



CAMHI NEWSLETTER

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Initiative

Funded by Boston Children's Collaboration for Community Health, William James College's *Child & Adolescent Mental Health Initiative* (CAMHI) is a behavioral health workforce development program whose primary aim is to recruit, train, mentor, and retain culturally diverse providers with a passion for serving historically marginalized groups and a commitment to promoting the mental health and well-being of children, adolescents, and families in the Greater Boston area.



A Boston Children's
Collaboration for
Community Health
Partner



"We do not merely have a social responsibility to assure that our children and youth have decent life chances and prosper. We have a sacred obligation to do so."

**— Hubie Jones, Founder
Massachusetts Advocates for Children**

CAMHI's GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Meeting the Need

Racial and ethnic minorities represent 30% of the U.S. population. Yet, more than 80% of mental health professionals identify as non-Hispanic White. The relative scarcity of providers who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds contributes to significant disparities in access to and utilization of mental health services (SAMHSA, 2018). A more diverse behavioral health workforce is needed to ensure that culturally competent care is available for all people.

The *Child & Adolescent Mental Health Initiative* aims to address this unmet need by expanding and diversifying the child and adolescent behavioral health workforce through the development, implementation, and evaluation of an innovative pipeline program focused on cultivating and educating culturally compassionate providers.

Core Program Components:

- 1) Provide educational programs for Boston Public School students on reducing stigma, promoting mental health literacy, and increasing access to college and behavioral health career opportunities.
- 2) Offer scholarships to community college students or employees of eligible partners who are interested in completing their Bachelor's degrees in Psychology & Human Services at William James College.
- 3) Facilitate mental health literacy and career awareness workshops.
- 4) Collaborate with educational and employer partners to recruit, train, and retain a multicultural behavioral health workforce.



BUILDING A BETTER BROTHER SUMMIT

CAMHI's Inaugural Anti-Stigma & Mental Health Literacy Program

On Friday, October 18, 2019, in partnership with **The Black Man Can Institute (BMCI)** and the **Boston Public Schools**, the *Child & Adolescent Mental Health Initiative* (CAMHI) hosted its inaugural mental health literacy program and anti-stigma campaign on the campus of William James College.

The event, titled ***Building a Better Brother Summit***, convened about 80 BPS students who gathered to engage in meaningful dialogues about stigma and its deleterious impacts on the mental health of boys and men of color. Funded in part by Boston Children's Collaboration for Community Health, the Summit included Welcoming Remarks by Brandon Frame, Chief Executive Officer of BMCI; Marc Abelard, Co-Director of CAMHI; and Harold Miller, Senior Director, Office of Opportunity Gaps, Boston Public Schools.

Three concurrent workshops were conducted on Mental Health Literacy. A panel of male providers and educators discussed the challenges of living with a mental illness and the benefits of seeking mental health services. The Keynote Address was delivered by Phillip Yacinthe, followed by Closing Remarks and a "Tie Ceremony".



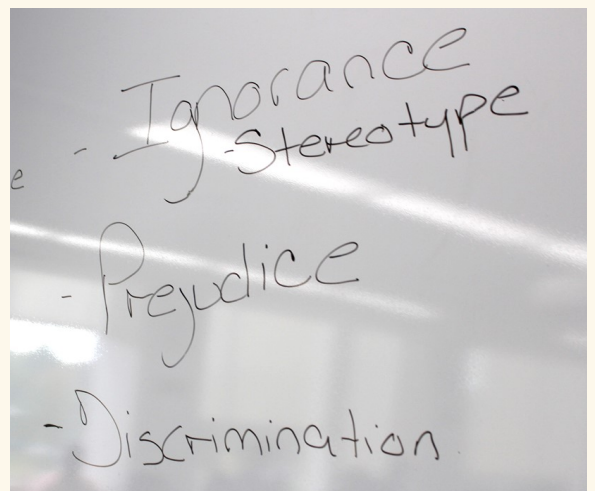
CAMHI's WORKSHOP FACILITATORS



From left to right: Sohenga Depestre, Tayo Akinmuyisan, Debbie Herrera, Damon Pryor, Lisa Saunders, Darryl Sweeper Jr., and Kristine Hernandez

Promoting Mental Health Literacy

During the Summit, seven WJC students co-facilitated workshops on stigma and mental health literacy. For the purpose of the program, **Mental Health Literacy** is defined as *the knowledge and beliefs about mental disorders that aid in its recognition, management or prevention. It is not simply knowledge of mental health problems but knowledge that is linked to action, which can benefit one's own mental health or that of others* (National Library of Medicine, 2019).



#MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN



#StrongAgainstStigma

#StigmaFighter

#LetsTalkAboutIt

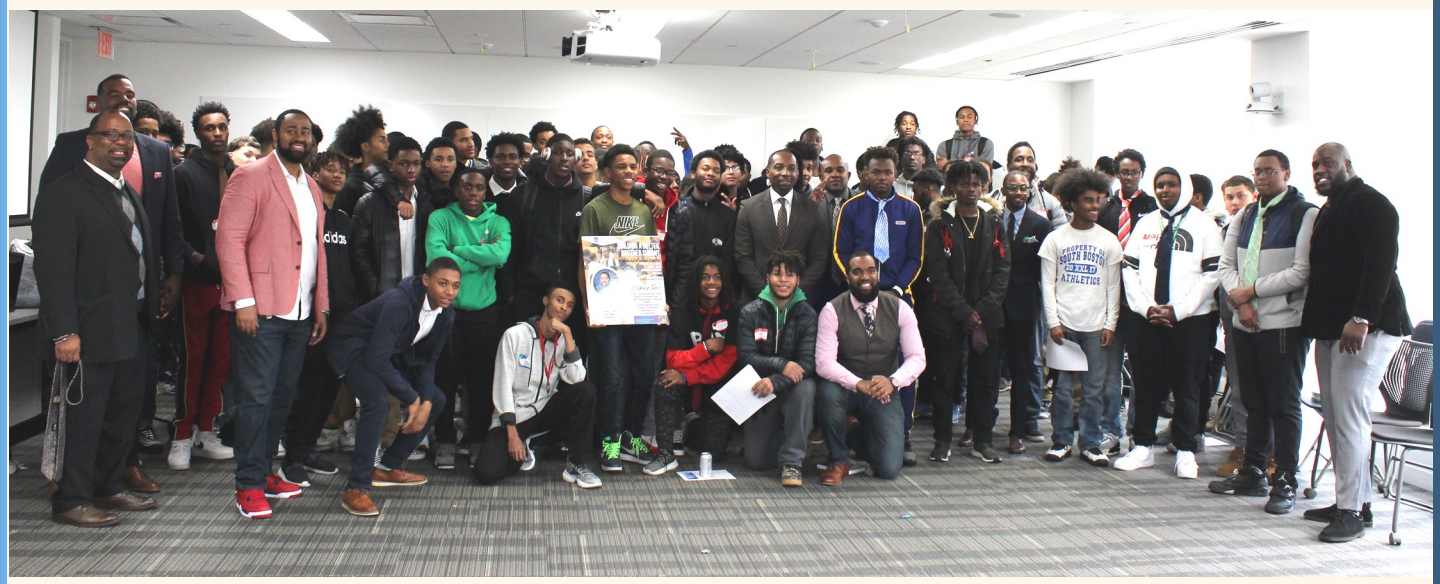
#YourMindMatters

#MentalHealthWarrior

#ItsOkNotToBeOk



MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM THE *BUILDING A BETTER BROTHER SUMMIT* OCTOBER 18, 2019



MEET THE CAMHI TEAM!



From left to right: Bob Whittaker, Sonia Suri, Gemima St. Louis and Marc Abelard



Marc Abelard and Julia Rodenhiser

Gemima St. Louis, PhD, is the Co-Director of CAMHI and an Associate Professor in the Clinical Psychology Program at William James College (WJC).

Marc Abelard, MEd, is the Co-Director of CAMHI and the Director of WJC's Bachelor of Science in Psychology & Human Services Completion Program.

Sonia Suri, PhD, is the Program Evaluator for CAMHI and the Director of Program Development, Monitoring & Evaluation in the Office of Research at WJC.

Julia Rodenhiser is the Project Coordinator for CAMHI and the Enrollment & Retention Counselor for WJC's Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Human Services Completion Program.



Samantha Robinson is the Youth and Family Project Coordinator for CAMHI. Sam is completing a year of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA Member at WJC for the 2019-2020 academic year.

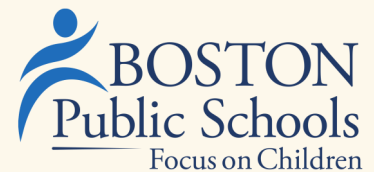
CAMHI's EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Black Man Can Institute (BMCI) – BMCI

provides students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds with opportunities to make career opportunities and academic pathways seem more viable. BMCI works to celebrate, educate and inspire men and boys of color. As a CAMHI partner, BMCI will co-host educational programs on mental health literacy and behavioral health careers for adolescent boys.



Boston Public Schools (BPS) – As the region's largest school district, BPS will partner with CAMHI to promote behavioral health career opportunities and academic pathways for high school aged students.



Brookline Public Schools' Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) Program –

METCO is a voluntary integration program providing K-12 education for over 300 Boston students. METCO will assist in facilitating group workshops for high schoolers through its annual Young Men and Women's Leadership Conferences.



Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) – BHCC offers Associate degree programs that position students for entry into William James College's Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Human Services Completion Program. BHCC will serve as a potential host site for CAMHI's summer institutes.



Roxbury Community College (RCC) – RCC is an Associate degree granting institution that will serve as a pipeline for the Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Human Services Completion Program and a potential host site for the summer institutes.



CAMHI's EMPLOYER PARTNERS

Eliot Community Human Services (ECHS) –

ECHS is a human service agency that provides an integrated and comprehensive network of community-based services to more than 30,000 individuals and families throughout Massachusetts.

Eliot

Inspired to make a difference.
Equipped to get it done.

Justice Resource Institute (JRI) – JRI is a behavioral health provider that offers over 100 diverse programs meeting the needs of underserved individuals and families.



Massachusetts Department of Mental Health

(DMH) – DMH focuses on the mental and behavioral health of Massachusetts' constituents with unparalleled reach throughout the state.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM for Metro Boston DMH Staff

The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH) Fellows Program was developed in collaboration with William James College (WJC) to create professional development and career advancement opportunities for Metro Boston DMH staff.

The program allows WJC to offer **partial scholarships to qualified students** (i.e., those with at least 60 undergraduate credits/an Associate's degree) who are interested in pursuing a career in psychology and human services. As part of this partnership, **DMH will off-set the tuition costs not covered by the WJC scholarships** for five Metro Boston DMH staff members.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Join the CAMHI Community Advisory Group!

We are seeking...

- ♦ Behavioral health providers
- ♦ Boston Public Schools students
- ♦ High school and community college staff
- ♦ Community members from culturally diverse backgrounds
- ♦ Stakeholders with expertise in serving children, youth, and families



The primary aims of the Community Advisory Group are to foster collaborations with community-based agencies, integrate the voices and experiences of the populations served, and provide guidance to the project staff on culturally responsive approaches and best practices to address the mental health needs of children and diversify the behavioral health field.

The Advisory Group meets approximately **3-4 times annually**. To join the group or obtain more information, please email CAMHI@williamjames.edu or visit our website www.williamjames.edu/CAMHI.

SAVE THE DATE!

Children's Mental Health Matters Conference

William James College

Saturday, May 2, 2020



RESOURCES

Department of Mental Health Child, Youth, and Family Services:

[https://www.mass.gov/departments-of-mental-health-child-youth
-and-family-services-under-19](https://www.mass.gov/departments-of-mental-health-child-youth-and-family-services-under-19)

National Alliance on Mental Health:

<https://nami.org/>

Crisis Text Line:

Text “Start” to 741741

National Suicide Prevention Hotline:

1-800-273-8255

Teens Mental Health:

[http://teenmentalhealth.org/
learn/mental-disorders/](http://teenmentalhealth.org/learn/mental-disorders/)



Contact Us

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