

**Ensuring Black Lives Matter**  
***NASW Ohio Meeting***

June 4, 2020

# Agenda

- I. Who are we; why are we here
- II. Social Workers and the Black Lives Matter Movement
- III. #BLM & direct practice
- IV. Our next steps
- V. Your reflections, comments - space prioritized for Black social workers

George Floyd	James Clay	David McAtee	Finan Berhe
Breonna Taylor	Montae Shackleford	Modesto Reyes	Adrian Medearis
Ahmaud Arbery	Lamar Richardson	Tony McDade	Dreasjon Reed
Tyre King	Abadi	Randy Roszell Lewis	Jah'Sean Iandie Hodge
Julius Tate	Gebregziber	Robert Johnson	Qavon Webb
Tamir Rice	Amanuel Dagebo	Rayshard Scales	Demontre Bruner
Henry Green	Ledarren D. Mixon	David Tylek Atkinson	Said Joquin
John Crawford, III	Trayvon Martin	Yassin Mohamed	Brent Martin
Eric Jamar Lupain Stromer	Atatiana Jefferson		Sahaun Lee Fuhr

I. Who are we; why are we here

Harvest



## II. Social Workers and the Black Lives Matter Movement

- A. Understanding movement demands
- B. Finding your place in the movement
  1. Participating in direct action and civil disobedience
  2. Other ways to support the movement

## 2016 PLATFORM



### We Demand An End To The War Against Black People

We call for not just individual accountability of officers after a murder, but entire police departments. State actors like police, immigration agents, local officials, institutions who have caused harm to Black communities must acknowledge the harm they have caused Black families, make an official apology and commit resources to families and communities who have been forced to suffer.

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### We Demand Repair for Past and Continuing Harms

The government, responsible corporations and other institutions that have profited off of the harm they have inflicted on Black people – from colonialism to slavery through food and housing redlining, mass incarceration, and surveillance – must repair the harm done.

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### We Demand A Divestment From The Police And Investment In Black Communities

We call on localities and elected officials across the country to divest resources away from policing in local budgets and reallocate those resources to the healthcare, housing and education our people deserve. More officers, guns, jails and prisons are not a solution to longstanding problems of racial disparities, injustice and police violence.

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### We Demand Economic Justice for All Our People:

Our people from Minneapolis to Louisville, continue to be exploited by this economy, generation after generation. At this moment of economic crisis we need to seize the opportunity to rethink the economy and move it towards one that serves the needs of people, not corporations.

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### We Demand Community Control:

The most impacted in our communities need to control the laws, institutions, and policies that are meant to serve us – from our schools to our local budgets, economies, and police departments.

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### We demand independent Black political power and Black self-determination in all areas of society.

We envision a remaking of the current U.S. political system in order to create a real democracy where Black people and all marginalized people can effectively exercise full political power.

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# Visionary Demands from Movement for Black Lives 2016

# Movement Demands (specific)

[Resources for Accountability and Actions for Black Lives](#) by Carlisa Johnson

- Live document containing specific action items for specific victims

[Campaign Zero](#) & [8 Can't Wait](#)

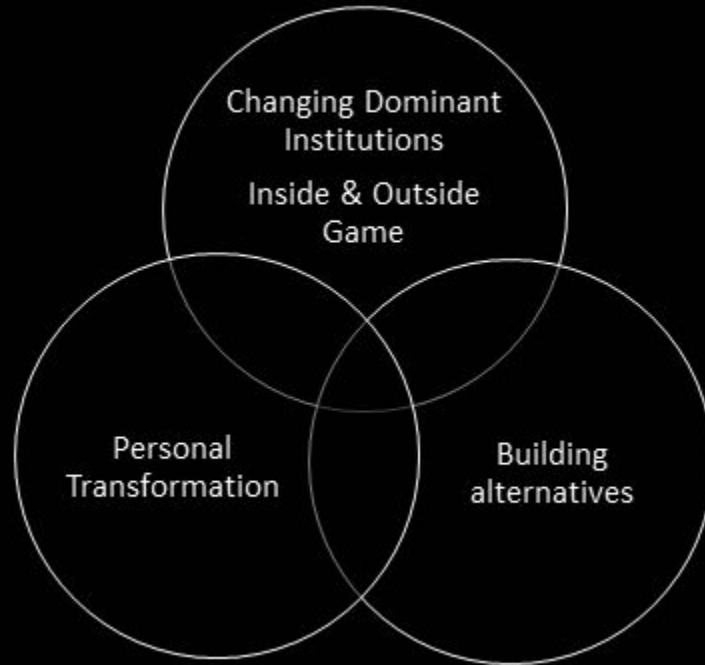
- Systems change recommendations developed with from community demands, task-force recommendations and research

Local efforts

- Look for local Black-led orgs!
- Examples
  - [Cleveland Community Police Commission](#)
  - Columbus People's Justice Project



# Quickest primer on movement ecology



Resource: Community Organizing Fundamentals presented by Alwiyah Shariff (NASW Ohio webinar)

# Movement ecology (cont)



Resource: Mapping our Social Change Roles in Times of Crisis by Deepa Iyer (article)

# Direct Action & Civil Disobedience

It works!

Women's Suffrage, Vietnam War Protests, LGBTQ+ Rights, Disability Rights, Civil Rights...

Public opinion polls during the Civil Rights Movement:

- 1961 - 57% Hurts
- 1963 - 60% Hurts
- 1964 - 74% Hurts

Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, The Fair Housing Act of 1968

# Weighing risks for direct action

- Physical risks
  - Chemical weapons & non-lethal projectiles
  - COVID-19 risks
  - Walking & standing
  - Arrest
- Identity factors matter! The risks are not the same

# Consequences for your license

- CSWMFT Board is a consumer protection agency
- Rule 4757.36 states that the Board can take disciplinary action against a licensee or applicant for the following reasons:
  - Commission of an act that violates any provision of this chapter or rules adopted under it;
  - Knowingly making a false statement on an application for licensure or registration, or for renewal of a license or certificate of registration;
  - A conviction in this or any other state of a crime that is a felony in this state;
  - A conviction in this state or in any other state of a misdemeanor committed in the course of practice as [...] social work assistant, social worker, or independent social worker;
  - A violation of the person's code of ethical practice adopted by rule of the board pursuant to section 4757.11 of the Revised Code;
- **EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE LIABILITY INSURANCE REGARDLESS!**

# Reporting charges or convictions to the Board

## Initial license application

- From Board: All applicants are required under law to report all misdemeanor and felony convictions unless they are only minor traffic violations. All charges and or convictions require a “yes” answer, even if the original charge and conviction is in an expunged status. Failure to report any police record is falsification of an application and is grounds for denial of an application.
- Should prepare a personal statement

## Renewal

- From Board: If you have been convicted of a felony or first degree misdemeanor since your last renewal or since licensure you are required under law to report all misdemeanor and/or felony convictions (other than minor traffic violations). Failure to report any police record is falsification of an application and is grounds for denial of an application for renewal.

# Movement ecology again



Resource: Mapping our Social Change Roles in Times of Crisis by Deepa Iyer (article)

### III. #BLM & direct practice

- A. Addressing anti-Black bias in social work
- B. Building competency to address racial and police-related trauma
- C. Addressing complicity & inside game - social work with police



# Direct Practice Resources

[Anti-Oppression-Informed Practice](#) developed by Julia D'Agostino and overseen by multi-racial team of social workers including Drs. Cherie Bridges Patrick and Cynthia Tyson.

NASW Ohio Certification Program

[Stop Hesitating: A Resource for Psychotherapists and Counselors](#) by Elizabeth McCorvey, MSW, LCSW  
Direct and specific guide to initiating conversations with clients about race, particularly for white social workers!

[Navigating the Silences: Social Worker Discourses Around Race](#) by Cherie Bridges Patrick, PhD, LISW-S  
Dissertation on how narrative discourse maintains racist systems within social work practice despite denial of racism. Helpful for self-reflection.

[Anti-Racist Trauma Informed Care \(ARTIC\)](#)

A framework for direct practice that builds understanding of intergenerational racial trauma into trauma-informed care principles that de-centralizes whiteness as standard. Trainings offered for white and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) providers.

[De-Colonize Social Work Podcast - ACAB episode](#)

Critical discussion of social workers' relationship with police after the murder of Atatiana Jefferson during a wellness check.

# IV. Our next steps

1.Support for protest and direct action

2. Clarifying and re-committing to BLM-focused advocacy

- Potential advocacy campaigns - Follow NASW Ohio [Advocacy](#) Page
  - Federal
    - Ending qualified immunity for police officers
  - State
    - Stand Your Ground
    - Racism is public health crisis
    - End use of tear gas
  - Local
    - Divestment in militarized police and invest in Black communities

3.Creating more intentional space for social workers to provide oversight and collectively develop practice standards that align with Black Lives Matter

I. Your reflections, comments

\*Spoken space is reserved for Black social workers\*

**Black Lives Matter**