

Oregon Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development

A Division of the Oregon Counseling Association

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2020-2021 OAMCD Board

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OAMCD Statement of Solidarity

Black Lives Matter

June 1, 2020

The Oregon Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development mourns the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, David McAtee, and the many unnamed who have lost their lives to state sanctioned violence. While we grieve and organize together as a multicultural community, we center our Black community members' needs and experiences in our work to undo anti-Blackness, dismantle white supremacy, and advance racial justice. OAMCD stands in solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

To our Black Counselors, Counseling Students, Counselor Educators and Supervisors

We see you. We see your pain. We will fight for you. In the United States, Black bodies have been targeted by systems of power and oppression for generations and continue to be terrorized by mass media, repeated acts of violence, and racial discrimination in the present. The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted your community. Social-distancing has doubly isolated you from connecting with Black counselors and other sources of social support. Race-based trauma and minority stress are real. Intersectional oppression in the forms of sexism, heterosexism, ableism, sizeism, ageism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia can compound the impact of racial trauma on your mental and physical

well-being. Representation matters. You deserve access to culturally-specific counseling, mentorship, and supervision. We celebrate your resilience. We admire your bravery and power. We honor the healing modalities of your ancestors.

Call for Accountability from Co-Conspirators and Leaders

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”

~ Desmond Tutu

It is all of our work to undo anti-Blackness, dismantle white supremacy, and advance racial justice.

We call on elected officials in the state of Oregon to denounce the killing of Black people by police, and pledge to stand in solidarity with Black elected officials to eradicate anti-Black systems of oppression in our local government and policing, and instead invest in systems of care that emphasize mental health, addictions recovery, houselessness solutions, education, and employment.

We call on the Oregon Counseling Association (ORCA), the Western Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (WACES), and Counselor Education programs across the state to strategically recruit and effectively support (financially, socially, emotionally, and professionally) BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) faculty, students, and leaders. Provide acknowledgement, rest, and recovery to BIPOC counseling students as they learn to hold space for BIPOC clients while processing their own fear, grief, and

anger. Prioritize the teaching of the Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies, and the use of the competencies in the supervision of counselors.

We call on non-Black people of color co-conspirators to know when to step up and when to step back. Be vocal about your solidarity and organize with your peers, family, colleagues, students, and supervisees. Recognize and undo anti-Blackness in your own communities. Look at and let go of the ways you may benefit from and perpetuate white supremacy.

We call on white co-conspirators to listen more and educate yourselves and your families, donate to causes supporting BIPOC communities, broaden the circle of those whom you call friends, fight for public policy reform, use your privilege to interrupt racism when you see it. Look at and let go of the ways you benefit from and perpetuate white supremacy.

OAMCD’s Mission

OAMCD’s mission is to address mental health disparities experienced by systemically oppressed groups in Oregon by enhancing multicultural and social justice counseling competencies among Oregon-based mental health professionals, and by advancing and sustaining personal growth and improving educational and professional development opportunities for members from diverse cultural backgrounds.

In solidarity,
Sofia Jasani
President, OAMCD 2020-2021

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