



# PROJECT NAF

Nurturing Asheville & Area Families

## PROJECT NAF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Jacquelyn Clark  
Representing Current Participants
- Denise Duckett  
Care Partners of Western NC
- Charlene Galloway  
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc.
- Brandon Romstadt  
Buncombe Health & Human Services
- Royanna Williams: Business Owner, TBN Designs & Former NAF Participant
- Cynthia Yancey, MD  
Western NC Community Health Services

## Message from Ronessa Mackey

### National HIV Testing Day

Each year on June 27, we observe National HIV Testing Day. On this day, we unite with partners, health departments, and other organizations to raise awareness and plan events about the importance of HIV testing and early diagnosis of HIV.



Ronessa Mackey

# PROJECT EMPOWER

Education Means Power

## Project EMPOWER Community Advisory Council

- Johnnie Grant, *The Urban News*
- Dr. Randall Johnson, Asheville City Schools District
- Ms. Tracey Childers & Mr. Devin Lipford & WNCAP
- Rasheeda McDaniel, Buncombe County Health & Human Services

## Message from Sapphire De'Bellott

### Be Aware. Don't Share. Lock Your Meds.

Prevent prescription medication overdose. For more information, please visit [lockyourmeds.org/NC](http://lockyourmeds.org/NC).



Sapphire De'Bellott

A message from The Partnership for a Substance Free Youth Buncombe County.

# Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.

*ECHO (Enhancing Collaborative Health Options & Opportunities)*

## NATIONAL CRISES: Corona Virus, Systemic Racism

*No Justice, No Peace! "I Can't Breathe!"*

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, died in Minneapolis, Minnesota, after Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, knelt on Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes while Floyd was handcuffed face down in the street.



We continue to be in the midst of a global public health crisis. This pandemic, Coronavirus, has turned life as we know it, upside down for individuals, families, businesses, and communities across the country, testing all of our strength and stamina in unprecedented ways. In addition to this pandemic, our nation has also seen the ugly face of continued systemic and institutional racism through the death of Mr. George Floyd.

As this country contends with two simultaneous crises, the coronavirus pandemic and more than 10 straight days of nationwide protests about the tragic killing of Mr. Floyd, there is a rare show of uniformity across race and party about the treatment of African Americans by the police.

This past week, I, along with many other community partnerships, Asheville City and Buncombe County governments, and faith-based organizations, have participated in many virtual and unity meetings regarding the death of Mr. Floyd—with intentional and on-going emphasis on the need and importance of wearing masks, washing our hands, and social distancing during protest marches, unity, and community events.

As tragic as this death was and is, it has brought national and global attention of the need to stop talking about the need for change and to do something about it, "Don't Just Talk About It, Be About It."

Agencies, programs, and partnerships are now sitting around the table to do just that, discuss resolutions for system change. The need for new resolutions and system change was also emphasized in a WLOS 13 news cast by Dr. John H. Grant, past President and CEO of Mount Zion Community Development, Inc., who spoke about the devastating death of Mr. George Floyd (Friday, May 29).

This month we celebrate Men's Health Month. Which is even more meaningful now when you include the plight of black men and social injustice in America. The killing of George Floyd and the subsequent protests around the world have created a pivotal moment for leaders of all races and social economic status to think about where they stand on this issue. As leaders, the stand we take today will shape and define our professional integrity today, tomorrow, and in the future.

It's easy to say, "Well I think I would," or "maybe I should..." when dealing with hypothetical situations. But, now is the time to take a stand and to stop talking about what we would do. We are dealing with the crisis of social injustices and health inequities now, and have been or should be educated on the social determinants of health. As a leader, we must take a stand and use our power and influence to lead now. Where do you stand?

You may ask, what does this have to do with Mount Zion Community Development's programs? Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA, President and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation states, "Obstacles children encounter early

## MOUNT ZION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.



Dr. John H. Grant, Founding Chairman, President, CEO of Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.



Belinda K. Grant, Chief Executive Officer of Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.

in life can set off a negative chain of events so hard to break that they can transcend generations. Poor education leads to limited job options, which lead to lower income, living in poor neighborhoods with poor housing, higher crime, more violence, limited access to nutritious foods, safe places to exercise or medical care—all of which leads to poorer physical and mental health."

## The Partnership for Substance Free Youth in Buncombe County



2019 Coalition Leadership Retreat, December 16-17, 2019. Left-Right: Miranda Poe, Laurie Clement, Belinda Grant, Monica Dillingham, Carolina Silicio-Perez, Shannon Lee, Kriya Lendzion, Heather Sellers, Kelli Tinsley, Michele Barkett. Photo: Kelli Tinsley, Buncombe County Sheriff's Office

## MOUNT ZION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

### Contact

For more information about MZCD services, please contact **Belinda K. Grant**, Chief Executive Officer, (828) 776-1429, [belindakgrant@mzcd.info](mailto:belindakgrant@mzcd.info)

*We look forward to hearing from you!*

### Board of Directors

- Linda Glaze: Chair
- Sophie Dixon: Treasurer
- Diana Rhodes: Fundraising
- Rev. Scott Rogers: Member

Our programming is made possible through the support of our generous funders.



Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc.

