



# Black Men's Mental Health:

## I Am My Brother's Keeper

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### AGENDA

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Wed., May 22, 2024 | 6:30 - 8:00pm

#### Opening Remarks:

**Tee Leonardo-Santiago**

Director of Outreach & Community Relations, NJ Division on Civil Rights

#### Moderator:

**Patricia D. Williamson**

Deputy Director of Community Programming, NJ Division on Civil Rights

#### Panelists:

**Dr. David S. Arnold, M.D.**

**Dr. Willard W. C. Ashley, Sr.**, M.Div, D.Min, SCP, NCPsyA

**Mark T. Williams**, BSN, RN-BC,  
NAMI New Jersey Board of Trustees President

**A. Eboney Davis**

[Brother, You're On My Mind](#) Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

**Racquel Romans-Henry**

Director of Policy, Salvation & Social Justice

#### Know Your Rights Presentation

**Patricia D. Williamson**

Deputy Director of Community Programming, NJ Division on Civil Rights

#### Questions and Answers

#### Closing Remarks

**Patricia D. Williamson**

Deputy Director of Community Programming, NJ Division on Civil Rights

# Moderator & Panelists Bios

## **Tee Leonardo-Santiago** (Opening Remarks)

*Director of Outreach & Community Relations, NJ Division on Civil Rights*

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**Tisha “Tee” Leonardo-Santiago** (she/they) holds the proud distinction of being the first Latinx Director of Outreach and Community Relations at the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights (DCR), where they provide strategic oversight and implementation of the Community Relations Unit’s statewide outreach and programming to support and uplift the Division’s initiatives, social media presence, and crisis response efforts to prevent and eliminate discrimination and bias in the Garden State. Tee’s team is also a crisis response unit following major civil rights incidents. As a community mediator, they engage in complex mediation, restorative justice practices, and community dialogue with a trauma-informed care lens. In recognition of the Unit’s exceptional outreach and Tee’s leadership, in 2023, Attorney General Platkin presented the Community Relations Unit the “Excellence in Community Outreach”

Award and Tee the “Excellence for Exceptional Service Award.”

Before joining the Community Relations Unit, Tee began her career at the Division as a Bilingual Investigator in the Enforcement Unit, investigating employment and place of public accommodation cases while assisting with Division outreach. They served as the bilingual subject matter expert in developing and implementing the online complaint portal, the New Jersey Bias Investigation Access System (NJBIAS), launched in November 2020. Before joining DCR, Tee was the first Bilingual General Adjuster for one of the oldest insurance adjustment firms in the country, where they investigated commercial fire & theft, personal lines, fine arts & fidelity claims. Tee is a second-generation Latinx from Hudson County and a first-generation college graduate receiving their undergraduate and graduate degrees in Criminal Justice from New Jersey City University.

# Patricia D. Williamson (Moderator)

*Deputy Director of Community Programming, NJ Division on Civil Rights*

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**Patricia D. Williamson** (she/her) is the Deputy Director of Community Programming in the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights' Community Relations/Crisis Response Unit. Patricia is the unit's lead on programming initiatives for race and religion. She is based in Trenton, and her primary counties are Somerset, Warren, Monmouth, Middlesex, Mercer, Burlington, and Hunterdon. Prior to this position, Patricia was the New Jersey Counts Project Director at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. Patricia led the Institute's work to ensure a complete and accurate count of New Jersey's urban communities in the 2020 Census. Patricia was part of the Census 2020 NJ Coalition, and convened a sub-coalition of African American community-based organizations, non-profits, and institutions (such as clergy). Patricia worked for over 20 years as a systems

engineer in the optical networking area of various telecommunications companies in New Jersey. She was also an adjunct professor at Bloomfield College.

Patricia resides in central New Jersey. She earned a BA in Mathematics from Hampton University, an MS in Computer Science from Howard University, and an MA in Education and Human Development in the Educational Technology Leadership Program at The George Washington University.

## Dr. David S. Arnold, M.D. (Panelist)

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**Dr. David S. Arnold, M.D.** was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He is a psychiatrist and currently serves as Director of Psychiatric Acute Inpatient Care at a State Hospital located in Maryland. He has served as the Chief of Psychiatry for both the Maryland Veterans Affairs Health Care System and for the Laurel Regional Hospital. He is an Asst. Clinical Professor for the University of Maryland College of Medicine. He completed his psychiatric residency training at the Albert Einstein Medical Center located in Philadelphia.

He was honored by the former Mayor of Baltimore, the Honorable Kurt L. Schmoke, with a citizen citation for “Your Outstanding Leadership and Provision of Excellent Mental Health Services to the Community” while serving as the Executive Vice President and Chief

Medical Officer for the Urban Behavioral Services group practice. Over the past 40 years he has given multiple speaking engagements and lectures concerning mental health care and wellness at universities, churches, synagogues, mosques, Hindu temples, and schools.

He has made several television appearances and programs such as WBAL local news and the “Café Be More” show with Frank Ski; discussing topics such as depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, children and violence, and the impact of mental illness on our families and communities. He has had many radio appearances on 92 Q FM, Spirit 1400 AM, Urban Health Beat WAER (Morgan State University Radio), and “The Journey Towards Wholeness” WOLB.

Dr. Arnold is a 3rd Degree Black Belt in Kenpo Karate and has instructed children and adults. Dr. Arnold is a Life Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and is involved with active community service. He is an avid Ravens fan!

# Dr. Willard W. C. Ashley, Sr. (Panelist)

*M.Div, D.Min, SCP, NCPsyA*

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**Dr. Willard Walden Christopher Ashley, Sr.** is a figure of immense respect and influence in the religious and educational communities of New Jersey. With over 42 years of experience as a pastor, he has served in four different congregations, leaving a profound and lasting impact through his teachings and community involvement. Dr. Ashley's influence extends beyond the pulpit, as he serves as a board member at Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School and the New Jersey Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis. He also holds the position of Vice-Chair of the Bergen County Human Relations Commission and is a certified psychoanalyst in New Jersey and nationally.

In his role as an instructor in the Doctor of Social Work Program at Rutgers School of Social Work, New Brunswick Campus, Dr. Ashley demonstrates his dedication to education. He is also the President & CEO of Dr. Willard Ashley, Sr., LLC, which conducts webinars, counseling, and coaching. Additionally, he is a vocational coach with the Center for Career Development and Ministry and a retired professor of pastoral theology.

Dr. Ashley is a committed antiracist consultant and trainer. He focuses on undoing racism within systems, organizations, and clinical practice. He has also designed and implemented a project for the Caregiver's Interfaith. His work has earned him memberships in various professional associations.

Dr. Ashley's accomplishments extend beyond his religious and educational work. He has hosted a weekly program on Black Entertainment Television (BET) and was a New York City radio regular. He was also the staff psychotherapist at The Riverside Church, New York City. Dr. Ashley's fourth book, "New Rules for Radicals: TNT for Faith-based Leaders," is a testament to his intellectual prowess.

Dr. Ashley's personal life is a testament to his well-rounded character. He is listed in Marquis's Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World and is a lifelong New York Yankees fan. He is married to Tanya Pagan Raggio, MD, MPH, FAAP, and together they provide emotional support for Serafina, an 11-pound Shih Tzu who has captured their hearts.



# Anthony Eboney Davis (Panelist)

*Brother, You're On My Mind* Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

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**Mr. Anthony Eboney Davis** is a historian, humanitarian, and soon to be author of his first book. A man who has dedicated his life to providing service to his family, his Alma Mater, his Community, and the City of Paterson New Jersey, where he served as First Ward Councilman for years, and a two term Council President for Paterson City Council.

Mr. Davis was the Central/Kennedy 2006 Hall of Famer in "Football and Track".

A graduate from the 1st Historically Black College & University (HBCU), Cheyney University, Mr. Davis returned back to Paterson to work with the city youth after learning about the death of 16-year old Lawrence Myers. He also entered into the world of politics: (seven three-year terms) as Democracy County Committee, (one three-year term) as Paterson School Board Commissioner, (four four-year terms) as a Paterson Municipal Councilman and two years as Council-Paterson. Mr. Davis was the youngest sitting member on the school board and city council. Altogether, he served 18 years as an elected official.

Mr. Davis was a controversial and strong advocate for Youth in Paterson NJ, Bronx NY, Wilmington DE, and Philadelphia PA.

Councilman Davis expands his civic efforts by continuing to volunteer feeding the homeless in the Paterson Community, during Thanksgiving and Christmas. During his lifetime, he has **courageously saved the lives of three individuals; two from drowning and one from a fire.**

*"Children do not question the wrong doing of adults, they suffer from them"*

- Anthony Eboney Davis 2000

*"Life is short and for Urban Youth life can be shorter"*

- Anthony Eboney Davis 2004

# Racquel Romans-Henry (Panelist)

*Director of Policy, Salvation & Social Justice*

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Advocate and policy expert, Racquel Romans-Henry currently serves as the Policy Director of Salvation and Social Justice, a non-partisan Black faith-rooted public policy organization based in Trenton, New Jersey. Racquel works with individuals, organizations, and communities to amplify the voices of those who have historically been relegated to the margins of society to ensure that their voices and lived experiences inform policies throughout the state.

Her advocacy has led to several statewide policy changes such as community reinvestment through cannabis taxes following the decriminalization of cannabis; the establishment of a police licensure system; and the establishment of The Seabrooks-Washington Community Led Crisis Response Act, historic legislation

that establishes community led crisis response teams as an alternative to mental health, behavioral health and substance use calls.

New Jersey continues to lead in the United States with some of the most stark racial disparities across every sector, and so Racquel continues to lead efforts that include: the decriminalization of Black bodies through punitive drug policies; sentencing reform; addressing the Black maternal morbidity crisis; and securing increased investments in violence interruption work through community led models.

She leads her work with integrity, passion, candor and good humor, while cultivating a framework that allows her to effectively elevate and support the communities that mean so much to her.

With over 15 years of professional experience as a specialist with the federal government; more than 20 years of movement building expertise; a special aptitude for making meaningful connections; and commitment to the service of her community, Racquel knows how to “speak truth to power” while equipping others with the knowledge to activate their own agency.

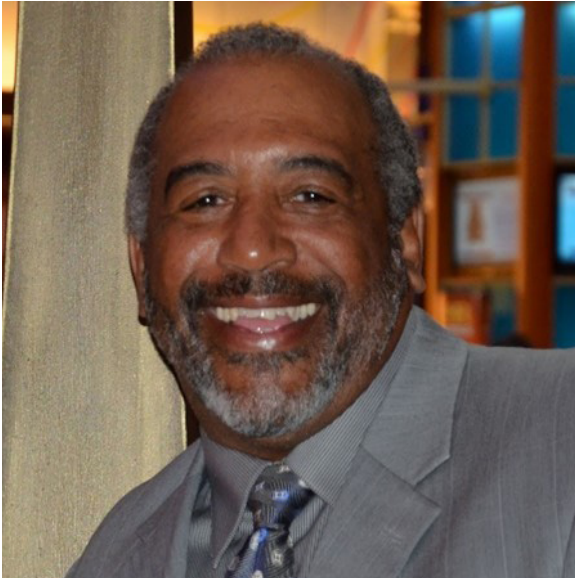
Racquel earned her Master’s Degree in Public Policy and International Relations from William Paterson University. She is a proud wife and a mother to two brilliant daughters.

In December 2023, Racquel was featured in the Insider NJ’s Women’s Power List as one of the Powerful Women of New Jersey.

# Mark T. Williams (Panelist)

*BSN, RN-BC, NAMI New Jersey Board of Trustees President*

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**Mark T. Williams** has over 50 years of psychiatric nursing experience and is ANCC Board Certified in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing. He is an Honored Fellow of the Minority Nurse Leadership Institute, Rutgers School of Nursing and has trained at the Multicultural Leadership Academy sponsored by the Mental Health Association in New Jersey.

Mr. Williams is currently the President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-NJ) Board of Trustees. He has had the honor of serving on the Board of Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services the past 13 years, most notably as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. Additionally, he is privileged to serve as the Vice Chair on the Board of Wood's System of Care, Langhorne PA.

As the past President and 15-year member of the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, Mr. Williams championed the establishment of a mental health ministry in the congregation, which led to them receiving the 2016 Governors Council on Mental Health Stigma Ambassador Award.

Although retired, Mr. Williams continues to be a devoted and passionate advocate for the rights of persons diagnosed with a mental illness. This is clearly evident by his successful efforts to have the Borough Council of North Plainfield and the County of Somerset Commissioners pass resolutions establishing the Borough and County as Mental Health Stigma Free Zones. Mr. Williams is currently serves as the Chair of the Somerset County Stigma Free Committee and is a founding member of the UU Mental Health Network.

Mr. Williams's volunteer activities involve primarily addressing the stigma so often associated with mental health, men's mental health empowerment and the importance of an holistic approach when addressing the health concerns of the serious and persistently mentally ill.

Mr. Williams is the recipient of numerous awards recognizing his work on behalf of eliminating mental health stigma and is often called on to speak on this topic.



# Black Men's Mental Health I Am My Brother's Keeper



## Program Description:

Join the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights ("DCR") for a panel discussion about the impact and presence of mental health among Black men.

The expert panelists will offer their guidance on the impact of untreated mental illness in the Black community, the importance of advocating for proper treatment, and the value of seeking help for mental health problems. Attendees will also learn about their rights under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD) and how to report discrimination and bias-based harassment in medical settings through DCR.



**May 22, 2024**

**6:30PM – 8:00PM**



**Visit: [bit.ly/DCRBkMenMentalHealth](https://bit.ly/DCRBkMenMentalHealth)  
to Register and Join the Conversation**

