



D2 - Thursday, June 2nd Morning Workshops

A Health Equity Framework for Medicare and Medicaid

Cultural Considerations: Safety Planning with Black DV Survivors

Mitigating Trauma Through Groupwork for Vulnerable Foster Youth

Paradox of Chronic Homelessness: Adaptations to Homeless Lifestyle

Peer Model: How El Barrio Disrupts Systemic Oppression

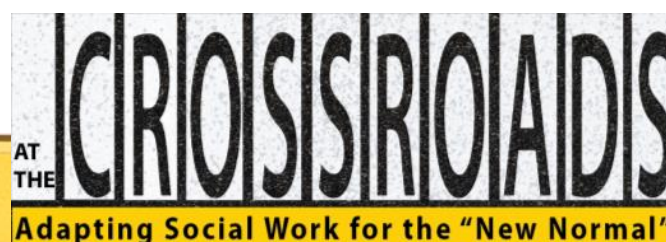
Pushing Through Devastation, Lifting Up Voices

Trauma and Alcohol Use Among Undocumented Hispanic Immigrants
and the Mapping Protocol

CASAC ELIGIBLE

Using Dialogue as a Critical Tool for Anti-Racist Education

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A Health Equity Framework for Medicare and Medicaid

As one of the largest healthcare payers in the world, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) play a key role in reducing health disparities and improving health equity for communities across the country; disparities which originate from structural racism, discrimination, and inequities in economic and health systems. This presentation describes CMS' commitment to reducing health disparities and promoting health equity, using the COVID-19 pandemic as a case study.

After providing a broad overview of health disparities and health equity within the context of CMS, presenters will describe the equity-forward strategic vision and its relationship to CMS policies and programs, providing resources that can help social workers, community organizations, and advocates inform and support their communities in issues related to health coverage and healthy living. By the end of the session, attendees will receive information on specific tools and resources they can leverage to raise awareness of the disparities that impact their clients and develop innovative interventions and initiatives to help support them.

Additionally, this presentation will use the COVID-19 pandemic as a case study for specific actions CMS has taken to reduce disparities and promote health equity. As a result of the public health emergency (PHE), CMS implemented a number of policy and programmatic flexibilities to better meet the health needs of communities and health and behavioral health providers during the pandemic. In the midst of a PHE, the changes implemented by CMS to better meet the needs of underserved communities aligns with the agency's overarching vision to pursue health equity. As social workers have been on the frontlines throughout the pandemic, awareness of the equity-focused tools, resources, policies, and programs implemented by CMS on the federal level can help local practitioners support underserved communities and better understand CMS policies.

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A Health Equity Framework for Medicare and Medicaid (cont'd)



Thomas Bane, LMSW is the Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator for CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) New York. In this capacity, he supports the regional administrator in various administrative and local engagement activities. He began his tenure at CMS as a Presidential Management Fellow, where he went on detail to Guam to help establish an NCD Roadmap for Pacific Islands. Thomas was deployed as a health sector recovery lead for the USVI as part of several hurricane recovery efforts. He has an MSW from Columbia University and an MFA in Poetry from Brooklyn College. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Social Welfare.



Julissa Rodriguez, BA is currently completing a Masters in Social Work at Rutgers University with a certificate program in Health & Aging. During her studies Julissa has acquired skills in research, social inquiry, theory, and methods. Julissa has worked as a case manager in the past serving children, families, and older adults.



Sarah Bloomstone, BA is in her final year of a dual-Master's degree program in social work and public health at Columbia University. In social work, her field of practice is public policy with a concentration on health, mental health, and disabilities. Her public health focus is on sociomedical sciences. Her interests lie in the intersection of housing, health, and public policy. She has extensive experience in both qualitative and quantitative public health research. Her expected graduation date is May 2022.

Cultural Considerations: Safety Planning with Black DV Survivors

Domestic violence is a public health issue that exists in all communities regardless of race, ethnicity, age, economic status, or gender identity. However, various comparison studies of domestic violence across race/ethnicity suggest that Black non-Hispanic women experience intimate partner violence at rates of 10% to 22% higher than that of white females and women of other races. These figures alone without considering the intersections of discrimination, race, class, and ethnicity, create a false narrative about the prevalence of domestic violence in the Black community and function as barriers to Black women escaping abusive relationships.

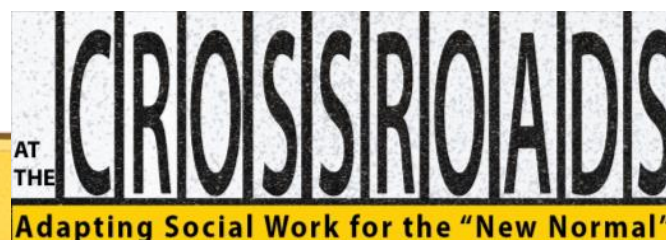
Who are these Black women anyway? Are they Black Americans? Black Caribbeans? Black Africans? Black abuse survivors are not a homogeneous group. Therefore, it is imperative that assessment and intervention efforts be individualized - approached from a trauma-informed, strengths-based perspective, and supportive of survivors' cultural beliefs and values. Through a combination of lecture and experiential exercises, participants will become more effective in providing culturally aware and sensitive services to diverse survivors of domestic violence.

Angela Montague, LCSW-R is the Coordinator of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services at NYC Health + Hospitals/ Metropolitan and an adjunct instructor at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service.



Ms. Montague has been a social worker for over thirty years with expertise in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, and mental health. She is an engaging trainer and speaker on domestic violence and has presented workshops at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Futures Without Violence conferences.

Angela has a particular interest in the intersections of race, gender, national origin, and culture in intimate partner violence.



Mitigating Trauma Through Groupwork for Vulnerable Foster Youth

Youth in foster care have a high proclivity for Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking victimization. Many youths have been unknowingly trafficked as they do not recognize the red flag indicators for trafficking and believe they are in a "relationship" with their exploiter. It is a devastating recognition for which many defense mechanisms develop to avoid the trauma of emotional abuse and deceit, added to the trauma of sex trafficking.

Two therapeutic group models were created to help mitigate trafficking involvement, reduce trauma, develop healthier thought patterns, regulate emotions, and self-empower vulnerable youth. Mitigating Trauma Through Drama uses psychodrama techniques to safely guide youth through traumatic memories and address concerns. Be Sea (Be Safe, Empowered, Aware) uses Dialectical Behavioral Therapy skills to identify emotions and develop coping strategies. Both models facilitate expression and disclosure through universally applicable skills integrated with trafficking awareness scenarios and discussion, and have achieved high success with trafficked and at-risk youth in the NYC foster care system.

In this workshop, will discuss both Mitigating Trauma Through Drama and Be SEA, and will provide actual exercises utilizing these unique models.



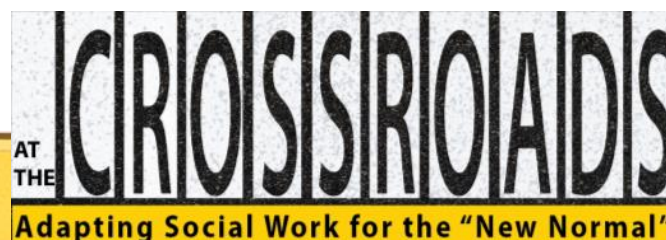
Selina Higgins, LCSW has been the inaugural Executive Director of ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy since 2015. She has worked in the field of child welfare for 28 years as an LCSW with an M.A. in Forensic Psychology, an MSW, a two-year post-graduate certification in Infant-Parent Dyadic Therapy and Trauma Assessment, and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy certification. In addition to policy and procedure development, Selina works directly with youth through a variety of group work models (some self-designed). Selina has created many unique trafficking related trainings, produces an annual conference and in 2021, trained over 6,300 virtually.

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Mitigating Trauma Through Groupwork for Vulnerable Foster Youth (cont'd)



Melody Joanne Centeno, LMSW is a motivational speaker, public advocate, psychodrama practitioner and former foster youth who in 2016 founded Foster Care Unplugged to enrich the lives of children in care through development of positive resiliency skills. She has produced many youth focused projects, including “Foster Care Unplugged: The Stage Play” and annual events including a toy drive, fashion show, and a basketball game for youth with the NYPD. She has expanded her focus to assist foster youth through co-creation and facilitation of the grant funded Mitigating Trauma Through Drama group model which fuses psychodrama techniques with trafficking awareness.

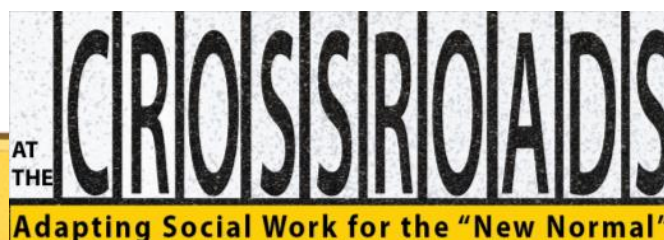


Paradox of Chronic Homelessness: Adaptation to Homeless Lifestyle

The devastation of homelessness is experienced on multiple levels. For those whose time in homelessness is chronic, there may be a much deeper component: An unconscious adaptation to the lifestyle of homelessness that may perpetuate their time living in homelessness. This dynamic highlights a paradox: The desperate desire to leave a life of homelessness versus the deeply familiar and entrenched state of being homeless that may serve to keep one in homelessness. This presentation re-frames the understanding of an adaptation to homelessness from the modernist deficit perspective to a post-modern, integrative relational perspective.

While homelessness is primarily caused by structural deficits and not individual characteristics, for people who are chronically homeless, this way of existence may have developed to serve a variety of coping, cohesive, and self-preserving functions as they have learned to survive and adapt to hostile environments. The presentation argues for the realignment of how the clinician frames their understanding of chronic homelessness, shaping the relational stance with their client who is suffering from homelessness. Services must consider the varied and complex day-to-day struggle and adaptive elements inherent in the lives of people experiencing homelessness. The relational practitioner must recognize this intra-psychic impact, relating to the individual's deeply personal and subjective experiences rather than being focused on services alone to achieve the primary successful outcome of obtaining permanent housing.

Daniel Farrell, LCSW is the SVP of Prevention, Diversion and Research at HELP USA, a non-profit provider with programs nationwide that provides transitional, permanent housing and homeless prevention services to at risk, homeless and formerly homeless adults and families. Daniel is responsible for multiple transitional housing, shelter and homeless prevention/rapid rehousing programs in New York City, Philadelphia, and Las Vegas serving over 10,000 homeless or at-risk households each year. He is a graduate from the New York Institute for Psychoanalytic Self Psychology, an Adjunct Professor at the Hunter College School of Social Work and has published multiple papers on homelessness.



Peer Model: How El Barrio Disrupts Systemic Oppression

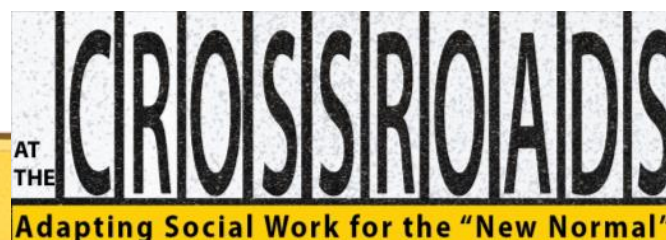
Repeatedly, those of us on the front lines of advocacy feel isolated, defeated, and burnt out by the monumental task of fighting for social justice. In fact, we often forget that our strength lies in our numbers. This presentation will focus on the ways the Community Navigator Program developed a collective, intentional approach to addressing the needs of the East Harlem community. This interactive workshop will highlight peer-to-peer models as an effective approach to addressing social injustices and race disparities and will provide illustrative examples for direct application to include program structure, hiring practices, strategic partnerships, and staff supervision.



Dr. Dunia M. Garcia, LMSW is the Director of the Cabrini-Hunter Fellowships for Social Work and Nursing Students program at Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. Dunia has over 20 years of experience focusing on educational equity, college access in urban communities, and community engagement. She was the Director of the Community Navigator Program at the Silberman School of Social Work, a peer-led community-based program serving East Harlem community. During her tenure at the Community Navigator Program, she fostered and sustained partnerships with city agencies and community organizations throughout NYC and promoted the economic empowerment of peer-led groups.



Saida Gordon, LMSW is the Social Work Supervisor at the Community Navigator Program. She received her BA from SUNY at Buffalo and MSW from the Silberman School of Social Work. Saida has over 10 years working in the social work field providing direct services, program management, and staff supervision. She focused her work on at-risk youth and their families to provide social/emotional support.



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Pushing Through Devastation, Lifting Up Voices

Communities of color have experienced unfathomable loss during the Pandemic. Yet devastated communities were able to push through. They were the majority of front line workers - transit, street cleaning, delivery, nurses - as well as caregivers in multi-generational households that received little assistance from the state. What was it that they were able to tap into that made them survive and have real impact for their families and communities?

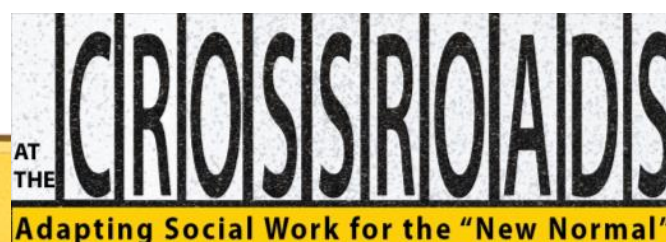
Counseling In Schools leadership and on-the-ground Social Workers will present real stories of NYC families whose resiliency presents a worthy focus for social work best practices. For example, older caregivers in multi-generational households who lost their children to COVID found themselves supporting their orphaned grandkids in using technology for the first time, all while pushing through grief. What are their social emotional tools? What is the experience of social policies in place in their communities? What is it like not being able to reliably get basic resources like diapers, disinfectant, etc in the midst of a crisis?

From individual strength and resilience, to support systems built into multigenerational households, we will also zoom out to ask what a future community and systemic response would look like. We will explore narrative as a social work tool to meet the client where they are, and will also consider schools as centers of community resources.

Dr. Elisa English, LCSW brings career-long achievements in social services to her current position of Chief Program Officer at Counseling In Schools. Dr. English has served with distinction in multiple roles throughout her illustrious career where she has been a strong advocate for trauma informed and person-centered-care. She has received numerous awards/recognitions, including most recently, the Multicultural Award from the National Alliance on Mental Health - NYS.

Dr. English is a known youth and anti-violence advocate. She served as the national spokeswoman for Peacekeepers, an anti-violence organization supported by Russell Simmons, who describes her as an “angel and work phenomenon”.

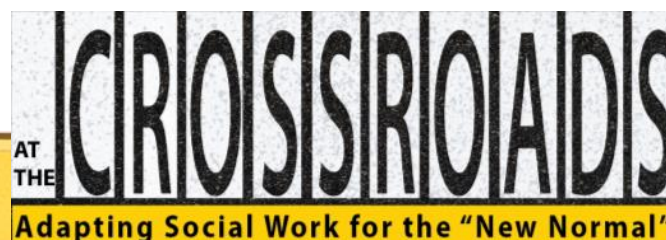
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Pushing Through Devastation, Lifting Up Voices (cont'd)

A nationally recognized leader in social work and school-based programming, **Kevin Dahill-Fuchell, LCSW** has more than 20 years' experience in working with children, families and school staff. Through his 23-year career at CIS, Kevin has evolved CIS' service reach beyond counseling services to include a multi-dimensional and strength-based menu of services that support an entire school community.

In his current role as Executive Director, Kevin is committed to developing a team leadership model that embodies the non-oppressive, collaborative systems that are needed to effectively take on the complex challenges routinely faced in schools by children, families, teachers and administrators.



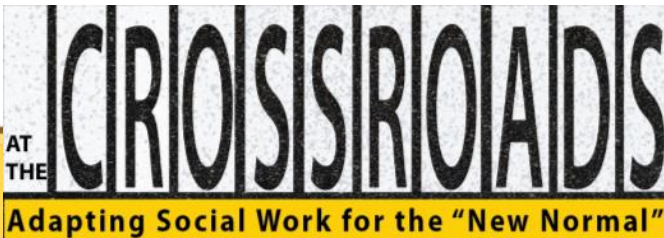
Trauma and Alcohol Use Among Undocumented Hispanic Immigrants and the Mapping Protocol

Recently arrived Hispanic immigrants who come to the United States are exposed to risks both in their native country and in the U.S. Moreover, many immigrants experience trauma while crossing illegally into the U.S. and are challenged in articulating traumatic events, high rates of binge drinking, driving without a valid license, and alcohol impaired driving among those who consume alcohol. To support effective interventions against these concerning trends, the Mapping Protocol® can be used to collect an interactive timeline and identify targets related to immigration and resettlement given the growing need for cultural sensitivity in evaluating clients with a history of relocation and understanding the immigration experience.



Dr. Carmen Jimenez, LCSW-R, CASAC is a third-generation educator, researcher, psychotherapist, radio personality, EMDR Certified Therapist and Approved Consultant, Board Certified in Biofeedback, clinical hypnotherapist, a NADA specialist, NYS OASAS credentialed as well as a DWI Assessment and Screening Provider.

As the founder of Counseling Consultation Service, Inc. and Protect the Angels, Inc. in New York, Dr. Jimenez received a Doctor of Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Science in Social Work from New York University and Columbia University, respectively. Dr. Jimenez developed the Mapping Protocol® and coined the term deportphobia®.



2 CASAC HOURS



Using Dialogue as a Critical Tool for Anti-Racist Education

The term anti-racism(ist) does not appear anywhere in the first two released Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) but appears 35 times in the newest 2022 version - speaking to the emergence of a paradigm shift in social work education and pushing us to define what this paradigm may look like in the classroom and in the field. Additionally, as gatekeepers for the profession, social work instructors and educators are bound by the Code of Ethics and entrusted with ensuring that students are prepared for competent, ethical, and professional social work practice and must constantly ask ourselves how we are preparing students to enter the field and if we are creating spaces where students can be critical thinkers and develop critical praxis.

This workshop is geared towards supervisors/leaders who facilitate groups as well as Adjunct Faculty/instructors of Social Work and will focus on the framework for dialogic teaching as one that can support the creation of critically reflective and anti-racist spaces in classrooms and group supervision. Participants will have a chance to reflect on their own practices of teaching and of leading group supervision and how they use dialogue to develop critical thinking skills. After learning about the components of dialogic teaching, participants will have the opportunity to set some goals on how to use the framework to support practice.



Gabriella McBride, LCSW received her MSW from Columbia in 2006 and worked for 15 years in the Bronx with children and families. After a supervisory role at New York Foundling, Gabriella transitioned to Mott Haven Academy in 2009. In her role as Director of Social Services, Gabriella helped build the school's social emotional programming and is proud of the work the team has done to create a community with students and families at its core. During this time, she contributed to the school's anti-racist framework and trauma-sensitive culture by developing clinical and classroom interventions, supervising the work of core department members and overseeing committee work throughout the building. Gabriella has been teaching as an adjunct lecturer at NYU Silver since the fall of 2016, where a community based and relational approach drives her pedagogical style. This includes focusing on critical thinking and a commitment to anti-racist social work practice. Gabriella is a proud member of NYU's DSW Class of 2023 and an even prouder mama of two.

