

Changing the Course of Mental Health: Intersectionality of Race and LGBTQ+



Shannon Walker
CEO of Nu Transgender Movement, Inc
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CEO of Nu Transgender Movement, Inc born & raised in Dallas, Texas. Shannon is an advocate for the transgender population and works within Texas communities to change policy and facilitate training to ensure a diverse and inclusive environment.

Shannon is the first Transgender Woman of Color to develop and implement a Diversity Training on Gender Identity and Gender Expression for the Dallas Police Academy. Shannon lives in the Dallas area with Benson the Labrador. of Education degree in Education Administration from Lamar University.

Nu Trans Movement Inc, envisions a world in which transgender non-conforming people are valued as a contributing member of society. We envision a world in which trans people of color are not murdered for simply living their truth. For this vision to become a reality, we must work together to rebuild a culture where there is equality for all.



Renee Baker, Ph.D.EE, LPC
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Renee Baker is a licensed professional counselor. She is a general practitioner helping individuals, couples, and families to be more healthy and whole, more loving and kind, and more genuine and authentic. Her specialties are in the areas of gender and sexuality, working primarily with the LGBT population and their families.

Youth have played a prominent part of her practice. She offers group counseling as well and has five or six groups going on at any given time. Renee enjoys helping transgender individuals through gender transitions. She feels deeply honored to help lesbian, gay, and poly families develop relationships that flow a bit better and work through the tough stuff.

She helps families get on the same page and move in harmony better. Her hope is for everyone to manage a bit more gracefully in lives that are always full of difficulty. Her style of counseling is about being mindful, loving and kind. The affirmation below, read best while under the sun or moon, probably describes her genre of beliefs as well as anything.

MHIA

Mental Health America
of Greater Dallas



Bonnie Cook
President & CEO
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Ms. Bonnie Cook is the President and CEO of Mental Health America of Greater Dallas. She joined MHA-Greater Dallas in 2018. Before that, she worked in Kentucky as the executive director of MHA-Kentucky. Bonnie has over 20 years of experience working in the field of mental health. She has a particular interest in the link between faith and mental health. She has a unique perspective as a minister's wife and someone who suffers from depression and anxiety.

Bonnie serves as a volunteer with several organizations, including the University of Houston C. T. Bauer College of Business' Houston Customer Experience Certificate Program Advisory Council, the Collective Hope Coalition, the South Dallas Project Advisory Council, and the School Health Advisory Council for Richardson Independent School District. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Mental Health America in Alexandria, Virginia.

Meaghan is a passionate professional in the Mental Health sector. Meaghan provides community advocacy and mental healthcare policy analysis. She currently serves as Director of Public Policy at Mental Health America of Greater Dallas. Her responsibilities include administrative duties, public policy analysis, advocacy, and event organizing. She organizes stakeholder outreach and strategy.

Meaghan organized MHA-Greater Dallas' Changing the Course of Mental Health which looks to educate about the factors of racism as a mental health crisis. Then, act to eliminate structural racism through advocacy. She utilizes her lived experience and education to initiate action.

Meaghan manages the Coalition on Mental Illness, serves on the South Dallas Employment Project Public Policy Council, and is Co-Chair of I Am HERE Coalition. She is a member of the Public Relations Society of America, Dallas Chapter.



Meaghan Read
Director of Public Policy
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