PANELIST / PRESENTER BIOS

Johnell Allen-Bey

Lunch Panelist

Johnell Allen-Bey is the Executive Director of Community Engagement for the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, Flint Regional Coordinator for Nation Outside, C.O.O. of Re-Connect My Life Mental Health, and Co-Owner of Elihu's Daycare and Learning Center. Johnell holds an Associate's Degree in Business and a B.S. in Behavioral Science. Johnell is also the County Restorative Justice Specialist for the Genesee Prosecutor's Department.

Tia S. Coles, LMSW

Lunch Panelist

Tia S. Coles is a licensed Clinical Social Worker with a master's degree in social work from Michigan State University, with an emphasis on social work in healthcare. Tia specializes in trauma therapy, having had specialized training in Prolonged Exposure, Internal Family Systems, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), and other evidence-based modalities focused on reducing trauma symptoms including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Percy Glover

Lunch Panelist

Percy Glover is a national speaker, advocate, and educator in a new movement in jail, prison, and criminal justice reforms. As Co-Executive Director of Community Engagement at the Genesee County Sheriff's Office (GSCO) and as a recent contractor for the National Sheriff's Association, Percy has made it his life's mission to help people return to the community successfully after jail and prison. His work with GSCO and I.G.N.I.T.E. (Inmate Growth Naturally & Intentionally Through Education) not only bridges the gap between the community and law enforcement, but also raises the standard for jail reform.

Seamus Bannon

Lunch Panelist Facilitator

Tia S. Coles is a licensed Clinical Social Worker with a master's degree in social work from Michigan State University, with an emphasis on social work in healthcare. Tia specializes in trauma therapy, having had specialized training in Prolonged Exposure, Internal Family Systems, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), and other evidence-based modalities focused on reducing trauma symptoms including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Meaghan Bergman

Breakout Presenter

Meaghan Bergman, Founder of Goddess Goals, LLC and Ecstatic Dance Lansing, is a Certified Somatic Healer and Embodiment Guide with a mission to reconnect us to the power and wisdom of our bodies. She has been on her own holistic whole-being healing journey ("whole-being" means mind, body, heart, and soul) for seven years now and is passionate about sharing the tools and techniques that have helped to transform her life from one of stress, overwhelm, burnout, addiction, and trauma to one of joy, ease, radical self-love, self-trust, self-acceptance, and self-compassion which has in turn supported her in unconditionally loving, trusting, accepting, and having compassion for all humans and all parts of the human experience.

Lisa Bruder

Breakout Presenter

Lisa Bruder (she/her/hers) received her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work at Saginaw Valley State University and Wayne State University. She has extensive experience in providing behavioral health treatment to children and adults and holds certification in several evidenced-based practices such as Trauma Informed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Families Moving Forward, Parent Child Interaction Therapy, Crisis Incident Stress Management, and more. Lisa has been providing education in the community setting for over a decade and has expertise in many areas such as children's mental health, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, positive parenting, first responder education, behavioral health crisis, trauma, and secondary tramatic stress.

Lottie Ferguson

Breakout Presenter

Lottie Ferguson is the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Flint. As a wife, mother of three, and responsive community advocate, she learned very early the importance of self care and building resilience in the face of burnout. Lottie has degrees from University of Michigan and Central Michigan University, and has been honored to speak across the country on topics related to social, environmental, and economic resilience.

Aisha Harris, MD

Breakout Presenter

Dr. Aisha Harris is a Flint native and board certified Family Medicine Physician who owns and works at Harris Family Health, a direct primary care clinic in Flint, Michigan. She focuses on improving health literacy and access through outreach work with her BLK FAM DOC platform and Flint Health Hub newsletter. Additionally, she participates in public health and health advocacy work within various organizations including the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians Advocacy Committee and the National Medical Association Community Medicine and Public Health section.

Dr. Patrick Hawkins

Breakout Presenter

Dr. Patrick Hawkins is a doctorally prepared Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner working at Genesee Community Health Clinic and a former Assistant Professor at Michigan State University for 10 years.

Ethan Hibbard

Breakout Presenter

Ethan Hibbard is the Senior Family Advocate at Voices for Children Advocacy Center and the lead trainer for Advocating for LGBTQIA+ Youth. Ethan started as a volunteer and built the advocacy program at Voices for Children. He also designs marketing and communications materials and takes a leadership role in events for the center.

Dr. Gail Johnson

Breakout Presenter

Dr. Gail Johnson is a Board Certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner caring for mental health needs across the lifespan, from child to senior adults. She is currently employed by Genesee Health System working in the Integrative Medicine Clinic which is the Genesee Community Health Center.

Marie Jones-Watts, M.A.

Breakout Presenter

Marie Jones-Watts is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Certified Advanced Addictions Counselor, and has over 29 years of clinical experience in the behavioral health field. Marie is a Crim Mindful Fellow and is presently employed at the Crim Fitness Foundation as Associate Director. She is an avid cyclist and kayaker, and previously facilitated mindful kayaking sessions.

Alaina Larrea

Breakout Presenter

Alaina Larrea is the Assistant Project Manager and SNAP-Ed Health Educator for the Greater Flint Health Coalition's Commit to Fit program.

Dinah Schaller

Breakout Presenter

Dinah Schaller is an Associate Director for the Mindfulness Initiative at the Crim Fitness Foundation. She is an LCSW and has 20 years or experience in education/community work and is a certified trainer for Conscious Discipline and a SIYLI Mindful Fellow for the Crim.

Deon Smith II

Breakout Presenter

Deon Smith is a husband, father, mentor, and inspirational speaker. He is a Detective Sergeant with the Genesee County Sheriff's Office with 10 years of law enforcement experience. Deon's life took an unexpected turn in the summer of 1996, and now he uses this trauma to inspire every person to embrace adversity, challenge, and difficulty. Deon's story is a reminder that adversity happens to you, for you, and through you.

Shearese N. Stapleton

Breakout Presenter

Shearese N. Stapleton is a native of Flint, Michigan, and Executive Director of Mothers of Joy Institute, who has received her Child Development Associate (CDA) in Early Childhood Education from Mott Community College, is an ordained Pastor, and is soon to gain a Behavioral Science degree. Throughout her life, she has overcome being born 2lb 3oz, as well as the setbacks from being divorced and homeless with children, which has fueled her desire to train other women to embrace the joy of motherhood! She is also a Master Trainer in ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences).

Sarah Zyburt

Breakout Presenter

Sarah Zyburt is the Vice President of Voices for Children Advocacy Center. She oversees prevention and community impact, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program for Genesee County, trainings, the Family Resource Center, the Local Leadership Group, development, and advocacy. Sarah is honored to co-present with Ethan about advocating for queer youth