



10th Annual Summit
Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Hope, Transformation, Wellbeing: The Hero in Each of US: Finding Your Role in Suicide Prevention

DAY 1 PROGRAM

Keynote Speaker 8:45 a.m.-9:20 a.m.
Safe A Part But Strong Together

Refugio “Cuco” Rodriguez is the Chief Equity & Program Officer at Hope and Heal Fund. Prior to joining the fund, Cuco served as a Program Officer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and was a member of the foundation’s Racial Equity and Community Engagement team. He was responsible for developing and coordinating strategic grantmaking activities aimed at addressing racial equity, community engagement, and nurturing opportunities for positive systemic change for historically marginalized communities and vulnerable children. Cuco also supported the development of a Racial Equity Leadership Curriculum for the W.K. Kellogg Fellowship Program; leading research and developing curriculum models; and developing strategic external partnerships with other foundations, businesses, governmental agencies, and other key partners. Most recently, he led efforts to integrate racial equity principles into technology initiatives which included working on new collaborative platforms and developing a racial equity-focused grantee application.



Cuco has worked with communities on issues including teen pregnancy, reproductive health, youth violence, gang intervention, rites of passage facilitation, mental health, father involvement strategies, and community engagement. Cuco obtained a bachelor’s degree in agricultural engineering technology and a master’s degree in education with concentrations in counseling and guidance, both from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

SESSION ONE-9:30 A.M.-10:15 A.M.

Suicide, COVID-19 & Civil Unrest-Suicide prevention during the pandemic, and great awakening: When the tide goes out, you can see who is skinny dipping



April C. Foreman, Ph.D., is a Licensed Psychologist serving Veterans as the Deputy Director of the Veterans Crisis Line's Innovations Hub. She also serves as the Chief Medical Officer for the Kevin and Margaret Hines Foundation. She is an Executive Committee member for the Board of the American Association of Suicidology. She is the 2015 recipient of the Roger J. Tierney Award for her work as a founder and moderator of the first sponsored regular mental health chat on Twitter, the weekly **Suicide Prevention Social Media chat** (#SPSM, sponsored by the American Association of Suicidology, AAS). Her dream is to use her unique skills and vision to build a mental health system effectively and elegantly designed to serve the people who need it.

SESSION TWO-10:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M

Racism & Suicide Panel-Racism is a toxin in our system Trust, equity, justice and healing: Acknowledging racial trauma & discrimination for Black, Indigenous & Communities of Color. Cultural humility & anti-racism in crisis services

Moderator
Daphne Quick-Abdullah is a Training Coordinator with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LAC-DMH). She received her Bachelor’s Degree from California State



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Polytechnic University, Pomona and her Masters in Human Service Administration from Springfield College. Daphne has worked in various capacities with nonprofit organizations serving emotionally fragile, abused and neglected at risk children and youth from ethnically diverse backgrounds and communities. Direct service work

included foster care and teaching special education within residential treatment facilities. Administrative roles included Director of Community Relations and Volunteer Coordinator. Through an Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) funded grant, Daphne provided statewide training, technical assistance and capacity building for public-private, county and community based organization. She also served as the Regional Director responsible for supervision of the southern region training team and oversight of training and programming for Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego and Imperial Counties. In 2012, Daphne joined DMH Prevention and Outcomes Division – Family and Community Partnerships Unit, where Daphne was a lead for the First 5 LA Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Training grant. The training grant was a countywide implementation of PCIT for contracted providers aimed to enhance the workforce, increase access to birth to five services and improve family functioning of young children and their caregivers. Currently Daphne provides training, facilitation, curriculum development, program and event planning. She participates in workgroups, networks and initiatives that address racial inequities and disparity to improve outcomes, services and access for underserved communities.

Racism & Suicide Panel Members

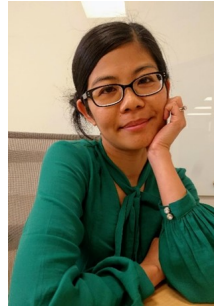
Curly Bonds, M.D., oversees all clinical practices for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) in his role as Chief Medical Officer.

Dr. Bonds is a board-certified adult psychiatrist with extensive experience in a variety of clinical, academic and research settings.

Prior to his current position, he was the Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at Charles R. Drew University School of Medicine in Los Angeles and the Medical Director for Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services. His areas of expertise include healthcare disparities, cross cultural psychiatry, psychosomatic medicine, and collaborative healthcare.

Dr. Bonds is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a Fellow of the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry. He is a past president of the Southern California Psychiatric Society and the recipient of their 2018 Distinguished Service Award.

He completed his B.A. in sociology at Emory University and earned his M.D. from Indiana University School of Medicine.



Heather Jue Northover is the Director of the Center for Health Equity, a Los Angeles County Alliance for Health Integration initiative led by the Department of Public Health. Prior to her current appointment, she served as Senior Advisor to the Chief Deputy Director, Special Assistant to the Director, and in multiple capacities within the Division of HIV & STD Programs. Prior to joining Public Health in 2005, her

professional focus was on adolescent health while working in hospital, school and community settings. Ms. Northover has a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in classic civilization from UCLA and a Master of Public Health in community health from New York University.

DeQuincy Lezine Ph.D. is a suicide attempt survivor who has been active in suicide prevention since 1996. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from UCLA. and completed a suicide prevention postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Rochester. Dr. Lezine is the Chair of the Attempt Survivor and Lived Experience Division of AAS and Co-Chair of the Consumer Survivor Committee for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Dr. Lezine was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the SAMHSA 2015 Voice Awards. He is CEO of Prevention Communities, and author of three books available through Amazon.com: *Eight Stories Up*, *13 Answers for the 13 Reasons Why*, and *It is My Blood to Scribe*.



Monique Castro is a proud Diné (Navajo) & Xicana woman, born and raised on the ancestral homelands of the Tongva People (aka Los Angeles). She’s a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, business owner, consultant, educator, and advocate. Her professional experience expands over thirteen years, specifically within the Native community, supporting efforts in various roles and capacities (from

volunteering, providing clinical training, to developing new curricula). Monique has and continues to work with numerous social service organizations, higher education institutions, and Tribes throughout California and nationally to achieve wellness for all our communities.

In 2017, Monique founded Indigenous Circle of Wellness, a thriving psychotherapy private practice located in South East Los Angeles where she and her team provide mental wellness services to adults, children, teens, couples, and families. She established Indigenous Circle of Wellness in response to the need for more healing spaces and psychotherapists supporting Native/Indigenous and People of Color on their wellness journey. Monique earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in

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Psychology from California State University of Los Angeles (CSULA) and Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology from Mount Saint Mary's University (MSMU).



WyKisha McKinney's fight against suicide began with the loss of her brother Johnny Madison, who died by suicide in 2004. Overwhelmed by grief after the death of her brother, WyKisha slipped into major depression which almost ended with her own suicide attempt. With the support of her family, and the help

of local counseling centers, she was able to get the help she needed to cope with her loss and manage her depression. She also found hope and recovery in serving others that had been affected by suicide. Over the last fourteen years, WyKisha has obtained a wealth knowledge and experience in crisis intervention and suicide prevention, of which she is more than eager to share with others.

Currently, WyKisha is the Zero Suicide Program Manager for The Harris Center for Mental Health & IDD in Houston, Texas and the Board Chair of the Southeast Texas chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. She is a highly sought speaker and advocate and has been featured in several documentaries, television interviews, books, and other publications. Recently, WyKisha launched her first business, The TwenTea Company, a tea company that donates 20% of its profits to suicide prevention.

Elisabeth Nails designs and produces healing-informed arts-based approaches for individuals, groups, and organizations that foster cultural equity and opportunities for connecting and healing through shared



experience. As a program associate at the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture's Arts Education and Youth Development division she supports program design and evaluation, and arts- and mental-health-based social emotional learning projects. Previously, she served as assistant director at the UCLA Art & Global Health Center and co-produced arts-based public health interventions in Los Angeles and in global cities on four continents. She is a certified Social Emotional Arts facilitator, trained by UCLA Arts & Healing. She earned her master's degree in Social Welfare from UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from UC Santa Cruz.

SESSION THREE-12:30 P.M.-2:00 P.M

LGBTQ & Suicide Panel

50 years of Pride- Honoring the struggle and continuing the fight to break down barriers to safe and inclusive mental health support across the lifespan

LGBTQ Moderators

Franklin Romero is a native Angelino who earned his B.A. in Social Work from California State University, Los Angeles and his Master's in Social Work from the University of Southern California. Franklin has social work experience in providing services to families and children through the Department of Children and Family Services as an emergency response children's social worker. At the Department of Mental Health, Franklin has worked with youth on probation, delivering counseling and psychotherapy services to families and children as well as conducting crisis response and mental health assessments with the Psychiatric Mobile Response Team (PMRT). Franklin also has gained medical social work experience at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles in working with patients at the end of life stage, working with families and children who have been recently diagnosed with an illness, conducting child abuse assessments and helping families and individuals cope with grief and loss.



Carolyn Libao Kaneko is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LAC-DMH). She received her Bachelor's Degree from University of California, Riverside and her Masters in Social Work from University of Southern California. Carolyn has worked extensively with ethnically diverse and underserved

children, adolescents and families as both a clinician and supervisor. At the Service Area level, she was responsible for the administration of intensive mental health programs for children and adults within LAC. As a Clinic Administrator III, she managed the largest Adult Behavioral Health Clinic in Ventura County. In her current role as Program Manager over the San Fernando Child and Family Center, a directly operated clinic, where she is responsible for ensuring access to mental health services for children and their families. Her prior experience as the Program Manager with the Prevention and Outcomes Division – Family and Community Partnerships Unit, helped to shape her interest in Prevention Programming and the importance of engaging with the community. Her strong administrative, clinical, and training background provide a strong backdrop to her current efforts to engage and build community awareness and ensure strong supports for the workforce in LAC-DMH, while providing cutting edge treatment to children and their families.

Pip Keogh (he/him) is a Community Trainer with the DMH-UCLA Prevention Center of Excellence, where he provides training, coaching, and consultation in evidence-based interventions and trauma and resilience informed



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care to mental health professionals, educators, and other youth-serving professionals across Los Angeles County. Pip is a professionally accredited Youth & Community Worker (YCW) with a BA in Social Science from NUI Maynooth and an MA in Youth Work with Community Arts & Health Education from University College Cork. Previous to joining UCLA, Pip worked with Jigsaw – The National Center for Youth Mental Health in Ireland and founded a youth sexual health and consent education non-profit, *Positive Consent*. Pip has worked with diverse communities all around the world in a wide range of settings - schools, colleges, youth centers, probation, residential care, outreach, health services, research, and helpline/digital supports. Pip passionately believes in working in partnership with and for young people and communities to empower them and ensure their voices are heard, listened to, and influence change.



LGBTQ Panel Members

Lev Connor Luna (he/him/his and they/them/theirs) is an Engagement Specialist for Trans Health at the LGBTQ Center Long Beach where they provide essential services such as HIV testing, food, clothing, social support, and linkage to affirming resources for gender diverse folks. He is also a father of four fur babies and enjoys

poetry, music, art, and photography. As an undocumented transman living with different mental health challenges, Lev hopes to contribute from their own experiences and learn from the panelists on the intersectionalities of LGBTQ+ identities and Suicide.

Mariana Marroquin is a Guatemalan Immigrant Transgender Woman, actress, comedian and community leader. Mariana started volunteering at Bienestar Human Services in 2001. Three months later she was hired as a Health Educator conducting outreach and facilitating groups under Transgeneros Unidas Program.



She also worked under different contracts, including working with Youth, homeless, Women at risk, HIV positive, Injected Drug Users and re-entry population. She started at the Los Angeles LGBT Center in 2011, first as a Client Advocate for Transgender Economic Empowerment Project and The Anti-Violence Project, providing a wide range of resources such as employment, immigration services, and supporting victims of Domestic Violence and hate crimes. In 2015 she became Anti-Violence Program Manager, being one of the few Trans woman leading an entire Anti-Violence program in the nation. The same year Mariana Marroquin was nominated to be part of the Governance Committee of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. In 2016, she was appointed by California’s Senator Kamala D. Harris to the Advisory Board for The Racial and Identity Profiling Act. On April 2018,

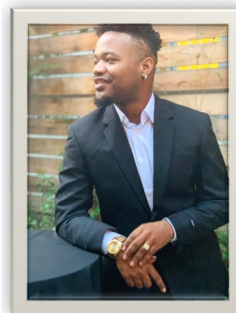
Mariana Marroquin went back to the HIV field as Program Manager of the Trans Wellness Center, funded by The Department of Health, Division of HIV and STD Programs with a one-million-dollar budget per year distributed between 5 other agency leaders in Los Angeles.

BeBe Sweetbriar The San Francisco-based drag star and 2016 Drag Entertainer of the Year, BeBe Sweetbriar has graced many stages around the World including Hong Kong, China. As award winning performer, Top 10 USA Dance Radio and Top 25 Billboard charting recording artist (UNITY, 2017), BeBe has been the opening act for Destiny’s Child Kelly Rowland, TV’s Ugly Betty star Alec Mapa, Broadway-star and The Voice alum Frenchie Davis, Billboard Dance Divas Kristine W. and Luciana, and Punk Rock star Peaches.



As an advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality and the fight against HIV/AIDS stigma, BeBe has received many honors. BeBe has raised awareness to the disproportionate rate of suicide and homelessness amongst LGBTQIA youth and adults through work with organizations such as the Trevor Project and San Francisco's Larkin Street Youth Services, to name a few.

As an actor, BeBe has co-starred in three independent film projects. BeBe will also originate a transgender role in the upcoming Amazon Prime mini-series HIRAETH, a show focused on immigrant stories, coming FALL 2020. BeBe will be returning to TV talk show hosting in the FALL 2020 with Q & A with BEBE SWEETBRIAR on Amazon Prime with candid interviews with Queers and Allies of the LGBTQIA community.



JavonTae Wilson, born and raised in Los Angeles, is a 28 year old Community activist, who has dedicated his life to addressing the issues that disproportionately impact Young Adults and Black Gay Men in Los Angeles County. JavonTae currently functions as a Lead HIV Tester and Linkage Navigator under the leadership of Executive Director Jeffrey King, at In The Mean-time Men’s Group, Inc, an organization

dedicated to addressing the holistic wellness of Black gay, same gender loving and bisexual men. JavonTae is also responsible for the HIV Testing and STI Screening component of the BoiRevolution Initiative, an innovative, multi-layered intervention targeting young Black gay men in Los Angeles County. His expertise includes the co-development of a behavior based intervention, community-based research, and intervention evaluation. He is a skilled group facilitator, suicide prevention specialist and PrEP and PEP navigator. In addition to the work that JavonTae facilitates through his primary employer, he has also developed his own non-profit, The Club House, a multi-layered intervention designed to provide a safe and supportive environment of transitional

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aged youth/young adults to network, build healthy support networks and receive expert assistance from mental health clinicians and medical providers.

JavonTae participates with the Los Angeles County Commission of HIV, the Department of Mental Health LGBTQ+ Taskforce and the Black/ African American Community Taskforce that primarily focused on the Black/ African American Community and HIV. In his spare time JavonTae hosts a podcast , Cocktails and Conversation, designed to address issues impacting and intersecting the lives of today's millennials.

Gia Ryan Olaes Miramontes is an advocate for gender and sexual expansive people while working for the Department of Public Health. They emphasize on transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) support programming with a focus on policy implementation, knowing that the road to equality is through equitable practices. Gia is also a dedicated Reentry Counselor responding to LGBTQI2-S youth impacted by incarceration while serving on the board of Gender Justice LA , the Transgender Service Provider Network and also on the LA City Transgender Advisory Council. They are also an active supporter of Trans Art with emphasis on "Taking Back Our Power and Advocacy." Gia's background in artistic outlets include acting, dancing, and singing with the Trans Chorus of LA.



SESSION FOUR-2:10 P.M.-3:25 P.M.

**Save the Indian, Save the Man:
A social justice perspective on suicide prevention**



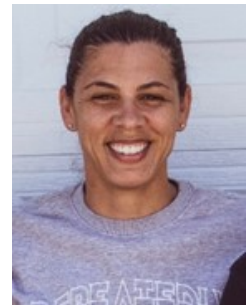
Shelby Rowe is the program manager of the Office of Suicide Prevention at the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the 2016 Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Woman of the Year. A public health professional, crisis intervention expert and suicide attempt survivor, Ms. Rowe has

been a leader in the suicide prevention movement at the local, state and national level since 2007. Ms. Rowe is a former member of the board of directors for the National Association of Crisis Organization Directors and United Suicide Survivors International. She is the current co-chair for the Family and Individual Lived Experience Committee for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Network, co-lead for the AAS Indigenous Peoples Committee and serves on the Clinical Advisory Board for Crisis Text Line. In 2020, she joined the Zero Suicide Institute Faculty. She is a self-taught bead artist, and in November 2019, a piece of her artwork was accepted to the permanent collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Ms. Rowe is an experienced public speaker and regularly travels across the country to speak at mental health and suicide prevention conferences and trainings. Her story of recovery can be found at on the *Live Through This* website, and she was recently featured in *People* magazine & in a series of articles published by *USA Today*. Ms. Rowe holds a B.A. in Sociology and Philosophy, and an M.B.A.

Closing Remarks

Tracie Andrews is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Lewis-Clark State College and her Masters in Social Work from Aurora University. Tracie has worked in a variety of settings and has extensive knowledge working with underserved children, adults, and families and disenfranchised communities. She has expertise in early childhood mental health, community violence, crisis services, and school-based services. In her role as a Mental Health Clinical Supervisor with the Prevention and Outcomes Division – Family and Community Partnerships Unit, Tracie is the lead for Anti-Stigma, Suicide Prevention, and Health Neighborhoods. She also currently serves as Co-Chair for the Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN).



Special thank you for the technical assistance:

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Julio Miranda



**National Suicide Hotline
(800)273-8255**

