

## Emerging Issues around COVID-19 and Social Determinants of Health for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and recovery Workforces

### Strategic Discussion 1: Health Disparities and the Impact on COVID-19 on African-American and Black Communities

Tuesday, April 28: 2-3:30pm



**Facilitator: LaShonda Williamson-Jennings, M.Ed, CPS  
Co-Director.  
South Southwest Prevention Technology Transfer Center**

LaShonda Williamson-Jennings has 15 years of experience providing and coordinating the delivery of tailored, state-of-the-science training and technical assistance (T/TA) that optimizes the ability of states, tribes, and communities to achieve substance abuse prevention outcomes. LaShonda has extensive experience managing projects, facilitating face-to-face and online trainings, and delivering customized technical assistance. LaShonda received a BA from the University of Oklahoma and a Master of Education in adult education and administration from Northwestern Oklahoma State University. She is an Internationally Certified Prevention Specialist (ICPS).



**Panelist 1: Wanda Boone, PhD  
Founder and Executive Director  
Together for Resilient Youth (TRY)**

Dr. Wanda Boone's career in prevention spans over 30 years. She founded Together for Resilient Youth (TRY) in 2003 after a corporate career in Research and Sr. National and International Executive Director, Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs. She Co-Chairs the Durham County Substance Use Task Force, Chairs the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People Health and Safety Committee, serves as a member of the Collaborative for the Effective Prescription Overdose Policies, facilitates TRY Resilient Together, a social group for parents that have lost children due to overdose, created Forward Together a Whole Health Approach to Addiction, served as a Healthy NC 2030 Resilience Social and Economic Factors work group Co-Chair, among many other affiliations. Dr. Boone is a guest speaker and technical advisor on the Strategic Prevention Framework, Trauma, Resilience, Implicit Biases, Racial Inequities, Social Determinants of Health, the Three Domains of Aces, Behavioral Health Disparities and more. TRY connects the dots using the public health model, uses environmental

strategies and relies on data to guide prevention strategies. She has earned the title Social Justice Warrior.

Dr. Boone sees her work in Durham, the State of NC and indeed around the country as an effort to combat the series of cultural shifts that have made substance use and risky behaviors so appealing to youth. TRY's Mission is to prevent substance use among youth by addressing trauma and risky behaviors that can result in addiction and lost productivity in adulthood. TRY's youth coalition Living in Future Tense (LIFT) and young adult coalition, College TRY are grounded in and guided by resilience building. The packaging and availability of tobacco and alcohol in more kid-friendly forms, the glamorization of drug use by media, the belief that marijuana is green and therefore good along with opioid misuse has led to the continuum and advancement of addiction, increased suicide, depression and risky behaviors among our youth and young adults. "Holding young people solely responsible for underage drinking (example) is like holding fish responsible for dying in a polluted stream." – The Face Project

Dr. Boone has been a forerunner in the field Resilience/ACEs. She believes that children thrive when the adults that surround them are well and do well. She has been passionate and determined about exposing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as key for many adults that struggle with behavioral, physical and emotional challenges. "Why am I like that?" Her project, Achieving Health Hand in Hand! (AHHH!) aims to engage adults in a Resilient Community safety net that benefits everyone.

Dr. Wanda Boone says, "My lifelong dream is to make a difference in people's lives, to help them see the power within themselves to live their best lives and to create a more resilient community for all - together. - Ubuntu"



**Panelist 2: Nzinga Harrison, MD**  
**Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder Eleanor Health**

A well-respected physician and educator, Dr. Harrison is the Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder of Eleanor Health, an innovative company who provides comprehensive, longitudinal outpatient care for individuals experiencing opioid and other substance use disorders. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology with Spanish and Chemistry minors at Howard University, completed medical school at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and General Psychiatry Residency at Emory University. She is Board-Certified in both Adult General Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine and has spent her career treating individuals with Serious Persistent Mental Illness and Addictive Diseases. Currently, she holds adjunct faculty

appointments at the Morehouse School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry is Co-Founder of Physicians for Criminal Justice Reform, Inc. and Campaign Psychiatrist for Let's Get Mentally Fit, a public education and stigma-reduction campaign.



**Panelist 3: Tracy Johnson**  
**Founder and Managing Partner**  
**TTJ Group**

Mr. Johnson, Founder & Managing Partner of TTJ Group, LLC (2013- Present) with over 29 years of experience, he has worked closely with states, nonprofits, small businesses, universities, communities and coalitions in helping them with community organizing, environmental strategies, strategic planning, substance abuse prevention, cultural competence. He is also Managing Partner and Director of Training & Technical Assistance for SheRays' & Associates, LLC (2011- Present). He

formally was the Project Director (2003-12) of the federally funded Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) Central Regional Team (CSAP's Central RT), which covered ten (10) states and seven (7) Native American sites. He has led projects in working with states and communities on effective substance abuse prevention strategies.

Has extensive knowledge of Cultural Competence and Diversity. He has provided Cultural trainings to nonprofit organizations, small and large business in the past 20 plus years. The training he provide are interactive and resourceful for the participants. SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework process. He leads and directs 60+ content Expert Associates and Consultants doing Cultural Competence, health disparities & equity, substance use disorder prevention in 15 states. He has presented on Opioid Prevention strategies for communities (including faith based) and integrating cultural competence within opioid prevention strategies. In 2018, Mr. Johnson and his competent team have provided faith based and the opioid crisis trainings in Louisiana, North Carolina and Wisconsin. He currently is working with the state of Ohio' Partnership For Success Strategic Prevention Framework (PFS- SPF) SAMHSA funded statewide grant supporting twelve (12) rural Appalachian counties in developing coalitions to reduce the opioid crisis.

His team has also provided training to SAMHSA Minority AIDS and HIV new grantees since 2010. He was former President and former lead consultant of Martin Luther King Jr. Community Services of Illinois (1989-2013). He led the implementation of a 1995 CSAP "High Risk Youth" grant in reducing substance abuse in high risk communities. This program became a "promising practice" and replicated nationally.

He was the Management Officer at Invitation Health Institute (2003-13), an affiliate of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, where as a member of the Management Team in guiding the day-to-day operations as well as developing and implementing the organization's business strategies. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Northern Illinois University in Public Administration. He has three (3) children and 6 grandchildren.



**Panelist 5: Carlton Hall**  
**President and CEO**  
**Carlton Hall Consulting LLC**

Carlton Hall is the President and CEO of Carlton Hall Consulting LLC (CHC) , a multi-faceted, full-service consulting firm designed to provide customized solutions and enable measurable change for communities, organizations, families and individuals. Carlton Hall has been providing intensive substance abuse prevention focused and community problem solving services to the nation for the last 25 years. His responsibilities, unique set of skills and experience have made him one of the most highly sought after instructors and guides for community problem solving in every state and territory in the nation as well as internationally, with successful achievements in South Africa, Ghana, Bermuda, Kenya and others.

Carlton spent twelve years with the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) serving in several leadership positions and including most recently, Acting Vice President, Training Operations, and Acting Director for CADCA's National Coalition Institute. In this role, Carlton provided critical leadership supporting the successful design, and delivery of the community outreach component of the Drug Enforcement Administration's DEA 360 Strategy in priority cities across the country. Carlton is one of the primary architects of CADCA's National Coalition Academy. The Academy, a year-long coalition development program, is designed to increase the effectiveness of communities in drug demand reduction producing population level outcomes.

Currently, Carlton and the CHC team provide executive training and technical assistance support to the Southeast PTTC (Region 4). Learn more about Carlton at <http://carltonhallconsulting.com/about.html>