. Tarver | Old Dominion University

Chaniece Winfield | Old Dominion University

Tamika Lett | T.L. Payne Consulting LLC

Hampton Roads has experienced a 140% increase in Black people dying from opioid overdose since the pandemic. This trend is largely due to the increased consumption of lethal opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanil, which exacerbate Black families' risk for and exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACES). However, many Black families are often unaware of how to identify, prevent, and intervene in substance use. Families desiring help are often deterred by existing cultural stigma, threat of family separation, criminalization, and economic issues that create significant barriers to engaging in help seeking behaviors. Trusted outlets for education through prevention and intervention strategies are paramount and though research indicates that Black families who experience substance use issues often trust and rely upon cultural

WASHINGTON

interventions within their communities such as pastoral counseling, these resources are often challenged to meet the growing needs. There is a critical need for the integration of evidence-based culturally informed prevention and intervention strategies embedded within Black communities. This workshop will present data on current trends and work with participants to identify innovative strategies for integrating culturally-informed approaches to service delivery within local communities through substance use prevention and intervention that mitigate ACES.

10:45 - 11:45 A.M.

WASHINGTON

MORNING SESSION 2

Food Justice from the Lens of a Farmer

Mallenia Foster | Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture

This will be a panel discussion consisting of BIPOC/Indigenous urban and rural farmers sharing about their efforts to create food justice and food sovereignty. We will take a look at the injustices that the Farmers experience in their efforts to produce food for their communities and to make a living as a BIPOC farmer in America. We will also take a look at how using certain language, such as swap, desert, mirage can prevent us from making systemic changes and addressing the root causes associated with our communities access to affordable and healthy food. In a similar way that using the term “food apartheid” can help us identify and address the root causes of the geographies that lack access to healthy food, highlighting “food sovereignty” as a call to action directly addresses the power dynamics at play in the food system. This term focuses the lens on how our modern, globalized food system does not value the rights of peasant and small-scale farmers anywhere and how in most cases the major decision makers are multinational corporations. The organization A Growing Culture says “there is no genuine food security without food sovereignty.”

BALLROOM

Yoga for All: Bringing the Practice of Yoga to Mental Health(care)

Alexandra Stewart | Cedar Ridge Behavioral Health

While yoga has become a popular and alluring workout in recent years, its benefits extend far past those of physical exercise. Everyone stands to benefit from the practice of yoga, but yoga still remains largely inaccessible for populations that can significantly benefit from it. This workshop will discuss yoga as a holistic practice and address how yoga can benefit vulnerable and exceptional populations in the realm of mental health by focusing on issues of accessibility and inclusivity. Participants will be introduced to the important principles of providing yoga in this area, benefits for patients and clients of all ages, possible obstacles to providing and integrating this practice, and how to begin bringing yoga into mental health(care) settings. The workshop will conclude with instruction on basic mindfulness and breathing exercises that are accessible to all - participants are welcome to engage with or simply observe these simple practices. By the end of the workshop, participants will walk away with a better understanding of yoga and the role it can play in improving our mental health, both inside and outside clinical treatment settings.

BOARD ROOM

Repairers of the Breach and Restorers of the Streets

XX | XX

Join us as we give voice to encourage people in communities to address racial, economic and environmental injustices in our neighborhoods and communities. This workshop will help attendees become repairers of the breach and restorers of the streets to a present sick and hurting environment. Community Practitioners from across the United States (Chicago IL, Denver CO, Raleigh NC, Philadelphia PA, and Waterloo IA) will give language to their years of practice in effectively engaging communities and empowering them to effect change in addressing marketplace issues.

MADISON

Reentry and Its Unique Challenges: How did COVID-19 Impact Reentry?

Sara Dimick | OAR of Richmond

This presentation will focus on the unique challenges of reentry including housing, employment, education, transportation, health and mental health, ID acquisition and more. Following an interactive dialogue about these topics, I will further present about how COVID-19 impacted reentry as a whole in Virginia and then how it impacted each of these individual areas. Participants will walk away with knowledge about the hardships that reentering citizens are facing, especially during the pandemic, and steps that can be taken to address these challenges.

CCE ENGAGE FIRST FLOOR

Silencing the Stigma of Mental Health

Community Builders Network | Hampton-Newport News
Community Services Board

Youth in America today have experienced tremendous social and economic instability – recessions, mass shootings, a pandemic –resulting mental health stress and financial strain. Unfortunately, the stigma of mental health persists today in negative attitudes, beliefs, fears and discriminatory behaviors toward those with mental illness. For teens, mental health stigma can endanger them to bullying, discrimination, limited access to quality care, decreased self-esteem, shame of seeking treatment, and poor overall health. Community Builders Network is a youth and adult community-based prevention coalition focused on reducing the impact of identified risk factors and enhance protective factors in the lives of young people impacted by trauma. The purpose of this session is to, first, present current research on brain and socio-emotional development, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) through interactive, informative youth and adult presentations. Second, we will facilitate a youth/adult panel discussion concerning the impact of stigma identification, and other tools for the mitigation of stigma and lived experiences on well-being.

10:45 - 11:45 A.M.

NETWORKING LUNCH

Ballroom

1 - 2:30 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION 1

WASHINGTON

Federal Civil Rights Investigations: An Overview

Ted Rouse | FBI Norfolk

The FBI's civil rights program includes hate crimes and police use of force investigations, both of which have obvious social justice implications. The proposed presentation will emphasize the importance of objectivity in investigations of this nature, and will consider how technologic and cultural changes influence the civil rights environment in the United States.

JEFFERSON

Neighbors With Local Government: Insights from 30 years of Hampton's Neighborhood Initiative

Jonathan McBride | City of Hampton

Anna Hammond | City of Hampton

Monica Meharg | City of Hampton

The health of our neighborhoods directly impacts the health of our cities. Within communities, neighborhoods often find themselves at odds with local government as they advocate for city services, address land development decisions, or work collectively to address community challenges. Local government is charged with acting in the best interests of the entire city, in turn, this often pulls local officials in numerous directions and requires them to balance priorities while listening to often divergent perspectives from the community. Since 1993, the City of Hampton has placed significant importance in investing in the health and capability of neighborhoods to lead community change, with a variety of innovative initiatives intended to build better relationships with local officials, invest in skill develop of community connectors, and support community-led projects. This partnership with neighborhood groups has resulted in lasting municipal service innovations and increased community engagement in municipal and neighborhood change. Participants of the session will learn of the core principles that have guided this 30-year-old Neighborhood Initiative including Asset Based Community Development, civic education, grassroots grantmaking, and youth leadership in government. A small panel of community leaders who have been fostering better community opportunities through a variety of tools will share their insights on success and engage in Q&A with participants as they look to apply similar initiatives.

BALLROOM

Faith and the Environmental Wellbeing of Our Communities

Andrew Millard | Unitarian Universalist

Fellowship of the Peninsula

Natalie Chamberlain | Hilton Christian Church

John Kenney | Third Baptist Church

Jamaar Jones | First Baptist Church East End

Tina Melusky | Trinity Lutheran Church

Faith-based groups in Hampton Roads do not often stress environmental issues as we present ourselves to the public. Yet our focus on the well-being of whole persons and whole communities requires us to address the physical circumstances in which we live. The focus of our decision-making may be global, as when we discuss ways to reduce trash sent to landfills, or it may be local, as when we address the negative health effects of the coal yards at the east end of Newport News. In this session, the panelists, all leaders of local congregations of faith and members of “Pastoring the City”, will offer visions of how our world should benefit its residents, local and global. We recognize that it can be complicated and difficult to attend to our planet’s health while justly distributing its resources, and we understand that people of good will may seriously disagree about the optimal ways to utilize what our planet has to offer. Yet we hold that God expects us to confront these complexities as we work to make our world into a place in which all humans can thrive. The session will include a question and answer segment so that the audience can engage panelists about their specific traditions and views.

BOARD ROOM

The System Is Failing Us: Hear Our Voice

Michelle Simpson | Alternatives Inc. World Changers

Youth Leadership Team Coordinator

Alternatives Inc. World Changers Youth Members

School safety has been a concern and leading issue for students, parents, teachers, and school administrators for decades. Safety for students in public schools includes both physical and emotional safety is connected to improved student and school outcomes. On this end, the Virginia Department of Education states that it “works in partnership with Virginia’s 132 school divisions to support and improve teaching and learning, set high expectations for all students, and promote student safety, wellbeing, and health” (VDOE, 2022). Unfortunately, this has become an increasingly difficult task in the face of COVID-19, increases in gun violence, social and political divides, bias, inequities, and a youth mental health crisis. Consequently, many students of Hampton Roads, VA public schools do not have the experience of a safe learning environment. The Alternatives World Changers Youth Leadership Team’s mission is to inspire young people to advocate for change in their homes, schools, and communities. The purpose of this session is for the World Changers to facilitate a discussion with Hampton/Newport News public school leadership and Virginia Department of Education/Delegates regarding the lived experience of students, essential actions for school safety, and steps toward progress in Hampton Roads.

MADISON

Community Based Approach to Public Safety

Darrell Redman | Give Back 2 DA Block

Joel Miller Jr. | NICS

This presentation will discuss evidence based practices, community based approaches, effective strategies, and data driven approaches to reduce gun violence and increase public safety with multiple system stakeholders, support and outreach providers, and the community itself. Law enforcement alone is necessary, but an inefficient response to violence. This approach has successfully reduced violent crimes in major cities across the country. Let us come together and discuss how we can reduce the violence in yours.

HARRISON

Health Inequity, Intersectionality, and Mental Health: The Perfect Storm

Ellen Velissarios | PPCC

This session will be a time for education, raising awareness, dispelling myths, and identifying actions we all can take by way straightforward discussions. Themes of conversations will include barriers to accessing mental health care, breaking the stigma, mitigating risks to address skyrocketing deaths by suicide, generational trauma, proactively identifying needs on both an individual and systemic level to create change, and how we are all responsible and are all needed to generate lasting change.

2:45 - 3:45 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION 2

SHORT TALKS: COMMUNITY, IDENTITY AND BELONGING

WASHINGTON

Extremist Language: How to Identify Extremist Stances And Their Impact

Kaitlyn Clark | Old Dominion University

In speech, stance is a method that people use in order to signal their relationship to the positions they hold with people they have spoken to (Johnstone 2009). In other words, stance is how someone expresses their beliefs and attitudes, as well as identity, through talk (Anderson 2014). One type of stance is authoritative stance, which is used in order to be recognized as having authentic or authoritative knowledge, as well as project personal knowledge and even shift the authority from the individual level to the societal level (Jaffe 2009). We look at the interviews of four people involved in the Jan 6th Insurrection (from the documentary Assault on Democracy: The Roots of Trump's Insurrection) to discuss how their authoritative stances are used to assert authority and knowledge, and convince others of their ideologies. Through studying the stances of those involved in these extremist acts, we can begin to better understand what is happening and how we can stop it. We hope to educate others on how to identify this language in order to catch it early, put a stop to it, and protect innocent people.

WASHINGTON

Help-seeking Behavior Among Resettled Refugees

Mahfoudha Sidelemin | Old Dominion University

The refugee resettlement process is a huge part of refugees' journeys in their new countries that has a lasting impact on their long-term integration. Resettled refugees face many challenges including language acquisition, employment, housing, and transportation. One of the important aspects of resettlement is the relationship between refugees and help providers. Research highlights the importance of trust between refugees and service providers, yet for certain resettlement programs trust building can be counterproductive when resources are limited, and the service timeline is restricted or trust might not be a primary need for some refugee groups. I focus on resettlement in the US to illustrate how the timeline of resettlement services and the experiences and cultural background of refugees might limit the possibilities of establishing trust between service and refugees. As an alternative, I propose an approach that focuses on providing opportunities for refugees to reciprocate and act as active members of their new community. Focusing on reciprocity as the basis for new relationships will strengthen refugees' connections with their community, enhance their autonomy and facilitate their long-term integration.

WASHINGTON

Appealing to a Post-Christian America: Lessons from the Deconstruction Movement

Rae Sipe Smith | Old Dominion University

Ted Gournelos | Old Dominion University

The 2016 election revealed a grand divide in American politics and the American Evangelical church. Many Christians who attended Evangelical churches faced a dilemma as they began to notice an incongruity between purported church values and what was being supported and promoted politically including disconnects related to social issues such as race, gender, poverty, LGBTQ, abortion, etc. This led to an outcropping of online "deconstruction" communities, consists of individuals who are questioning their religious beliefs or no longer feel safe to express their opinions or questions in church. We conducted focus groups with over 40 participants from online deconstruction platforms, and held conversations that examined what led to their departure from fundamentalism, personal pain points around their experiences, and what resources help to facilitate their transition and grow their new community. While loosely organized if at all, this growing demographic shares common themes around hostility and skepticism to organized messaging, resistance to aggressive or didactic messaging, and shared senses of loneliness, disillusionment, and the search for identity. This presentation will conclude with suggestions for and samples of digital content targeting this audience for community building, fundraising, and awareness.

JEFFERSON

The Youth Perspective on Effects of Gun Violence

Rudrani Ghoshal | Newport News Mayor's Youth Commission

The Mayor's Youth Commission of Newport News is a group of high school students, from both public and private schools in the city, who work together with city council and the mayor to advocate for youth needs and issues. In this session, we will be discussing a plethora of topics surrounding gun violence based off of our own lived experiences and our own unique perspectives. We will start with a presentation elaborating on our main points and ideas and will then finish the session out in a panel format where we will welcome any and all audience questions.

SHORT TALKS: LIFE AND COMMUNITY IN HAMPTON ROADS

BALLROOM

Racial/Ethnic Disparities in the Perceived Quality of Life in Hampton Roads Area: A Study of Health, Education and Economics

Tancy Vandecar-Burdin | Old Dominion University

Randy Gainey | Old Dominion University

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Old Dominion University has been surveying residents of Hampton Roads about various aspects related to quality of life and social justice in region for over a decade. In this presentation we use bivariate and multivariate analyzes to examine the effects of race/ethnicity on various aspects indicative of quality of life from the most recent survey (2022). Disparities in perceived quality of life generally, as well as specific areas related to health, education, and the economy are analyzed with important control variables to better understand these disparities. The results are discussed in terms of both theory and policy..

BALLROOM

Aberdeen Gardens Community Resilience Profile

Ross Weaver | Wetlands Watch

Madison Teeter | Wetlands Watch

Wetlands Watch staff is working with the Aberdeen Gardens neighborhood Hampton, as part of Wetlands Watch's Collaboratory program. This project explores community-led conversations about social and physical risks in a neighborhood, while identifying the future residents desire for their community. The end result of this year-long project will be a Community Resilience Profile that includes resilient design work from multiple Virginia university student teams and a summary of the feedback received from neighborhood residents. This profile will help move Aberdeen Gardens to the front of the line when resilience money is available because decision makers will better understand the neighborhood's specific risks, goals for the future, and preliminary designs to achieve those goals. Wetlands Watch's Collaboratory program prioritizes work in low-income neighborhoods of color, as these communities are historically overlooked and underrepresented.

BALLROOM

Dreams of Homeownership Can Lead to a Nightmare of Loss and Debt: A Community Conversation Regarding Predatory Practices of Lease-Purchase Agreements

Linda Ficht | Newport News Human Rights Commission
Keisha Melvin | Newport News Human Rights Commission
Antiqua Weaver | Newport News Human Rights Commission
Tom Sentz | Hampton Roads Community Action Program
Rosalie James | Hampton Roads Community Action Program

This session addresses the topic of predatory practices in Lease-Purchase Agreements and how these agreements are being used by some landowners in a manner that takes advantage of unsuspecting buyers. These buyers are typically vulnerable classes of people such as elderly or low-income individuals who are unable to qualify for a conventional home loan. These buyers are offered property for purchase through a “rent-to-own” basis; these are typically significantly overvalued, sold without inspections, and require large deposits. Once in the home, the buyer discovers serious unreported problems with the home such as mold, rat infestations, asbestos, etc. The buyer begins to pay for home repairs and is no longer able to afford the rent-to-own payments and is evicted from the home losing all the money they put into the home, including their deposit. NNHRC and HRCAP would like to engage in a community conversation about this predatory practice to identify ideas on how to effectively educate our community regarding this practice and workable solutions to hold these sellers accountable.

BOARD ROOM

Contested Landscapes

Annie Evans | New American History, University of Richmond

Using the digital scholarship tools and learning resources of New American History, participants will explore the theme of Contested Landscapes. From redlining, urban renewal, restrictive covenants, segregated communities, and fair housing, to historical connections between monuments, memorialization, and iconography on the cultural, political, and physical landscapes. All participants will receive links to a classroom-ready slide deck and all OER resources accessed during the session.

MADISON

Oppression: The intersection with Intimate Partner Violence and Human Trafficking

Shannon Taylor | Transitions Family Violence Services
Ayana Morales | Transitions Family Violence Services
Darryle Brown | Transitions Family Violence Services

What role does oppression play in making people vulnerable to intimate partner violence and human trafficking? How can we use social justice to end the cycle of violence, heal our communities, and grow? Participants will understand the definition of Intimate Partner Violence and Human Trafficking. Participants will know how to be the change and advocate for systemic changes to end oppression. Presentation will include time for questions, answers, and open dialogue in a safe space.

HARRISON

Why the White Church Struggles to Engage in Social Justice

Michael Pumphrey | V3 Church Planting

Greg Armstrong | Northern Seminary

Droves of people with deconstructive instincts are leaving the church. The White Church continues to struggle engaging with the younger, more diversified neighborhoods surrounding them. Losing its prophetic witness as a counter-narrative story of hope and peace, the Church now struggles with the awkward and sometimes shameful ways it has shown up in the world. There is a distinct emptiness at the core of much of the White Church that has left little room for the disruptive kind of work Social Justice demands of us. This workshop is designed to help Church Leaders and interested others wrestle through the ideological strands running under the surface of their own faith communities making the desire to do good work in the neighborhood virtually impossible.

CCE ENGAGE FIRST FLOOR

YouthBuild Program Support to Newport News residents

Daniel Carrera | Volunteers of America

Chesapeake and Carolinas

Deja Horsley | Volunteers of America

Chesapeake and Carolinas

In January 2020, the US Department of Labor (DOL) / Employment and Training Administration (ETA) awarded a grant to implement a YouthBuild Program in Newport News. YouthBuild is a community-based pre-apprenticeship program that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24 who have previously dropped out of high school. Youth learn vocational skills in construction, as well as in other in-demand industries that include health care, information technology, and hospitality. Youth also provide community service through the required construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in their own neighborhoods. Youth split their time between the vocational training work site and the classroom, where they earn their high school diploma or equivalency degree, learn to be community leaders, and prepare for postsecondary training opportunities, including college, apprenticeships, and employment. YouthBuild includes significant support systems, such as a mentoring, follow-up education, employment, and personal counseling services; and participation in community service and civic engagement.

4 - 5 P.M.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Ballroom

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

8 - 9 A.M.

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

David Student Union, second floor lobby

9 - 10:30 A.M.

MORNING SESSION 1

WASHINGTON

Implementing Equity in Policies and Procedures

Paula L. Bazemore | Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities

Developing an equity lens to inform decision making is a critical tool to be able to foster an environment that honors each employee's unique gifts, talents, and backgrounds while also advancing the mission of the organization. This workshop will give participants the opportunity to explore the concept of an equity lens and apply that learning to critically analyze how policies and procedures impact underserved, historically marginalized groups in the workplace.

JEFFERSON

White Women Work

Diane Elson Miller | Christian Community Development Association

Laura Nanke Hoy | Christian Community Development Association

This workshop was created from a challenge by people of color/culture to those of us within the "created white race", especially from trauma therapist Resmaa Menakem, author of *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Path to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*. The workshop is formatted to help each of us understand and get after our own colonized belief systems and collective heritage trauma coming from our individual/family stories. It is a space to help each person deepen understanding around individual lived experiences and white supremacist systems. This is a safe space for white women to do this work - together, with one another! We will begin with a historical baseline of understanding; and, break up into small group contemplative listening circles for story processing in response to curated questions. These questions will focus around giving response from each attendees individual heritage story and lifestyle of separation and/or inclusiveness. This story-telling format will also give attendees a model to take back to their own regional contexts to share with others.

SHORT TALKS: ART AND ACTIVISM

BALLROOM

Becoming a Citizen Artist

Reynaldo Ramirez | Soundscapes

Soundscapes is a program in Newport News, VA, inspired by the social change youth orchestra movement in Venezuela known as El Sistema. Reynaldo Ramirez will give a presentation about how Soundscapes uses music to allow youth to build valuable life skills that can set them up for future success. Soundscapes takes an artistic approach to what it means to be a citizen, which we call Citizen Artistry. The large ensemble acts as a perfect microcosm of a community, where citizens must take on different roles (all vitally important) to create something more significant than what each could make on their own. We use a nine-dimension developmental rubric to assess social and musical growth. We have learned that as musical skills grow, social skills grow at the same rate. We will discuss these findings and interesting findings throughout the pandemic.

BALLROOM

I See You, Sis!

Synetheia N. Newby | Greater Works Consulting Group LLC

Society's most pressing challenges create a rocky and challenging social justice terrain for community activists. The impact of racial, economic, educational, health, housing, and environmental inequities faced by disadvantaged and underrepresented communities is felt at the community, family, and individual levels. At the individual level, we rarely explore the impact of social justice work on women activists and the importance of providing them with support and safe spaces to process and decompress their lived personal and community experiences. This presentation explores the importance of creating safe spaces, prioritizing self-care, and managing the mental health of women who lead as social justice activists.

BALLROOM

Exploring Social Justice through the Art of Kara Walker

Truly Matthews | Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art

This conference presentation will introduce attendees to an inquiry-based approach to examining the artwork of Kara Walker, an African American artist known for her powerful and thought-provoking silhouettes. By asking open-ended questions and encouraging critical thinking and personal reflection, this approach allows viewers to engage with the complex themes of social justice that are at the heart of Walker's work. Through this interactive presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to explore their own responses to the art and consider the ways in which it invites us to consider the ongoing impact of slavery and colonialism on contemporary society. This presentation will be insightful to those interested in social justice, contemporary art, and pedagogy.

BALLROOM

The Case for Reviving Student Protest

Abigail Acheson | Rethinking Economics USA,
Connecticut College

Between 1968 and 1969, nearly 200 student protests took place across university campuses throughout the United States. Although protests against the Vietnam War are most well known, the most prevalent demand was for the inclusion of Black students and for prioritizing knowledge that benefited them and their communities. The student organizing of the late 1960s played a profound role in reshaping the university, and most current crises have their roots in institutional and social backlash unleashed in response to students' demands to fundamentally reshape who the university was for. In this presentation, we look to the rich history of student organizing as part of national liberation struggles and make the case that student organizing is key to transforming not just the university, but broader society, into a space that embodies and prepares people to act for transformative change-making. We will explore the widespread possibilities of student-led struggle at the university, why this effort is of importance to students and faculty alike, and what shape steps forward might take.

BOARD ROOM

Redefine the Vital Signs: Taking a Public Health Approach to Public Safety

Valerie Slater | RISE for Youth
Robert Allen IV | Youth Leader
Shiloh Tillman | Youth Leader
Cory Jones | Cory Jones

An overwhelming majority of Virginia's youth involved in the criminal justice system share three striking characteristics; they (1) reside in communities with high poverty rates, (2) attend poorly resourced school divisions with educational attainment below the state average, and (3) are youth of color. To reduce justice system involvement for Virginia's youth we must address the root cause issues and create healthy communities in which all youth are able to thrive. Secondarily, and equally as important, we must address the racial disparities of the over representation of youth of color at every stage of Virginia's justice system. This session begins with participants engaging in an activity developed through the inspiration of our Youth Leaders called, "A Walk Through the System" that will give individuals a simulated experience of the real life situations many of Virginia's youth are living through. The workshop will address the state of Virginia's juvenile justice system and introduce a healthy community response to justice system involvement and conclude with a Q&A session and a survey aimed at helping to create a model healthy community to inform the work of RISE for Youth to bring a model to fruition through the Virginia legislative process.

Connect Our Kids: Disrupting the Foster Care to Poverty and Prison Pipeline by Fast-Tracking Family Search and Engagement Efforts

Andrea Miller Lange | Connect Our Kids

Jelani Freeman | Connect Our Kids

Paul Taylor | Connect Our Kids

Connect Our Kids is a non-profit dedicated to leveraging technology to find families, build connections, and create a community for our nation's most vulnerable. Children who enter foster care are often disconnected from their entire family, home, and community. This can be disorienting and damaging, sometimes as traumatic as the conditions from which they are being removed. The trauma from family separation, and often the nature of the system itself, creates a pipeline from child welfare to the criminal justice system. Reports indicate that 25% of foster alumni will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving foster care. By age 26, 2/3s of those who age out of foster care will have experienced incarceration, homelessness, or they will be dead. In this presentation, we will show how utilizing the free Connect Our Kids tools fast-tracks family search and engagement efforts, helping child welfare professionals identify family and community connections to keep at-risk children within their family and community networks, which nurtures their emotional development, reduces long-term traumatic outcomes including attachment disorders, developmental delays, as well as disrupts the well-documented foster care to poverty, homelessness, human trafficking and prison pipeline.

**CCE ENGAGE
FIRST FLOOR****From Silos to Sanctuary!**Rev. Dr. Todd C. Davidson | First Baptist Church
of Hampton; Norfolk State University

This presentation is intended to help move faith communities, businesses, community partners, and academic institutions to partner to provide a "sanctuary" of mentoring service to children in our communities. Additionally, attendees will be expected to evaluate how their experiences and biases have shaped their perception of those they aspire to mentor. Using a model that "counts the cost" by unpacking the cultural contexts of the children that we aspire to mentor, the presentation challenges communities to focus on their strengths to create a system of community support.

WASHINGTON

Wading Between Two Titans

Adrian Wood | University of Virginia

The ocean is Norfolk's greatest ally and worst enemy. Wading Between Two Titans is a new podcast from The Repair Lab about place, race and power in the time of rising tides. This limited series investigates climate gentrification, sea-level rise and historic processes of racism in the coastal city of Norfolk, Virginia. The podcast aims to tell the story of these processes and imagine potential solutions. As sea level rises and shorelines shrink, who gets to stay? Who has to leave? How did we get here? And what can be done? This session will include an excerpt of the podcast as well as a panel discussion on sea-level rise and housing in Norfolk, including voices featured on the podcast.

JEFFERSON

Personifying Resilience Through Narrative: Performing Pedigree

Brittney S. Harris | Old Dominion University

Embodying creative resistance against social inequality, Pedigree is a short film about personal acceptance and recovery from the inexplicit influences of racial hatred and violence. A first-time protester sharing her emotional experience with being arrested and disrespected, this piece explores the lengths to which one declares to take back their power after years of mental and emotional torment at the hands of societal tormentors from her past to the present. In the wake of the political backdrop of the Black Lives Matter Movement, this applied theatre work is relevant to our Black community in providing insight to a cathartic resolution and engaging in civil dialogue beyond the headlines and #hashtags. The question explored is: 'can embodied storytelling be used as a tool for evolving how narratives of resilience are archived, shared, remembered, and incite a dialogue in promoting social reform and change?' This session will include a screening of the short film and a discussion on the concept of the "performance of resistance/ resilience through narrative.

SHORT TALKS: HEALTH AND TREATMENT

BALLROOM

Health Equity

Thomas Rayner | Anthem Health Keepers Plus

Kimberly White | Anthem Health Keepers Plus

Gina Laudone | Anthem Health Keepers Plus

Anthem is the largest Medicaid health plan in Virginia and as such is particularly mindful of the public health disparities in communities of color. Since Medicaid is a public health program that is offered to eligible Virginians, it is important to promote and inform the public about the benefits and how they affect their overall well-being. This session will explore several issues including housing, employment and food resources, the importance of behavioral health and physical health, "whole person health" and what this involves, as well as what companies like Anthem are doing in the areas of social determinants of health.

BALLROOM

Addressing Dialect Discrimination in Speech-Language Pathology Tests

Yaicha Ocampo | Old Dominion University

In 1982, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) approved a position paper on social dialects stating that, “no dialectal variety of English is a disorder or a pathological form of speech or language” (ASHA, 1983, para. 7). However, the extent to which dialect variation is accounted for in language assessments is unclear. In this presentation, I will demonstrate the procedures of evaluating a speech-language assessment test for potential bias against dialect speakers using the Test of Language Development-Intermediate: Fourth Edition (TOLD-I:4); the procedures of creating a nondiscriminatory test will be demonstrated by analyzing two sub-tests of TOLD-I:4 (2008) for phonological and syntactic features of potential dialects in Virginia. Identifying local dialect norms is the first step in creating a nondiscriminatory speech-language assessment test, but linguistics is not a common part of the curriculum in Speech-Language Pathology or Communication Sciences and Disorders. I argue that SLPs need linguistic training to identify what dialects are present in the student population and need to create nondiscriminatory assessment tests.

BALLROOM

Barriers to Cancer Treatment for Black Women in Newport News and Hampton, VA

Katherine Paulikonis | Christopher Newport University

This presentation will identify and highlight the disparities and barriers to accessing breast cancer treatment in Newport News and Hampton, VA. While breast cancer deaths have decreased by 43% in the last 30 years due to advances in technology and increased awareness, early detection, and treatment, there is still a mortality gap between Black and white women (Breast Cancer Research Foundation, 2022). Specifically, a report between 2000 and 2010 indicated that breast cancer mortality increased from 30.3% to 41.8% among Black women (Yedjou et al., 2019). I explore this issue by engaging members of my community about their challenges accessing cancer-related resources and actively working to promote and engage in anti-racist practices. I have used geographic research-based programs to create various heat maps of Newport News and Hampton which illustrate geographic and demographic trends in access to cancer-related services and social determinants of health. In partnership with the Riverside Cancer Center, I gathered data regarding women's perceptions of accessing breast cancer treatment and their personal experiences surrounding diagnosis and treatment, and developed an intervention to raise awareness of these disparities on a macro level.

BOARD ROOM

Weed Wars: New Laws, Increased Potency, Same Disproportionate Impact

Jill Russett | Christopher Newport University
Abigail Honeycutt | Christopher Newport University
Rebecca Eskow | Christopher Newport University

Marijuana production, use, laws, and commercialization are rapidly changing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Laws passed in 2021 allowed for Virginia residents to possess small amounts of marijuana for recreational use and to cultivate small amounts of plants. Upcoming laws in the 2023 general assembly will take this a step further as evolving legalization of marijuana will translate to commercialization and public sales. This transition has been referred to as the Wild West of the cannabis industry with few standardization of products, confusing regulations, and limited oversight of the production of marijuana. This has led to health-related concerns around the consumption of unknown and contaminated products, targeted advertisements toward underage use, and ongoing racial disparities of arrests around simple possession. This presentation will provide education on current laws, products, and related issues. It will also highlight how the enforcement of laws related to marijuana use are costly and have limited impact on access to use. Marijuana use is roughly the same among Black and White Americans, yet African Americans are almost four times more likely to be arrested for possession. As these disparities have drawn greater public attention, this has led to advocating for re-sentencing of marijuana offenses and the repeal of discriminatory policies.

HARRISON

The Dislocation of the Black American Community in 20th Century Williamsburg

Pam Douglas | Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

The restoration of the second capital of Virginia was made possible through funding by the Rockefeller Foundation. While elements of 18th century Gentry structures and history were preserved, evidence of Black homes and businesses was strategically erased from view and oral history. However, during the pre-restoration process, between 1927 and 1935, architects established a photographic archive that documents the initial decade of the restoration of extant buildings. "Negro" homes and businesses were identified on a 1929 map for relocation or demolition. While white citizens were able to reestablish themselves anywhere in town, Black families, often forced to sell at subpar rates, were restricted from relocating in town due to segregation. These restrictions destroyed any integration that existed and resulted in segregation of housing and businesses that continues today. Currently, the only reminder of the vibrant Franklin Street integrated neighborhood is Mount Ararat Baptist Church. Using images and other primary documents from John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library Visual Corporate Archives, this workshop will demonstrate how history was effectually erased.

**CCE ENGAGE
FIRST FLOOR**

**Don't Just Talk About It, Be About It:
VA Social Work Addresses Social Justice**

Angela Giles | Hampton VA Medical Center

Danielle P. Latimore | Care Management & Social Work Services

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the largest employer of master-prepared social workers. This presentation shares the experience of VA Social Work in implementing Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access (IDEA) concepts across the Social Work Workforce. This social justice journey began with a grassroots call to action and has developed into a national plan that creates a culture that values an equitable and inclusive work environment. The plan emphasizes organizational strategies that enhances professional development, cultural competence there by influencing workforce diversity.

1 -2:30 P.M.

MORNING SESSION 2

WASHINGTON

**Mutual Aid & Technology: Building Networks
of Care during the COVID 19 Era**

Erin Dougherty | Eleanor's NFK

DeAnna Smith | Humanities Behind Bars (HBB), Tidewater Solidarity Bail Fund (TSBF), Tidewater Tenants Rights (TTR)

Bruce Harrison | Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)

Jay Boone | Keeping Us Safe and Prosperous (KUSP)

Ammie Pascua | Hampton Roads Reproductive Justice League (HRRJL)

Dean Spade's incredible work "Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis (and the Next)" positions mutual aid as a "radical act" in a society deeply dependent on capitalist institutions that value profits over people. Community organizations, past and present, have built mutual aid efforts into their work in order to provide a more holistic response to community needs. With work for liberation and equal and complete access to critical care made more urgent during the COVID 19 pandemic, organizations and organizers had to quickly shift to doing this active work, or learn to begin it, virtually. This panel seeks to discuss what that shift looked like for organizations working in Hampton Roads, in areas such as housing, healthcare, and food access, and what this shift means for mutual aid work going forward. Panelists include organizers from Eleanor's NFK, Hampton Roads Reproductive Justice League, Humanities Behind Bars, Keeping Us Safe and Prosperous, Showing Up for Racial Justice, Tidewater Solidarity Bail Fund, and Tidewater Tenants Rights.

JEFFERSON

At the Crossroads of Faith, Race, Politics, Social Justice and the American Media: A Raw Discussion on Americans' Most Powerful and Painful Collision

Dr. Kevin Swann | VA Unity Project

Dr. Alvean Lyons | VA Unity Project

Pastor Fred Michaux | VA Unity Project

Chris House | VA Unity Project

Rev. Cheryl You | VA Unity Project

Pastor Randy Shepley | VA Unity Project

America remains in a perpetual battle between our ideals and our lived realities. The nation we want to be versus the nation we choose to be. The role of faith as a force for good continues to be called into question as issues of race, politics, social justice and equity play out in the American media. How is our faith being represented? Are we allowing it to be weaponized to push agendas and narratives that promote division rather than unity? Is it too late for it to be reclaimed as a source for reconciliation in these ongoing debates? What role does the media play in shaping our truths? And, where do we go from here? Join us, for a highly engaging, transparent and thought provoking exchange, as we have a raw discussion about what happens when they all....collide!

BALLROOM

Beyond Impact "Cultural Awareness Strategy" on Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice

Camica Credle | Credle Consulting

Bettina Mason | Credle Consulting

Go beyond traditional equity, inclusion, and social justice practices to boldly create a lasting impact in the community. As a result of this workshop participants will significantly increase their personal awareness on equity, inclusion, and social justice in the community and how to effect change in the areas of social determinants of health, access to affordable health care, and health inequality and inequity. Through an open dialogue, the workshop will engage and equip participants with the knowledge, skills and resources to identify sources of social justice. Participants will gain knowledge to implement strategies for dismantling those barriers and disparities leading to change.

BOARD ROOM

Carrying The Load Challenge Day

Hugo Morrison | City of Hampton-Youth Opportunities

Joshua Goffigan | City of Hampton-Youth Opportunities

Latiesha D. Handie | City of Hampton-Youth Opportunities

This session focuses on gaining an understanding of community perspective on the impact of gun violence in our communities. The impact of gun violence is widespread and more pervasive affecting entire communities, families, and children. This is no longer just an issue of gun regulation but we must also address the impact on those who have been traumatized by such violence. Addressing the social, emotional, and physical well-being and mental health needs of those overly exposed to gun violence is a complex problem that requires proper identification, informed-trauma care, and the fostering of organic small communities.

MADISON

Imagining Linguistically Just Futures: A Workshop

Kevin E. DePew | Old Dominion University

Traditionally English instructors have solely taught students the conventions and expectations of Standard Academic English (SAE) rationalizing that they are helping students to be successful citizens. More recently, writing studies scholars acknowledge SAE most closely approximates white, middle-class home communication habits educationally placing multilingual students of color at a disadvantage. They further argue that requiring these students to code-switch for academic writing sends the social message that varieties of English, such as Black English, have no intellectual value, in spite of evidence to the contrary. Teaching students of color that their use of English has no value or, worse, is 'broken' demeans those students who connect their language to their identity. This workshop will present the "linguistic facts of life," challenging many of the social beliefs about how languages work. Using this knowledge, the presenter will model strategies adopted in a college-level writing class to value diverse Englishes and create foundations for advocacy of linguistic diversity—and, by extension, linguistic justice. The audience will collaborate to apply similar strategies to their own workplace situations, imagining the opportunities for linguistic justice they can create for employees, patrons, students, and teachers, and to develop public arguments why these linguistic justice is important in their spaces.

HARRISON

The Victim-Offender Conundrum: How the Justice System Can Partner with Nonprofits to Reduce Harm to Victims

Erin Barr | Colonial Heights Commonwealth Attorney's Office
Kathy Confer | Freekind

While some victims of sex trafficking may be identified and treated as victims from the outset, most are arrested, charged, and prosecuted as offenders. Despite how a victim may first interact with the justice system, as a civil society, we have a responsibility to reduce any additional harm the individual may experience in the process. To accomplish this, it is crucial to identify victims as early as possible during their interactions with the justice system. This begins with education and training for justice professionals on how to identify victims and engage with them in a trauma-informed manner. While prosecutors and other justice professionals may have different priorities and objectives than nonprofits working with survivors of trafficking, they can- and must- work together to ensure the reduction of harm and timely access to services for survivors. Working together effectively begins with a clear understanding and respect for each other's roles and limitations. This foundation is essential for survivors to receive proper trauma-informed care and for real justice to be possible.

BOARD ROOM

It's Hard On Both Sides Of The Wall: Bridging the Gap Between Incarcerated Individuals, Returning Citizens and Their Children

Jaclyn Walker | The MAN Foundation
Velvet Smith | The MAN Foundation

This workshop focuses on the societal and environmental issues and childhood trauma that incarcerated individuals, returning citizens and their families face on a daily basis: understanding how to effectively engage incarcerated individuals and returning citizens through culturally responsive educational practices (academic and social/emotional/trauma-informed care). This workshop introduces specific strategies and research-based practices to effectively engage all returning citizens to include an applied studies theory of practice that created resiliency with use of the "It's Hard on Both Sides of the Wall" workbook.

2:45 - 4 P.M.

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Ballroom

AFT

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS



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JUSTICE RESEARCH AND POLICY
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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,
SOCIAL WORK & ANTHROPOLOGY

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

What worked? What didn't? What do you want more of and what could you do without? We want your feedback!





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