

Dr. Michael A. Lindsey (Chair)

Dr. Michael A Lindsey is the executive director of the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research and Constance and Martin Silver Professor of Poverty Studies at New York University's Silver School of Social Work. Michael's current research, funded by the Robin Hood Foundation and Annie E. Casey Foundation, involves the delivery of an innovative intervention aimed at decreasing PTSD and depression symptoms and improving positive parenting skills among child-welfare involved mothers with trauma-related disorders. Michael was appointed to spearhead NYU's Strategies to Reduce Inequality initiative, leading a team of NYU faculty from schools and disciplines across the university who are working on issues of inequality. Prior to joining NYU Silver in 2014, Michael was an associate professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work and a faculty affiliate at the University of Maryland Department of Psychiatry's Center for School Mental Health. As a child and adolescent mental health services researcher, Michael has received research support from the National Institute of Mental Health to develop and test the Making Connections Intervention, a treatment engagement intervention that promotes access to and use of mental health services among depressed and traumatized teens in schools. Michael is a standing member of the National Advisory Council, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and is on the editorial board of the journal Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research. Michael holds a PhD in social work and MPH from the University of Pittsburgh, an MSW from Howard University, and a BA in sociology from Morehouse College. Michael is a Fellow of the fourth class of the Health Innovators Fellowship and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

Dr. Alfiee Breland-Noble

Dr. Breland-Noble is a recognized expert in adolescent-depression disparities as evidenced by her appointments to the American Psychological Association Board to Develop Depression Treatment Guidelines and the PCORI National Advisory Panel on Addressing Disparities. She currently leads multiple research teams with a focus on patient-centered outcomes research, community-based participatory research, behavioral clinical trials, and faith-based mental health promotion (*from Georgetown University*). Working in the field for over 20 years, Dr. Breland-Noble also serves as the Director of Research for the African American Knowledge Optimized for Mindfully Healthy Adolescents (AAKOMA), which builds to create a culturally relevant evidence-base to improve mental health treatment by African American adolescents and their families.

Altha Stewart

Altha J. Stewart, M.D., currently serves as the Immediate Past President of the American Psychiatric Association after serving as the President of the APA from 2018 until 2019. As President, Stewart focused on creating leadership opportunities for early career psychiatrists, improving global mental health strategies for colleagues in innovate treatment programs, and exploring social determinants of mental health, including racism, sexism, ageism, and homophobia, that continue to affect the mental and psychological health of many Americans. While she has served in several leadership positions within the APA, she previously served as the Executive Director for Just Care Family Network, Memphis' federally funded System of Care program for children with serious emotional disorders and their families (American Psychiatric

Association). Now, she is an associate professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Center for Health in Justice Involved Youth at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Annelle Primm

Dr. Annelle Primm is a physician executive and nationally recognized expert in community psychiatry and cultural psychiatry. She has held leadership roles in a clinical academic setting at Johns Hopkins Hospital and in organized medicine at the American Psychiatric Association. She has lectured and written widely and is a co-editor of two recent books, *Disparities in Psychiatric Care*, and *Women in Psychiatry: Personal Perspectives*. She has led collaborations of health care practitioners and community health advocates across the nation to eliminate disparities in health, mental health and substance use disorder care. In addition, Dr. Primm is the convener of the All Healers Mental Health Alliance (AHMHA), a multi-disciplinary organization that facilitates culturally appropriate responses to the mental health needs of diverse and underserved communities affected by disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy. Since 2015, Dr. Primm has served as the Senior Medical Advisor for The Steve Fund, the nation's only organization focused on supporting the mental health and emotional well-being of young people of color.

Arielle Sheftall

Arielle Sheftall, PhD, is a Principal Investigator with the Center for Suicide Prevention and Research and Center for Innovation in Pediatric Practice at The Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biobehavioral Health from the Pennsylvania State University and a master's and doctoral degree in Human Development and Family Science from The Ohio State University. She began her journey as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Patient-Centered Pediatric Research Program (PC-PRoP) in the summer of 2013 and became faculty at the Research Institute in Fall 2018. Her current research examines early vulnerability factors in youth at high risk for suicidal behavior.

Azza Altiraifi

Azza Altiraifi is an award-winning disabled Afro-Arab organizer based in Washington, DC whose advocacy centers on radical inclusion and access, racial and disability justice, and collective liberation (Al-Jazeera). Currently, she serves as a research associate for the Disability Justice Initiative at American Progress. Previously, Altiraifi has served on the Steering Committee of the Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC), and has organized with the Justice for Muslims Collective (JMC) and Black Lives Matter (DC). Additionally, Altiraifi worked at Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, where she managed public programming, developed improved standards of disability access, and amplified underrepresented issues impacting the region. She is active in local and national advocacy work, consulting with numerous Muslim-led organizations on matters of accessibility and cross-movement coalition building.

Courtney Grey

Courtney Grey currently serves as the Director of Disaster Behavioral Health in the Office of Public Health Preparedness (BPHC) in Boston, Massachusetts, and is responsible for designing trainings, workshops, and seminars that instill the field-tested skills necessary to address the biological, psychological, and social impacts of large-scale, potentially traumatic events, including workforce protection and self-care measures for deployed resources. Having been involved with the BPHC for over 10 years, Grey also serves as a Trainer of Trainers for Psychological First Aid (PFA), developed by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA).

David Johns

David Johns currently serves as the Executive Director of the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC), a civil rights organization dedicated to the empowerment of the Black, LGBTQ community, including people who are living with HIV/AIDS. Previously, he was appointed as the first Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans under the Obama Administration in 2013, working with federal agencies and with communities nationwide to produce more effective education programs for African American students of all ages. As he continues to pursue his PhD in sociology and education policy at Columbia University, Johns' policy background includes serving as the senior education policy advisor to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) under Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Fellow under the leadership of Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY), and has been featured in several publications such as NBC and The Washington Post.

DeForest "Buster" Soaries

Reverend Dr. DeForest Soaries, Jr. currently serves as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens (FBCLG) in Somerset, New Jersey. Since 1990, Reverend Soaries has served as Senior Pastor for the church, leading a congregation of 7,000 members by providing sermons, spiritual guidance and vital church resources to the community.

His pastoral ministry focuses on spiritual growth, educational excellence and economic empowerment. His past work includes serving as the founder for the Central Jersey Community Development Corporation (CJCDC) and the Harvest of Hope Family Services Network (HOH). Additionally, Dr. Soaries served as New Jersey's Secretary of State, making him the first African-American male to do so. Reverend Soaries has written seven books, the most recent being "Say Yes to No Debt: 12 Steps to Financial Freedom" and has taught at Rutgers University, Drew University & Kean University.

Donna H. Barnes

Dr. Donna H. Barnes currently serves as the founder and CEO of DHB Wellness & Associates, LLC where she conducts life coaching, grief recovery, and suicide prevention training on suicide risk management. A certified Master Trainer for suicide prevention and intervention, Dr. Donna H. Barnes trains faculty, staff and students as well as the community on how to recognize the signs of someone who is in a suicidal crisis. Dr. Barnes teaches suicide risk management for

the College of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry at Howard University and has published peer reviewed articles and chapters as well as conducting presentations on the topic across the country. She is the author of the *Truth About Suicide* published by DWJ books in New York as part of the "truth about series..." for middle school and high school students. She has developed a campus-wide prevention program at Howard University; and through NOPCAS has conducted a support group for friends and family members of victims of suicide. She currently serves on the military task force for the National Alliance for Suicide Prevention, the CDC's Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, and she is also the co-founder of the National Organization for People of Color against Suicide (NOPCAS) after losing her son to suicide while he was in college.

Herb Conaway Jr.

The Honorable Herb Conaway, M.D., elected for an 11th term, has been serving New Jersey's 7th Legislative District as its assemblyman for 22 years. In the 218th Legislature, Conaway is a leader in the Democratic majority, Chairman of the Health and Senior Services Committee, member of the Appropriations Committee and member of the Science and Technology Committee. Conaway is the only member of the New Jersey State Legislature with both a medical and law degree. He specializes in internal medicine and serves as Director of the Burlington County Health Department. He earned his bachelor's degree in politics from Princeton University, his medical degree at Jefferson Medical College and his law degree from Rutgers Law School, Camden. Conaway also served as a U.S. Air Force Captain in the Medical Corps at McGuire Air Force Base, as a general medical officer and as an assistant director of the primary care clinic for the base. In addition to playing a leading role in most of the major health legislation signed into law during his 12-year tenure as health chair, Conaway sponsored New Jersey's school funding formula, increased fiscal accountability within school districts, added technology to core curriculum standards and modernized nutritional standards in public schools. He has also sponsored successful legislation advancing environmental protection, property tax relief, veterans services and public safety.

Jan Desper Peters

Jan Desper Peters currently serves as the Executive Director of the Black Mental Health Alliance for Education & Consultation (BMHA), a non-profit organization focused on leading and promoting culturally relevant approaches to behavioral health access, quality, and integration. Prior to BMHA, Peters served as Executive Director of the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust where she assisted African American families navigate the admissions process as well as identify options to meet the financial need to attend independent schools. She also traveled the nation providing training and technical assistance to build capacity in HIV and AIDS service community based organizations, health departments and local planning groups. Her career has allowed her to gain extensive experience in fundraising and fiscal management for nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

Jasmin Pierre

Jasmin Pierre currently serves as the creator of the Minority Mental Health App, “The Safe Space,” which was designed to bring more awareness, education, and acceptance on the topic surrounding mental health within the Black community. Previously, she also serves as a Certified Peer Support Specialist, and the book author of *A Fight Worth Finishing*, a self help book, about her own personal experiences with Depression, and suicide, that's geared towards those who go through severe depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts.

Kia Darling-Hammond

Kia Darling-Hammond has worked for more than twenty years in education and education-adjacent spaces, undertaking research, youth development, teaching, coaching, and nonprofit and school leadership. Dr. Darling-Hammond's scholarship centers creating, preserving, and disseminating knowledge about thriving among youth and young adults of color, with an emphasis on those who identify as LGBTQ+ or same gender loving and as members of the African diaspora. Her goal is to imagine possibilities for self-determination, wellness, and joy, while centering the wisdom of marginalized communities.

Michael Walrond

Reverend Michael A. Walrond Jr. (Pastor Mike) currently serves as the Senior Pastor of First Corinthian Baptist Church in Harlem, New York. In 2012, Pastor Mike's foresight and passion for the Harlem community shaped the vision for the FCBC community development corporation (CDC). The most ambitious project to date of the FCBC CDC is The Dream Center: a transformative space designed to awaken dreams of the community. Focused on creative arts, leadership development, and economic empowerment, The Dream Center offers over twenty-five completely free programs to the Harlem community for all ages, races, and backgrounds. Additionally, in 2016, Pastor Mike founded the Healing on Purpose and Evolving (HOPE) Center, the first faith-based mental health facility in Harlem, which seeks to minimize the stigma that exists in many communities of color when seeking mental health services. Within two years of his leadership at FCBC, the church experienced exponential growth, tripling its membership.

Otis Moss III

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III is senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. He is a preacher, activist, author and filmmaker with an eye toward justice and equality, as evidenced through the gospel of Jesus Christ. He founded the Unashamed Media Group, a justice centered faith-based agency committed to producing and curating stories to inspire the heart and challenge the mind. He was recently recognized as one of the “12 Most Effective Preachers in the English-Speaking World” by Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary. As part of his community engagement through Trinity United Church of Christ, Dr. Moss led the team that came up with the “My Life Matters” curriculum; which includes the viral video, “Get Home Safely: 10 Rules of Survival” created in the aftermath of Michael Brown's death at the hands of Ferguson, Missouri police.

Dr. Raynard Washington

Dr. Raynard Washington currently serves as the Chief Epidemiologist of Philadelphia's Department of Health following his appointment in March 2017. Prior to joining the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Dr. Washington was an epidemiologist at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). There he led and published healthcare analyses to inform and evaluate several federal and state policies, including the implementation of key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, the transition to ICD-10 coding system, the impact of state Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs, and Medicare's Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program.

Dr. Rhonda Boyd

Dr. Rhonda Boyd is a faculty member at PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and an associate professor of Psychology in Psychiatry in the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She is also the Associate Director of CHOP's Child and Adolescent Mood Program in the outpatient clinic of Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, where she practices as a licensed psychologist specializing in evaluation and treatment of youth with depression. In addition, she serves as the Director of Research Training for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at CHOP. Her research interests include examining at-risk children and mothers, including inner city, ethnic minority children, and families with maternal depression.

Sean Joe

Sean Joe is a nationally recognized authority on suicidal behavior among African Americans and currently serves as a Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis. His work also includes launching the Race and Opportunity Lab, which examines race, opportunity, and social mobility in the St. Louis region. Previously, he served on the board of the Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN USA), the scientific advisory board of the National Organization of People of Color Against Suicide, and the editorial board of *Advancing Suicide Prevention*. His research focuses on Black adolescents' mental health service use patterns, the role of religion in Black suicidal behavior, salivary biomarkers for suicidal behavior, and development of father-focused, family-based interventions to prevent urban African American adolescent males from engaging in multiple forms of self-destructive behaviors.

Dr. Sherry Molock

Dr. Molock is an associate professor of clinical psychology at George Washington University. Her current research focuses on risk and protective factors for suicide in African American adolescents and young adults; mental health help-seeking behaviors in African American adolescents and young adults; developing suicide and HIV prevention programs in African American faith-based communities; and HIV risk and suicidal behaviors in young African American men who identify as LGBTQ.

Stephanie Bell-Rose

Stephanie Bell-Rose currently serves as the Senior Managing Director of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, which produces original research and insights on issues pertaining to financial security and organizational effectiveness in the educational, nonprofit, and public sectors. Before joining TIAA, Bell-Rose served as a managing director at Goldman Sachs and president of its foundation, and as counsel and program officer at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Tracie Jenkins

Tracie Jenkins currently serves as the Executive Director of the Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to changing the perception of mental illness in the African American community by encouraging those who suffer to get the help they need.

William Lawson

Dr. William Lawson currently serves as the Medical Director and Psychiatrist of Urgent Care Clinic in Washington D.C. and the Director of Mental Health Research for the Emerson Clinical Research Institute. He has held numerous senior positions and received national recognition including past President of the D.C. chapter of Mental Health America, Past President of the Washington Psychiatric Society, past Chair of the Section of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences of the National Medical Association, and past president of the Black Psychiatrists of America. He has over 200 publications and has continuously received federal, industry, and foundation funding to address mental and substance abuse disparities.