Safe Communities and the African American Opioid Coalition (AAOC) partnered up to present a FREE ONE WEEK WEBINAR SERIES: Ending African-American Deaths from Despair sponsored by Minority Health Program, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

The goal of this webinar series is:

- Save African American lives in Dane County
- To help set a standard for communities around the nation grappling with deaths from despair among African Americans.
- To understand what underlies these deaths from despair from the perspective of African Americans affected by them and African American clinicians and helpers who are working to prevent them.
- To share insights with the broader community -- non-African American laypersons, policymakers and clinicians -- on how risk factors may present differently among African Americans, and how to be an effective ally in prevention of African American deaths from despair.
- To examine and build on our strengths as an African American community -- research consistently demonstrates that the resilience of our community institutions, families and members are what have kept deaths from despair at lower rates than the majority population in spite of centuries of structural racism.
- To lay the groundwork for continued conversations and action on how to make Dane County’s mental health and substance use disorder treatment systems accessible, culturally competent and effective at eliminating African American deaths from despair.
- As individuals and organizations, to join together with other efforts, including NAMI’s Green Bandana Campaign, to reduce stigma around mental illness and prevent deaths from despair.

We hope that this series will give each participant information they need to help everyone in our community who needs emotional support and resources to be mentally healthy.

Sponsors:
- Minority Health Program, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services Dane County
- Safe Communities Sustaining Members
- American Family Insurance
- City of Madison
- Dane County/UW Health/UPH Meite/Quartz
- SSM Health
- Rich and Amy Steffen
- AAA Wisconsin
- Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin
- Madison Gas and Electric

**Special Gifts to those who register ahead of time or participate on LIVE!!**
Carola Gaines, Emcee

Carola Gaines has worked for Quartz and partnered with UW Health for 26 years, as the Community Liaison Manager. She currently serves approximately 40,000 BadgerCare Plus (BC+) members in 17 counties throughout Wisconsin. As Manager and Senior Advocate, her goals are to coordinate and provide a heightened level of support to the BC+ providers and BC+ membership. She serves on numerous community initiatives and boards such as, Co-Chair UW Health Maternal Child Health Initiative, Advisory Member UW Health Centering Program, Black Women Wellness Board member, Rainbow Project, Board member, One City, Board Member, Dane Co. Immunization Coalition, Safe Sleep Coalition Chair, Dane County Asthma Coalition, Fetal Infant Mortality committee, African American Health Council, Co-Chair and Co-Chair Mt. Zion Health Ministry to name a few. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and has served as Wisconsin State Coordinator, Chapter President and is a current member of the Regional Leadership Team. She has received numerous awards including the 2015 Madison Urban League of Greater Madison Collaborated of the Year award; YWCA - 2010 Woman of Distinction, Dane County Walk of Honor Award, the South Madison Community Service Award and the 2013 Madison Metropolitan Links and Wisconsin Women of Color Network distinguished service award.

Dr. Zowee Jamison Shanks

Zowee Jamison- Shanks is a wife, a mother, Philanthropist and an Ordained Evangelist. She’s a Certified Life/Professional Coach, Author, Inspirational Speaker and an Entrepreneur. Zowee has her Bachelors in Social Work, Masters in Human Services, Marriage and Family. Zowee has a Doctorate in Pastoral Counseling and is currently working on her second Doctorate of Education Community Care and Counseling, Traumatology. Zowee has overcome her childhood trauma and is excited about helping others overcome theirs.

Judge Everett Mitchell

"It is far easier to build strong children than to repair broken [wo]men" - Frederick Douglass

The Honorable Reverend Everett Mitchell(1)] is a fierce advocate for education and equity. Judge Mitchell was elected to the Dane County Circuit Court as a juvenile court judge and presides over cases involving family re-unification, juvenile delinquency, and other civil and criminal proceedings. Further, Judge Mitchell also oversees Dane County’s Drug Court Program. Judge Mitchell is committed to dismantling what he describes as the Child Welfare to Juvenile Delinquency to Adult Prison Pipeline operating not only in Wisconsin, but also around the country. In this pipeline, systems pass traumatized children from one system to the next without acknowledging or addressing their trauma. His approach is documented in the Wisconsin Public Television Series, "Not Enough Apologies: Trauma Stories."(2) He believes passionately in the endless potential of children and communities to transform their trauma stories. As a trauma survivor himself, Judge Mitchell approaches each case with an eye bent towards making sure the court system does not contribute to the ongoing traumatic narrative that many children and families experience. He often tells the children in his court, "I am not your judge, I am your reflection."

Felix Giboney IV

Felix’s passion is mentoring and youth development. He is first and foremost a father, big brother, and community servant. Born and raised in Memphis, he was involved as a young adult in the criminal justice system. He moved to Madison and began to connect with re-entry work in our community and paying the work forward. He displays compassion and non judgment, but carries the social capital, content knowledge and skill sets to listen to youth and walk with them to meet their own needs. Felix has worked with youth in elementary, middle, and high school to manage and overcome trauma, develop leadership skills, navigate systems, and hone in on their personal, academic and career goals. His orientation toward solutions and “doing it together” makes him effective and trans-formative.

Check out TrainedtoGrowinc.org for more information about his organization.
Joe Parisi

Joe Parisi has called Dane County home his entire life. He sought out public service as a way to give back to a community that has given so much to him. Joe was first elected as County Executive, the chief elected leader of Dane County, in 2011 after 6 years in the State Assembly and 8 years as Dane County Clerk. Joe’s priority is to ensure that everyone in our community has access to the opportunity to succeed. He believes investing in people pays big dividends. Joe knows this can work because he experienced it. Now Joe believes it is his turn to give back to ensure that our children’s generation has access to the same opportunities that were available to him. Joe and his wife, Erin Thornton Parisi, are raising their two daughters on Madison’s east side. With a population of more than 300,000 and an annual county budget of $600 million, Dane is Wisconsin’s second largest county. Dane County has the highest private sector job and population growth in Wisconsin.

Myra McNair

Myra McNair, LMFT is the owner and founder of Anesis Therapy, a certified state mental health and AODA clinic. She holds a Bachelors of Art in Biology and a Masters of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy with specialties in trauma, addiction, infant mental health, parent/child attachment, marriage counseling, trauma-informed practices, and cultural interventions. Anesis Therapy, established in January 2016, currently serves over 350 clients ranging from different faiths, cultures, ethnic backgrounds, and sexual orientations. employs 18 staff members who provide services in English, Spanish and Hmong. Anesis represents one of the most, if not the most diverse black women-owned businesses in Dane County with employees of black, Latinx, southeast asian, and european descent. In 2017 Myra was featured as an M List recipient as a Health Innovator by Madison Magazine and InBusiness Magazine as a 40 under 40 recipient.

Cheryl Wittke

Cheryl Wittke is Executive Director of Safe Communities, an award-winning coalition of 350 organizations and individuals working to save lives and prevent serious injuries in Dane County. She coordinates joint action by coalition partners to reduce our community’s top causes of injury and injury-related death: drug poisoning, falls among older adults, suicide and traffic crashes. She has served as Safe Communities’ director from the coalition’s inception in 1999, manages a $1.1 million annual budget, oversees state, federal and foundation grants and a staff of employees and consultants. Cheryl has a master’s degree in public administration with a concentration in community development from University of Wisconsin’s Robert M. LaFollette School of Public Affairs.

Charlestone Daniel

Charlestone “Charlie” Daniel is affectionally called Ms. Charlie in the village. She is the Director and Founder of the African American Opioid Coalition and the program coordinator for falls prevention at Safe Communities Madison-Dane County. She has been an advocate and ally to underrepresented groups for over 35 years. She retired from the Wisconsin technical college system as the education director for minority students’ participation and displaced homemakers. She has been the recipient of many awards in the village, including, YWCA Women of Distinction, NAACP Community Shares Sally Sunde award, City of Madison James C. Wright award, and the Dane County Martin Luther King, Jr. award to name a few. She is the past president of Access Community Health Centers, a member of the African American Health Network, Wisconsin Women of Color Network and the Madison Metropolitan Links, Inc. She studied at Jackson State College, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and the University of London.

Corinda Rainey

Corinda Rainey-Moore currently serves as the Community Engagement Manager for UnityPoint Health Meriter. Prior to this, she served 5 years as the Community Outreach and Engagement Manager for Kids Forward (formerly known as Wisconsin Council on Children and Family). In this role she has oversight over the organization’s outreach strategies to all of the issues areas including healthcare, racial equity, juvenile justice, immigration and education. Her passion is advocacy, networking and bridging relationships. Corinda has resided in Madison for over 39 years and currently spends much of her time volunteering to help marginalized communities. Corinda is currently the President of the Equal Opportunities Commission, Board President of Safe Communities, President of Urban League of Greater Madison Guild and President of The Madison Network of Black Professionals. In addition to this, she served for over 6 years on the board of National Alliance on Mental Illness Dane County (NAMI Dane County) where she served two terms as Board President and as Chair of the Education Committee. She served as both Interim President and as Vice President of the Urban League of Greater Madison Young Professionals.
FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH
11:45AM
SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
CORINDA RAINey
JOE PARISI
DR. ZOWEE JAMISON SHANKS

MONDAY, JUNE 8TH
12:00PM
SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
MS. CHARLIE
MEMBERS OF AAOC

TUESDAY, JUNE 9TH
11:15AM
SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
DR. ZOWEE JAMISON SHANKS
CHARLIE DANIEL
FELIX GIBONEY IV

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH
11:00AM
SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
RITA ADAIR
MYRA MCNAIR
MICHAEL VANN

THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH
12:00PM
SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
TYREES SCOTT
DAVITA WALKER

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH
12:00PM
SPEAKER:
EVERETT MITCHELL