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White Supremacy & Youth Extremist: Virtual Listening Session Part 2
Wed., July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
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Resource Documents


YBTF Student Competition Exhibit: https://www.njoag.gov/about/divisions-and-offices/division-on-civil-rights-home/75th-anniversary-exhibit/

ADL Extremist / Cyberbullying Resources: https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resource-knowledge-base?issues%5B4770%5D=4770&issues%5B13%5D=13&rtype%5B56%5D=56&rtype%5B63%5D=63 and https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/bullying-and-cyberbullying-prevention-strategies


Zoom Link to Register and Submit Questions, Comments, Ideas, and/or Lived Experiences:

Register in advance:
https://njoag-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYPf-6trzstHtegHodOAn4ZW9BosxkLBZuY

Lead: Patricia D. Williamson, DCR- Community Relations Specialist - (609) 815-6163

Moderator: Yolanda Melville, NAACP Next-Gen (609) 402-5608

Chat Monitor: Denalerie Johnson-Faniel, PhD, DCR- Director, Community Relations and Outreach (917) 334-3640

Technical Lead: Tara Kamp, Tara.Kamp@njoag.gov (609) 760-2338

CRU Technical Support: Katie Shea, Community Relations Unit Intern - 201-334-6653
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Breakout Groups:

**Group 1**
Facilitator: Shannon Martinez 706-612-4440
Mental Health Professional: Dwana Young 732-241-4502
CRU Representative: Tisha Leonardo-Santiago (609) 775-3682

**Group 2**
Facilitator: Deidre Belinfanti (732) 890-4258
Mental Health Professional: Megan Sullivan 732-261-9655
CRU Representative: Libby Klein (609) 815-0447

**Group 3**
Facilitator: Natasha Hemmings 908-200-9349
Mental Health Professional: Dr. Yolanda Hawkins-Rodgers 201-376-2636
CRU Representative: Patricia Williamson (609) 815-6163

Program Objectives:

- Active listening and engaging with the community around their white supremacy, youth extremist and hate group linked experiences
- Awareness of white supremacy, youth extremist tactics and hate group related youth recruitment tactics
- Overview of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the traumatic impact on youth harmed by white supremacy
- Understanding of the overall effects of white supremacy on communities and resources available to protect yourself and the community
- An Anti-Bias Vision For The Next Generation: What civil rights means to DCR’s youth ambassadors - Pledge to #StopTheHate and #StandAgainstRacism
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Action – Lead Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:45 pm</td>
<td>Participating DCR/CRU members log into ZOOM for sound and screen checks (Comms Technology Team)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Guest speakers/DCR Youth Ambassadors log into ZOOM for sound check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Once all guest speakers/DCR Youth Ambassadors are present, DCR instruct them to turn camera on and take group screen shot. All are placed on mute to prepare for program to begin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:20 pm</td>
<td>Welcome to our program screen is launched with music playing softly (Comms) [music from the DCR Civil Rights Spotify playlist] – #StopTheHate Pledges begin to scroll via PowerPoint video compilation;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:21 pm</td>
<td>Start letting participants into the ZOOM Meeting (Comms) Use chat function as well to thank participants for joining us. Open to anyone who wants to welcome audience or write how excited you attend/participate. Ground rules and housekeeping. (Comms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:25pm-6:29pm</td>
<td>Comms members communicate as needed through private group text – include speakers / countdown to start / land acknowledgement on screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 pm -</td>
<td>Program begins with Land Acknowledgment &amp; Opening Remarks – An Anti-Bias Vision For The Next Generation Dr. Denalerie Johnson-Faniel, DCR CRU then Denalerie introduces <strong>Yolanda Melville, NAACP Next-Gen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:35pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6:35 pm -</td>
<td>Program Framing Remarks – White Supremacy, Anti-Racism &amp; Youth Social Justice by <strong>Yolanda Melville</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6:45pm- 6:50pm| **Yolanda Melville** introduces: Weldon Powell, Chief of Detectives, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice  
Shannon Foley Martinez, Former Violent White Supremacist  
Deidre Belinfanti, Garden State Equality Mental Health Lead  
April Santana, Young Adult Sharing Personal Experience  
Siddarth Satish, K-12 Student Sharing Personal Experience |
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Topic/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:50pm-6:57pm</td>
<td>Chief Weldon Powell</td>
<td>Statistics and Data surrounding NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:57pm-7:05pm</td>
<td>Shannon Foley Martinez</td>
<td>Discussion about white supremacy recruitment, her experience and testimonial and reformist PowerPoint presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:05pm-7:10pm</td>
<td>April Santana</td>
<td>Young Adult Sharing Personal Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:10pm– 7:15pm</td>
<td>Siddarth Satish (NAACP West Windsor Youth Council)</td>
<td>K-12 Student Sharing Personal Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15 pm-7:20pm</td>
<td>Deidre Belinfanti</td>
<td>Discussion on ACES and Impact of White Supremacy on Youth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 7:20pm-8:05pm| Breakout Listening Sessions:  
1-Students/Youth Breakout: Lead Shannon Foley Martinez  
Present questions received via Zoom registration, chat, in breakout re: extremist indoctrination, recruitment, symbols, signs, parent resources aimed at inoculating individuals against violence-based lifestyles and ideologies  
MH Rep: Dwana Young  
CRU rep: Tisha  
2-Parents Breakout: Mental Health Lead Deidre Belinfanti  
Present questions received via Zoom registration, chat, in breakout re: mental health impact on youth  
MH Rep: Megan Sullivan  
CRU rep: Libby  
3-Community Members Breakout: Community Prevention Lead Natasha Hemmings  
Present questions received via Zoom registration, chat, in breakout re: community resources aimed at discussing social justice advocacy, youth engagement, race and anti-racist practices  
MH Rep: Dr. Yolanda Hawkins-Rodgers |
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CRU rep:</strong> Patricia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-Safe Space Breakout Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mental Health Professionals will be sent from the three breakout rooms to assist people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CRU or Comms rep to transfer people:</strong> Katie Shea, Tara Kamp</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Floaters between breakout rooms:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Denalerie Johnson-Faniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danielle Thorne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yolanda Melville, Moderator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:05-8:27 pm</td>
<td>• Key Takeaways, Additional Questions, Comments, Ideas, and/or Experiences, Next Steps From Each Breakout Group and Call to Action: Youth Bias Task Force Ambassador #StopTheHate Pledge Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 Moderators – 5 minutes each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Yolanda Melville Introduce Students Re: Live Pledge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mariana Figuerias – 2 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April Santana – 2 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:26 pm-8:28 pm</td>
<td>Closing Remarks: Yolanda Melville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:28 pm–8:30 pm</td>
<td>Final Remarks: Patricia D. Williamson, DCR Community Relations Specialist</td>
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Sample Questions To Frame The Discussion and Drive Talk Back To Gather Report Data:

Question: What is white supremacy in the context of youth radicalization?

Question: Can you provide some of the data around bias-based incidents in New Jersey?

Question: What led you into neo-Nazism as a teenager?

Question: What is the related harm and impact on communities from white supremacy?

Question: Can you speak to youth vulnerability re: extremist group recruitment

Question: How do trauma informed practices play a role in harm reduction related to youth bias, discrimination and prejudice faced at school and in online forums including social media

Question: What signs should parents, educators, and others look for related to recruitment, bullying, harassment and discrimination? What does online recruitment look like? Can you name current local groups and symbols parents and educators should be aware of?

Question: What can parents, educators, and other students do when they witness white supremacist activity or are threatened in their school or community?

Question: How can community members and youth become local advocates?

Student breakout room: When you think of white supremacy, what does that mean to you? In school? On social media? At home? (Prompts on their experiences)

Community (educators): If talked a lot about students being bullied; who has seen ways staff responses to white supremacy; policies and systems

Parents: What do you do, if anything, to proactively resist racism in your home, with your children?

Moderator should not laser focus on a specific point. Create opportunities to talk as much about it as possible.
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Speaker Bios

Denalerie Johnson-Faniel PhD, EdM, MA, CBA, CLC, MCBT-C, HSBCP
Director of Outreach & Community Relations
New Jersey Division on Civil Rights

Dr. Denalerie Johnson-Faniel, has twenty years of public education, learning and development, DEI, mental health, human resources and community relations experience. A Garden State Global Non-Profit Woman of the Year, Network Business Journal Top 40 Under 40 and a YWCA Woman of the Year honoree, she was the international executive vice president of workforce development at Dress for Success Worldwide. Dr. Johnson-Faniel also served as director of organizational development and change management at Jewish Home and Hospital Life Care; was director of national operations at the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and led as president and CEO of a National Urban League affiliate. As director of a New Jersey Feeding America food bank, her team revitalized the agency into a health equity modeled countywide nutritional health and wellness impact center. She has managed government, K-12/higher education, corporate, community and nonprofit anti-bias training and was the national mentoring consultant for the Center for Supportive Schools. Dr. Johnson-Faniel is Lean Six Sigma HR Greenbelt certified, DEI and mediation and arbitration certified and founded 3D Management Consulting, LLC, a national boutique firm. She is also a certified yoga instructor, Reiki master, holistic life coach, autism behavioral analyst, and gender studies, history, contemporary problems, sociology, psychology, and multi-culturalism adjunct professor. The board certified human services professional has held elected and appointed government roles, she sat on the Edison-Metuchen NAACP board of directors; her local human relations commission, served as an advisory committee member of the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey; held Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.‘s international social action co-director role and chaired their New Jersey advocacy and youth and civil rights partnerships teams. Dr. Denalerie Johnson-Faniel a MPH student at TCNJ, has a PhD in human services public leadership and non-profit management, an Ed.M. in psychological counseling, an MA in organizational psychology and human resources and a BS in psychology and business management and BA in Afro-American studies and political science. She is a graduate of Howard University, Columbia University Teachers College and Capella University. Her book, Making HERstory: Womyn Working It Out, explores the lived experiences of
African-American career advancement and bias and discrimination. She and her wife live in Trenton, New Jersey; enjoy gardening and are the tea loving parents of a service animal named Prema-Diva.

Yolanda N. Melville, Esquire

Recent Highlights
• Partner, Cooper Levenson, P.A. (Atlantic City, New Jersey) and firm’s Diversity Committee Chair
• Chair, National NAACP NextGen Alumni Committee
• 2020 Senior Fellow, Higher Heights Leadership Fund

Biography
Yolanda N. Melville, Esq., is a Partner in Cooper Levenson’s Atlantic City, New Jersey office. Yolanda serves as General Counsel to numerous business entities and represents clients throughout every stage of the litigation process in both state and federal courts. Yolanda also serves as the Chair of the firm’s Diversity Committee.

Yolanda earned her undergraduate degree from The College of William and Mary, a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University, and her Juris Doctor degree from Howard University School of Law. During her law school tenure, Yolanda was one of six individuals selected nationwide to serve as a 2011 Kellogg’s Law Fellow for the NAACP Office of General Counsel.

Among her many professional accomplishments, Yolanda would later work with the Brennan Center for Justice in New York City, assisting in the organization’s efforts following Shelby County v. Holder, a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision addressing the constitutionality of two key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Throughout her civil rights journey, Yolanda has served as both moderator and nationally recognized speaker on various topics, such as voting rights, housing and intergenerational leadership, and worked with today’s
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greatest civil rights leaders throughout the country. Yolanda was recently selected as an inaugural (2020) Senior Leadership Fellow for the Higher Heights Leadership Fund, a national fellowship that highlights and strengthen the expertise of Black women in senior civic leadership. Yolanda also serves as a Legal Committee member to the NAACP National Board of Directors, as well as Legal Redress Chair and Political Action Co-Chair for the Atlantic City NAACP branch. Following her graduation from the inaugural NAACP Next Generation (“NextGen”) Leadership Program in 2019, Yolanda was elected Chair of the NAACP NextGen Alumni Committee. The NextGen Program is a leadership development training program for young adults between the ages of 21 and 40 to receive comprehensive advocacy training and develop leadership competencies to become effective civil rights leaders within the NAACP and beyond.

Yolanda has published editorials in The Crisis Magazine, New Jersey Apartment Association Magazine, and the Press of Atlantic City. Yolanda’s insight is featured in the January 2019 Boston Magazine article titled, “The New Insiders of Boston Politics.” Yolanda served as the keynote speaker for the 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program sponsored by the Atlantic City NAACP and the City of Atlantic City, where she discussed “A Woman’s Role in the Civil Rights Movement.” The Atlantic City Weekly and Atlantic City Jaycees named Yolanda as a 2018 “Top 40 Under 40” honoree for her contributions to our local community. She also was an honoree during the 2017 Black Girls Rock (Jersey Style) Awards Ceremony presented by In My C.A.R.E. Mentoring Inc., which recognizes unsung female heroines serving the Atlantic City community. Yolanda proudly served on the leadership team for the 2019 Atlantic City Women’s March and is a member of the Atlantic City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. In 2020, Yolanda was honored as the inaugural “Social Justice” awardee from the Alpha Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. In 2021, Yolanda also was a Top 40 Under 40 Honoree for the National Black Lawyers.

In addition, Yolanda was selected to represent the best of volunteerism and public service as an Honoree at the 2019 New Jersey State Governor’s Jefferson Awards. Yolanda was an Honoree in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Champion for Justice” category, which recognizes those who continue the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through their work to promote Dr. King’s message of civil rights, justice for all, peace and non-violence in our communities and our state. The Jefferson Awards are the nation’s oldest and most prestigious recognition program for volunteer/public service and are the official recognition program of the United States Senate. The New Jersey State Governor’s Jefferson Awards administers the recognition program for New Jersey and are also the official recognition of the New Jersey State Governor’s Council on Volunteerism. Overall, Yolanda uses her platform to seek justice for all people and mentor the next generation.
Deidre Belinfanti ("D"), is a proud Asburian and serves as a Project Manager and Trainers. D has demonstrated her commitment in being an advocate for change through their involvement with the Coalition of Activist Students Celebrating and Accepting Diversity and Equality (C.A.S.C.A.D.E) LGBTQ+ organization, serving as public relations chair and vice-president during their undergrad matriculation at Howard University, where they received their Bachelor of Science in Psychology, minoring in Photography. During their time as Vice President, they were able to launch the Lavender Fund, a LGBTQ+ scholarship. D continued her path for social justice, receiving their Master in Social Work degree, concentrating in Children, Youth, and Families, from the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work at the University of Southern California. During their matriculation, D and fellow students revitalized the Black Social Workers Caucus on campus, where they focused on highlighting Black social workers, community engagement, activism, and career acceleration. Upon graduation, D and fellow alumni banded together to organize a solidarity march in honor of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmad Arbery, and all people who have been murdered due to police brutality. D’s commitment to fighting social injustice continues with their grassroots organization, Social Workers in Solidarity, that highlights and destigmatizes the perception of Social Workers. They also are partnering with the National Association of Black Social Workers-Greater Los Angeles in creating a holistic family center for black and brown families of Southern California, helping families heal from generational trauma. Utilizing their minor in Photography, D founded Elegant D Photography, that caters to black small-owned businesses and entrepreneurs, helping them enhance their business visually and economically.
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**Shannon Foley Martinez**, a former violent white supremacist, has two decades of experience in developing community resource platforms aimed at inoculating individuals against violence-based lifestyles and ideologies. Foley Martinez has worked in at-risk communities teaching and developing dynamic resiliency skills. She has worked for school systems, nonprofits, and community organizations. She has participated in programs with such organizations as the UN Office of Counter Terrorism, the National Counterterrorism Center, Hedayah, and The Center for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence, UN Women, and the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. Her story has been featured globally, including: The TODAY Show, NBC's "Left Field," the Atlanta Journal Constitution, the Associated Press, the Washington Post, Marie Claire magazine, Quartz, Al Jazeera America, and Georgia Public Broadcasting’s “On Second Thought" program. She has been a commentator on such news outlets as HLN, CNN, Canada One and BBC radio. Foley Martinez has also assisted in training law enforcement officers, building programs for educators, and collaborating with tech companies like Google and Twitter. As the mother of seven children, she feels passionately about building empowered families and communities. She believes that we all have the power to enact profound and fundamental change in our lives.

**Weldon A. Powell** graduated from the Philadelphia College of Textiles & Science with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Business Administration. Chief Powell joined the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Division of Criminal Justice, in August 1998. Prior to assuming the role of Chief, he served as the Deputy Chief of the Specialized Crimes Bureau. As Deputy Chief, he managed six criminal investigative units which included; Environmental Crimes, Bias Crimes, Labor Fraud, Casino Prosecution, Motor Vehicle Crimes and the Atlantic City Violent Crime Task Force.

Chief Powell presently manages 200 detectives within six investigative bureaus. These investigative bureaus are listed as follows:
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- Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor
- Financial & Cyber Crimes
- Specialized Crimes
- Gangs & Organized Crimes
- Prosecutors Supervision & Training
- Office of Public Integrity & Accountability

Chief Powell has twenty-six (26) years of service with the State of New Jersey and twenty-two (22) years as a law enforcement professional. During his service, Chief Powell has served on the Attorney General’s Shooting Response Team and the High Risk Entry Team. Chief Powell maintains supervision of 200 detectives who conduct investigations into criminal activity within the twenty-one (21) counties of the State of New Jersey. Chief Powell is responsible for the oversight of officer involved shootings and death in custody investigations.

In addition to these duties, Chief Powell is responsible for ensuring that law enforcement agencies comply with Attorney General Directives and Guidelines ranging from police professional standards to bias incident investigative standards. Chief Powell actively participates in community events that provide education to the public about bias incident reporting and police community relations.

April Santana (she/her) is a rising sophomore at Syracuse University studying journalism and political science. She has grown up in Bergen County and attended Bergen County Technical High School in Teterboro, New Jersey where she was in the Law and Justice Major. April hopes to share her experiences with white supremacy with the hopes of allowing others to resonate with her story.
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**Siddharth Satish** is a rising senior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North who is engaged in interdisciplinary study and advocacy: focusing on the confluence of politics/international relations, economics, and health inequity. Siddharth is the co-founder and vice-president of their NAACP youth council. In addition to this role, Siddharth is the president of HOSA, state programs director of NJ High School Democrats, and state captain of NJ's world schools debate team. They also are a youth delegate to the UN from Ariel Foundation International, the only under 18 member of the World Humanitarian Forum youth council, and the chair of the International Association of Political Science Students for USA and Canada. Siddharth also has founded two successful non-profits: Rememoirs and PEP magazine, and has been featured in 165+ news outlets including Fox, CNBC, MarketWatch, and ABC for their work with these entities. Siddharth served as the NJ delegate to the United States Senate Youth program, and has been nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize as well as Forbes 30 under 30 in social entrepreneurship.

**Patricia D. Williamson** is a Community Relations Specialist in the new unit under the Division on Civil Rights, in the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety. Prior to this position, Patricia was the New Jersey Counts Project Director at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, where she led the work to ensure a complete and accurate count of New Jersey's urban communities in the 2020 Census. Patricia worked for over 20 years in the telecommunications arena as a systems engineer in the optical networking area. She is also an adjunct professor at Bloomfield College.

Patricia 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.
Facilitator and Mental Health Professionals

Natasha L. Hemmings, MPA, is the Chief Executive Officer for the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey and is the first African-American women in the council’s history to lead the organization. A long-time advocate of girl empowerment and leadership, as she is a Lifetime Member of the Girl Scouts of the USA and served Girl Scouts of Central & Southern New Jersey as their Chief Marketing and Communications Officer for 18 years. As CEO, Natasha holds a senior leadership role with significant strategic and supervisory responsibilities for the second largest Girl Scout Council in the state, with an annual budget of well over $6.5M. Natasha has a Master’s Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Non-Profit Leadership from Rutgers University, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications & Theater from the College of New Jersey, formerly Trenton State College. She also holds an Executive Non-Profit Leadership Certificate from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Natasha is a Rutgers University School of Public Affairs and Administration MBA Board Member. She has been selected to serve on Girl Scouts of the USA’s National Convention Action Team for the last 4 National Council Sessions with increasing roles and responsibilities over a 12-year span. She plays a critical role in sharing the inspirational stories of Girl Scouts in the state, inspiring girls of every age and families of every culture to join.

Natasha has a deep passion for issues pertaining to women, girls, diversity, equity and inclusivity, and has focused her community service in these areas. She is the immediate past Vice President of the Barbados-American Charitable Organization of NJ and a proud lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. which is a public service organization that strives to confront the problems of African-Americans and, hence, all Americans. In this capacity, Natasha has served as past President of the Iota Beta Chapter, Co-Chair for the Arts & Letters Committee, and member of the Fundraising and Mental & Physical Health Committees. She served as a Girl Scout Co-Leader for over ten years in the urban community of Plainfield, serving a multi-level, multi-cultural troop of 32 girls. She led troop meetings, conducted Journey and badge activities, planned programs and special events, and chaperones trips with girls ranging in age from five to fourteen.

Active in multiple charitable organizations and committees, Natasha is also a member of GSUSA’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Racial Justice Steering Committee, and a proud Lead NJ Alum. Lead NJ is dedicated to developing well-informed leaders who are prepared to cross boundaries between sectors, work effectively
with people of all backgrounds, find common ground with those who may think differently about issues, and work in a spirit of shared commitment to our state’s success. Most recently, Natasha was selected as one of the top 25 Leading Women Entrepreneurs in New Jersey and made the ROI-NJ 2020 Influencers: People of Color list. In 2018 she was also recognized as one of South Jersey Biz’s Women to Watch and was recognized by Citrin Cooperman at their Women at the Wheel event with a Leadership Excellence Award. She has been a guest lecturer for several graduate courses at Rutgers University School of Public Affairs and Administration in Newark and is co-chair for a local high schools’ Parent Athletic Club. Natasha is an entrepreneur herself and owns 3KeyEvents, a wedding and special events planning company. She attributes her success to the unwavering support of her parents, husband Okello, two daughters Naomi and Chelsea and bonus son, Xavier.

Dr. Yolanda Hawkins-Rodgers is a licensed psychologist with a private practice in Hackensack. She is also a certified clinical supervisor who supervises both permit holders seeking to become licensed psychologist or a licensed professional counselor. Since moving from New York over 30 years ago, she has worked with adolescents and young adults, in her capacity as an educator and a clinician. She started her career as the director of the EOF program at Bergen community College. Subsequently, she held the position as the first African American to chair the department of Psychology and Counseling at Fairleigh Dickinson University at the Florham/Madison campus while building her private practice as a psychologist. She has done research on and made recommendations to stem bullying among female students at Hackensack high School.

Her interest in mental health has led her to become a member of the Community Mental Health Board and the Family Support Organization. She served as chair of the Bergen County Commission on the Status of Women. Her clinical work includes working for the Department of Child Protection and Permanency as a clinical consultant and psychological evaluator. Her community activity includes membership in the Bergen County Alumnae chapter Delta Sigma Theta and the Rotary of Hackensack.

Dr. Hawkins-Rodgers has developed many training workshops and presented papers at national conferences regarding educational and clinical issues that have included multicultural issues in the workplace and
developmental issues across the lifespan. She recently published her first therapeutic coloring book for grownups. Her most recent effort in promoting mental health has been to found the Consortium of Mental Health and Educational Professionals of Color whose aim is to provide a comprehensive directory of resources and services for an underserved population in Northern New Jersey.

**Megan Sullivan** is the Deputy Director of the Disaster & Terrorism Branch of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. She is a certified Disaster Response Crisis Counselor, trained in the FEMA and Red Cross models and is currently a part of the Division of Mental Health and Addictions’ Disaster and Terrorism Branch which develops contingency planning for the public’s mental health needs surrounding various types of emergencies. She serves on the Operations Board of the Disaster Response Crisis Counselor Certification and is one of the trainers for the DRCC curriculum. She has deployed to Louisiana for hurricane relief and to the United States Virgin Islands with the New Jersey Emergency Medical Services taskforce after Hurricanes Irma and Maria. She has been on the faculty at the Rutgers Summer School of Addiction Studies since 2009. She currently has a private practice in Metuchen, NJ.

Sullivan is a graduate of Villanova University and holds a Masters of Education in Counseling Psychology from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor. She has also trained in marital and family counseling at The Center for Family, Community and Social Justice in Princeton, NJ.

**Dwana M. Young, MPA** For over 16 years, Dwana M. Young has been a remarkable leader in child advocacy, policy, and community engagement. Driven by her innate passion for equity and justice, she takes pride in servicing our New Jersey residents with knowledge and excellence. As the Community Navigator for the Office of Resilience, Dwana leads the team with the development and implementation of Core Strategy 3 and manages the Virtual Learning Community. In addition to her primary functions, Dwana has been recognized by private and public organizations for her extraordinary commitment in the advocacy of New Jersey’s Native American Indigenous Community.