



Past Recipients of the Awards for Advancing Minority Mental Health

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2018 Awardees

Albert Yeung, M.D. who works at the Massachusetts General Hospital Depression Clinical and Research program – where he is the Director of Primary Care Research - and the South Cove Community Health Center – where he is the Co-Medical Director and Director of the Behavioral Health Department. During Dr. Yeung’s career, he has worked to address key language and cultural barriers for Asian Americans, including the strong stigma against mental illnesses. In 2016, he was appointed by the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine as the Course Director for disseminating the stress management and resiliency training to Chinese speaking populations. He is also addressing the mental health services needs of the increasing number of overseas Asian students living in the United States. Dr. Yeung provides mentoring to other doctors who are interested in contributing to minority mental health and has spoken around the world at several different universities and to the lay community.

Amittia Parker, LMSW is a licensed masters social worker and a doctoral student in the department of social welfare at the University of Kansas. She has spent over a decade helping culturally and language-diverse children and families struggling with poverty, depression, domestic violence, anxiety, grief, loss, addiction and trauma, through her work in predominantly African American and Latino communities. Ms. Parker has developed and implemented a head start pilot project serving pregnant women in a community prenatal clinic, as well as a behavioral health position in a children’s safety net health clinic in Kansas City. Looking to the future, one of the things Ms. Parker is focused on is teaching and mentoring other social workers, as well as recruiting and retaining minority social work students through the development of a leadership program at her university.

Rwenshaun Miller, MA, LPCA holds a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling and is a licensed professional counselor. Mr. Miller is also the Founder and Executive Director of Eustress, Inc., a nonprofit built on the principles of bringing mental health awareness through conversation and activities to break the stigma associated with mental illness in black and brown communities. Since 2013, he has engaged in community and online events with his campaign called “let’s talk about it,” which creates safe spaces for open and honest dialogue about mental illness. In 2015, Mr. Miller organized the first annual “let’s talk about it mental health awareness walk”, giving both undergraduate students and alumni the opportunity to engage in service while simultaneously creating dialogue and awareness on the topic of college mental health. The incredible success of this walk has led to several others.

The Ecumenical Center has a 50-year history of providing counseling to minorities with 18 satellite locations in San Antonio, Texas and the surrounding counties. In 2017, they reached a total of 24,000 individuals through their work, 12,000 of them children. Over half of the people served were Hispanic and African American minorities. The Center has been successful at advancing minority mental health by removing transportation barriers, removing the stigma, removing financial barriers, and by providing a wide range of evidence-based counseling services.

The El Paso Child Guidance Center is located in the heart of a binational, bicultural, bilingual, and profoundly underserved metropolitan area and has more than 60 years of service. It is the only nationally accredited mental health outpatient clinic in El Paso, Texas and the only nonprofit organization in El Paso providing therapy and psychiatric services specifically for children and their families. With over 80% of El Paso's residents as Hispanic and facing tremendous health disparities, the Center is committed to increasing access to quality mental health services for underserved Hispanic children and youth. No client is ever turned away from services due to an inability to pay. This year, they aim to expand their work by assessing, training and evaluating child-serving professionals and teachers in the elementary and foster care settings.

The Threshold Clubhouse is an organization from Chapel Hill, North Carolina that has been serving individuals since 1985 - the oldest running mental health organization serving the Durham community and the only one of its kind. At Threshold, members work together to operate a "clubhouse," where they experience meaningful and critical supports to remain in recovery and avoid re-hospitalization. Open seven days a week, Threshold serves more than 43 men and women each day and approximately 110 members on an annual basis. Ninety percent of the members are low income with chronic health conditions and 60% of Threshold members are African American and several of the members are veterans.

2017 Awardees

Farha Abbasi, M.D. has publicly addressed the barriers that stigmatize and silence mental health issues within the Islamic community. She is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Michigan State University and a staff psychiatrist at the University's Olin Student Health Center (former APA/APAF SAMHSA Minority Fellow). She established the Muslim Mental Health Conference, now in its ninth year, which brings together faith leaders, health care providers, and researchers to examine topics related to mental health across the American Muslim community. She is the managing editor of the *Journal of Muslim Mental Health* and works directly with the Muslim-American community to encourage integration into, rather than isolation from, mainstream society. She has trained more than 50 Imams from southeast Michigan, who are now partners in these initiatives.

Lianne Smith, M.D. has been involved in advancing mental health of minorities in multiple arenas both locally in the Harlem and Brownsville communities in New York City, where she was engaged in research on the social determinants of health, and internationally, where she was instrumental in establishing an international rotation for New York University (NYU) psychiatry residents in a hospital in Ghana. Smith, a former APA Diversity Fellow, is a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at NYU and attending psychiatrist at the Manhattan Psychiatric Center Outpatient Clinic.

Susan Louise Peterson, Ph.D. is a nationally certified school psychologist in Las Vegas, a former board-certified teacher, and an award-winning parenting author. She has spent the majority of her career working to promote and advance the early childhood education of young minority students and to educate parents about the early childhood assessment process for special education services.

The Trevor Project in West Hollywood, Calif., is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth (LGBTQ). The goal of the Trevor project is to save lives by providing support through free and confidential crisis programs, targeting LGBTQ youth aged 13 to 24.

2016 Awardees

Kenneth Fung, M.D., Toronto, Canada

Specializes in cultural psychiatry to advocate for inclusive mental healthcare. He is a co-founder of the Asian Initiative in Mental Health Program (AIM) at the Toronto Western Hospital which serves the local, underserved Cantonese and Mandarin-speaking communities, as well as a training ground for medical student and residents interested in cross-cultural psychiatry.

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program of Lifeline Connections, Vancouver, WA

Provides high quality treatment and support for people who are deaf and experiencing a substance use disorder, allowing equal access to treatment in American Sign Language (ASL), the client's first language.

Adelante of Suffolk County, Inc., Central Islip, NY

Serves local low-income families, many of which are Hispanic. Adelante runs a Supported Housing and Behavioral Program in which all staff are bilingual (English-Spanish) and able to provide care in the client's first (and potentially only) language.

Nubia Lluberes-Rincon, M.D, Freedom, PA

Pursuing a fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry to allow her to help close the gap existing between psychiatric services and the correctional system in the US.

2015 Awardees

XinQi Dong, MD, MPH, Chicago, IL

Focused his career on social justice and mental health issues within the Chinese aging populations

Rebati Sante Mentale, Pembroke Pines, FL

An organization dedicated to establishing an effective mental health capacity in Haiti

We Hear You. Te Eschuchamos., Chicago, IL

Program for young Latinos to reduce the stigma related to mental health issues and increase the likelihood of utilization of mental health services

2014 Awardees

Daolong Zhang, M.D., Chicago, IL

Started a weekly TV program to address mental health issues within the Chinese culture

Healthy Start Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Educates the minority maternal child health population on mental health and emotional well-being

Just Care Family Network, Memphis, TN

An intervention and support program in Shelby Co, TN that provides education and information to dispel myths

NAMI New Jersey, North Brunswick, NJ

Culturally appropriate mental health education, in native languages, to Spanish/Chinese/Mandarin/Cantonese/Hindi/and a variety of other South Asian language speakers

Metropolitan Family Services, Chicago, IL

Provides counseling and mental health services to individuals and families since the 1950s

Partners in Suicide Prevention, Los Angeles, CA

Increases public awareness on suicide and reduces stigmas associated with seeking mental health services

Turnaround for Children, New York, NY

Implements a "fortified teaching and learning" environment which creates school capacity for dealing with students' developmental, cognitive and emotional needs

2013 Awardees

The Latino Program at Positive Impact, Atlanta, GA

Provides culturally competent mental health and substance abuse treatment services to Latinos affected by HIV.

William B. Lawson, MD, PhD, Washington, DC

Working with the veteran's administration to address the problem of African Americans being misdiagnosed

LGBT Affirmative Action Program of South Beach Psychiatric Center, Brooklyn, NY

Serves low socioeconomic LGBT individuals with serious and persistent psychiatric disorders

Benjamin Woo, M.D., Los Angeles, CA

Writing Chinese newspaper articles to raise awareness on the availability of treatment and serving as a guest speaker on the only Cantonese station in the Greater Los Angeles area.

2012 Awardees

Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc., Tarrytown, NY

Offering clinical treatment and support services to approximately 300 Latino children, families, and adults

Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE, New York, NY)

Provides culturally and linguistically appropriate, GLBT-affirming programs and services for GLBT older adults facing not only the challenges of aging, but also discrimination around their sexual orientation and gender identity

Arab American Counseling Program, Clifton, NJ

Provides culturally competent mental health services to residents of Arab American descent

Lawrence H. Yang, Ph.D., New York, NY

For his research to increase access to mental health care for Chinese immigrants

Mental Health America of North Dakota, Fargo, ND

A documentary called Resolana: Voice of the People was created to offer an educational look at demographic and structural barriers to behavioral health services for American Indians

South Bay Community Services, Chula Vista, CA

Provides culturally and linguistically sensitive outreach, support groups, and crisis intervention aimed at minority victims (mainly Hispanic and Filipino) of domestic violence and their children

2011 Awardees

Latinas, Tabaco, y Cáncer, Omaha, NE

Efforts to educate monolingual Spanish-speaking women on health issues

Family Service of El Paso, El Paso, TX

Unique and innovative mental health services provided to individuals and families who have fled the violence in Mexico and are seeking refuge

Northside Center for Child Development, New York, NY

For the youth mental health programs it runs, and has been running for more than 60 years, in the primarily African-American community

Student Stress and Anger Management Program (SSAM), Los Angeles, CA

For its unique services to address the emotional components that contribute to the mental health of middle and high school students

2010 Awardees

Hermano Pedro D.C. Multicultural Day Shelter, Washington, DC

Shelter empowering underserved low-income and homeless populations who are affected by mental illness and substance abuse issues

Merced Lao Family Community, Inc., Merced, CA

For its Southeast Asian Consumer Advocacy Program (SEACAP) which provides culturally-centered mental health services

The Center for Latino/a Mental Health, Chicago, IL

Working to spur research to positively influence the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental disorders among the Latino/a population

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES), Minneapolis, MN

Address, holistically, the unmet mental health needs of Minnesota's Latino population

Native American Community Academy, Albuquerque, NM

Comprehensive culturally sensitive school-based mental health and supportive services for students and their families provided free of charge

2009 Awardees

Siloam Family Health Center, Nashville, TN

For the provision of health care to low-income, uninsured people in Middle Tennessee

Asian Counseling and Referral Service, Seattle, WA

Providing culturally competent and linguistically accessible prevocational and vocational rehabilitation services

St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, HIV Center for Comprehensive Care, New York, NY

Development, implementation and evaluation of the Mental Health and HIV Services Collaborative, which expands capacity and access to culturally competent and non-stigmatizing HIV-related mental health services at the Center's two outpatient clinics

Venice Family Clinic in Venice, CA

Providing mental health care to more than 2,100 low-income, uninsured and homeless men, women and children each year

Imperial County Behavioral Health and Sun Valley Research Center, Imperial, CA

For the work of Dr. Alvaro Camacho, who directs the efforts of both agencies for the underserved rural community

2008 Awardees

Francis G. Lu, M.D., San Francisco, CA

Developed the Ethnic/ Minority Psychiatric Inpatient Programs at San Francisco General Hospital

Homes for the Brave, Bridgeport, CT

Providing housing and services to homeless male veterans and non-veterans who struggle with psychiatric and/or substance abuse problems

Housing Works, Brooklyn, NY

Ensuring that homeless and low-income people living with HIV/AIDS and their families have adequate housing, food, social support, drug treatment, health care, and employment

Tristan's Quest – Support for Kids of Incarcerated Parents (SKIP) Initiative, Greensboro, NC

Leading the community to increase awareness of the mental and physical health risks faced by children whose parent(s) are incarcerated

2008 AAMMH Honorable Mentions went to:

Barstow Acres Children's Center, Frederick, MD

Community Counseling Centers of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Student National Medical Association at University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN

Venice Family Clinic's Mental Health Program, Venice, CA

2007 Awardees

Mount Sinai Hospital Assertive Community Treatment Team, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Supporting their ethno-racial specific program created to serve the marginalized, severely and persistently mentally ill ethnic minority populations

Center for Multicultural Human Services, Falls Church, VA

For the development and implementation of a mental health program responding to the complex mental health needs of vulnerable, low-income immigrants, refugees, survivors of war and other trauma

Family Health Centers of San Diego, San Diego, CA

Providing psychiatric services, individual and group therapy, medication management, and case management to uninsured and medically underserved

Henry Acosta, MA, MSW, LSW

Improving mental health service delivery systems for minority populations

2006 Awardees

Asian Community Mental Health Services, Oakland, CA

Providing access to culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services to under-served Asian and Pacific Islander communities

The Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, Los Angeles, CA

First Steps Program, which addresses the mental health needs of multi-ethnic, underserved families who have infants and toddlers at risk for requiring mental health or special education services

La Clínica del Pueblo, Washington, D.C.

Working in the Latino immigrant community to de-stigmatize mental health disorders and the need for treatment

Central Clinic Empowerment for Success, located, Cincinnati, OH

Addressing the mental health needs of African American teens and assists them in developing strategies to reduce the risk of being a victim of a violent crime.

2005 Awardees

The Family Practice and Counseling Network Behavioral Health Department, Philadelphia, PA

Operating four nurse-managed community health centers that provide comprehensive primary and behavioral health care services to occupants of public housing projects

Terry Reilly Health Services Farmworker Mental Health Program, Nampa, ID

Farmworker Mental Health Program, which works to increase bilingual mental health services for Hispanic farm workers and their families

United Indian Health Services, Arcata, CA

Providing health care for American Indian residents

Alejandro (Alex) Kopelowicz, M.D., Granada Hills, CA

Developing and testing cultural adaptations of psychiatric rehabilitation modalities for Latinos with serious mental illness