Experts discuss advancing health equity through BHI

On March 18, 2021, the Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) Collaborative held the latest in the Overcoming Obstacles BHI webinar series: "Advancing health equity through BHI."

- Advancing Health Equity through BHI in Primary Care Resources (PDF)
- Webinar slides (PDF)

About the event

Physician experts share considerations and approaches to address disparities that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minority groups in receiving equitable behavioral health care and accessing treatment. This webinar will focus on diversity/equity related to race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, and sexual orientation and gender identity (i.e., LGBTQIA+).

Experts also highlight how mental health and primary care colleagues can work together to provide coordinated, culturally-informed and equitable care.

Speakers

Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA, psychiatrist, former president of the American Medical Association
Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA, a psychiatrist from Atlanta, was the 174th president of the American Medical Association, and the organization’s first African American woman to hold this position. Dr. Harris has diverse experience as a private practicing physician, county public health director, patient advocate and medical society lobbyist.

Dr. Harris currently spearheads the AMA’s efforts to end the opioid epidemic and has been chair of the AMA Opioid Task Force since its inception in 2014. Dr. Harris continues to lead the task force as it works across every state to eliminate barriers to treatment, provide patients with access to affordable, non-opioid pain care, and fight the stigma faced by those with substance use-disorders.

**Melvin Oatis, MD, private practice, NYU Langone Child Study Center voluntary faculty**

Dr. Oatis is an adult, child and adolescent psychiatrist in private practice in midtown Manhattan. After completing his combined residency training in pediatric medicine, adult, child and adolescent psychiatry at the Mt. Sinai Icahn medical center in New York, he joined the faculty of the New York University Langone medical center. Dr. Oatis was an integral member of the clinical trials research team studying ADHD and co-morbidities of ODD and anxiety and adolescents who had survived suicide attempts.

Dr. Oatis is the current chair of the assembly of delegates of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the chair of the AACAP presidential working group to combat racism and promote health equity. For the past 13 years, he has attended AACAP legislative advocacy day to inform lawmakers of the importance of child mental health. Dr. Oatis remains active in the New York Council of child and adolescent psychiatrists as a treasurer and a past president.

**Nathalie Moise, MD, MS, Florence Irving Assistant Professor of Medicine, director of implementation science research, Center for Behavioral Cardiovascular Health, Columbia University Irving Medical Center**
Dr. Moise is an internist at the Florence Irving Assistant Professor of Medicine and director of implementation science research at the Center for Behavioral and Cardiovascular Health, a lab dedicated to the developing novel implementation science methods, training a new generation of investigators, and conducting impact focused, dynamic interventions for reducing cardiovascular disease disparities.

Dr. Moise received her undergraduate degree in psychology with a certificate in gender studies from Princeton University before pursuing her medical degree at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She completed her residency and fellowship at New York Presbyterian Hospital–Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Dr. Moise received a master’s degree in epidemiology from Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and a certificate from UCSF in implementation science.

She has published extensively in the areas of patient engagement/adherence, collaborative care, implementation science and clinical inertia/physician behavior around cardiovascular disease management.

About the Overcoming Obstacles webinar series

This series will enable physicians to sustain a collaborative, integrated, whole-person and equitable approach to physical and behavioral health care in their practices during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Disclaimer: The viewpoints expressed in this video are those of the participants and/or do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the AMA.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

With an increased number of people reporting worsening mental health in recent years, it is imperative that people are aware of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) telephone program.

People experiencing a suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress can call, chat or text 988, and speak to trained crisis counselors. The national hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The previous National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will continue to be operational and route calls to 988 indefinitely.