

PROJECT NAF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jacquelyn Clark, Representing Current Participants

Denise Duckett, Care Partners of Western NC

Nancy Farmer, SPARC Foundation

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

PROJECT EMPOWER

Education Means Power



Project EMPOWER Community Advisory Council

Seth Bellamy, RHA Partnership for a Substance Free Youth

Johnnie Grant, *The Urban News*

Dr. Randall Johnson, Asheville City Schools District

Mr. Devin Lipford & WNCAP

Rasheeda McDaniel, Buncombe County Health & Human Services

The Partnership for Substance Free Youth in Buncombe County



Our Mission:

To build thriving communities to support our vision.

Our Vision:

To create a thriving community of substance free youth.

Our Goal:

To protect our children's future.

Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.

ECHO (Enhancing Collaborative Health Options & Opportunities)

Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis

July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence. As I contemplated this month's article, the word "freedom" came to my mind. But, freedom from what or freedom for whom?

Throughout the day, you can see news stories on the protests against racial injustice throughout many cities, across America, and internationally. People of all races and socioeconomic status, individuals, families, faith-based leadership and churches, agencies and programs are lifting their voices and crying out against racial injustice and systemic racism. It is the shout out against inequality that has, for far too long, defined a society and a country rooted in systemic violence, racism, and health inequalities. Despite numerous attempts to rise up and deal with these ongoing issues, the inequity of black men and women continues to draw us back in.

On Friday, June 26, 2020, the Buncombe County Health and Human Services (BCHHS) Board passed a Proclamation to Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis and outlined action steps that the board will take to advance racial equity and justice in our county. This action by our local health leadership comes after consideration of persistent and pervasive inequities in health outcomes in Buncombe County and advocacy from many community partners, including those represented on Buncombe County's Community Health Improvement Process (CHIP) Advisory Council.

Letter from the CHIP Advisory Council

Communities across the country are coming together, unifying in the call to end racial injustice in all systems, emerging as a movement that demands we take meaningful action to address the experiences of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) without delay. COVID-19 has amplified existing health inequities,

exacerbating the unjust and avoidable disparities in health conditions, opportunities and outcomes between community members and groups because of the cumulative stressors, trauma, and unequal treatment caused by racism.

The County Commissioners are expected to **consider** adopting a resolution to name Racism a Public Health Crisis at an upcoming meeting (exact date TBD). Creating a resolution would help put policies into practice that advance equity and work to undo the impact of racism.

Thank you for all you do every day to advance health, wellbeing, and equity in our community.

In solidarity, Emma Olson and Jackie Kiger, CHIP Leadership Team Co-Chairs

Don't Just Talk About It, Be About It

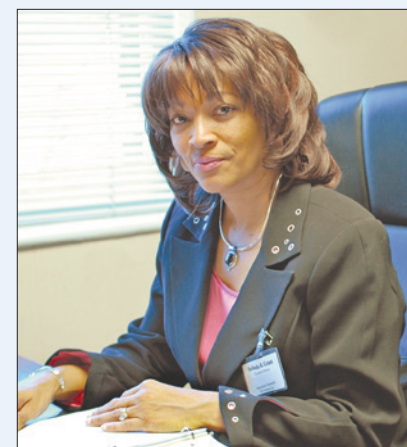
You may say, "Racism has been going on a long time, nothing will change, things will remain the same." Well, here is something you and I can do to have a voice and to promote change.

1. You can submit a letter to the County Commissioners from yourself or your organization or draft your own letter.
2. Please submit all additional letters of support to Zo Mpofu at Zo.Mpofu@buncombecounty.org by the end of the day Wednesday, July 15, 2020.
3. Finally, you can share a template of a Letter of Support with any community partners interested in drafting their own letter. Please email Belinda K. Grant at belindagrants@mzcd.info if you would like to have a template of the Letter of Support.

To learn more about the national movement to name Racism as a Public Health Crisis, please visit the American Public Health Association, apha.org.



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.

World Hepatitis Day – July 28th



Viral hepatitis causes more than one million deaths each year. While deaths from tuberculosis and HIV have been declining, deaths from hepatitis are increasing.

Source: CDC.gov.

Healing & Health Opportunities through Preventive Education (HOPE)

Project NAF held a one-on-one educational session with program participants on Thursday, June 18, 2020 from 4-7 p.m.

Ronesha Mackey and Sapphire De'Bellott were on hand to greet and meet participants, to conduct temperature checks, and to distribute HOPE bags. Bags included hand sanitizers, paper products, pampers, and protective masks. Children



Project NAF Outreach Workers Sapphire De'Bellott (left) and Ronesha Mackey stock HOPE bags for program participants.

received goody bags but were not present at the session to enhance safety during COVID-19.

Additionally, staff practiced safe-distancing and appointments were scheduled to support safety measures. Masks were required of staff and participants, and temperature checks were conducted upon arrival at the office. Masks were compliments of United Way and Emma Olson, Chair, Buncombe CHIP Advisory Council.

If you leave home, know your Ws!



MOUNT ZION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Contact

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

We look forward to hearing from you!

Board of Directors

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

