Hate Crime Summit

October 25, 2017

Coalition Building & Affirmative Community Responses to Hate Crimes
Breakout Session III
IL Room C
2:00pm to 3:00pm

Description:
This break-out session will feature a panel that will present models of coalition building and collaboration among organizations and groups to affirmatively address hate incidents and create communities that are self-healing, as opposed to punitive. The panelists will speak to ways organizations with different missions can work together effectively toward a common goal of preventing and addressing hate crimes, sharing resources, and cultivating relationships.

Panelists:

Kenneth Gunn, First Deputy Commissioner, Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR), made a commitment to civil rights law very early in his legal career, which ultimately led him to CCHR. Through this work, Ken has helped to develop strategies for engaging the community in responding to some of the most vicious hate crimes in the city for more than 25 years including the firebombing of Korean stores in the Englewood Mall in 1992, the nearly fatal attack of Lenard Clark in 1999, and the rampant backlash of hate crimes against Arabs and Muslims following the September 11, 2001 terrorists attacks. He has been interviewed by the print media, radio, and television on a variety of topics including hate crimes, sexual harassment, and disability discrimination.

Anabelle Doulas is a former co-Chair of the Youth Advisory Council of the CCHR, and a current member of the Northside Task Force. Anabelle currently practices as a mental health clinician, focusing on the impact of trauma on youth, their families, and their communities. In her practice, Anabelle operates under the principle that “hurt people hurt people”, working to break the cycle of violence and allowing human beings to heal. In doing so, Anabelle has worked in several capacities with young people within the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and is currently focusing her efforts on prevention. Anabelle brings such a lens within her work on the Northside Task Force and their work within the community.

Carmen Rodriguez is a Chicago native and long-time community volunteer, who works as a residential real estate broker in the city. She has been a member of the Federal Policy Coordination Team for the National Association of Realtors, Chair of the Fair Housing Forum and member of the Government Affairs and Capital Conference committees for the Illinois Association of Realtors®, and chaired the Chicago Association’s Subcommittee on Cultural Diversity. She serves as the Acting President of the Hollywood-North Park Community Association and Co-Organizer and Press Contact for the Hate Has No Home Here Project. She and her husband live in the city with their children, their dog, and eight chickens. The Cubs are the 2016 World Series Champions. I just like repeating that.
Panelists (continued):

Jennifer Scott, Human Relations Specialist, CCHR, will discuss community based responses to hate crimes and community tensions. In 2009 Jennifer completed the Center for Conflict Resolution’s 40 hour Performance Based Mediation Skills Training. In 2011 Jennifer completed the Community Justice for Youth Institute’s 32 hour Restorative Justice Peacemaking Circle Training. And, in 2008, she also completed the Chicago Police Department’s 40 hour Mental Health Crises Intervention Team Training. For the past twelve years, Jennifer has utilized mediation, conflict resolution and peace circle models to interrupt violence and to create affirmative avenues for community building. These measures are used to: defuse community tensions, address neighbor to neighbor disputes, advocate for victims of bias motivated crimes, address bullying in schools, and strengthen business and resident relationships.

Joanna Thompson, a mixed-race (half Black/half Latina) and queer female, is the Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator at Center on Halsted. She is also finishing her PhD with the Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her doctoral research uses critical mixed-race studies to emphasize the intersections between mixed-race identity and interpersonal victimization, specifically bullying and harassment. Joanna is not new to LGBTQ community organizing in Chicago. She has been a member of the Hate Crimes Coalition since its inception, helping to produce the very first Hate Crimes Summit back in 2014. Her experiences, both personal and academic, have truly led to her to become a voice for the Chicagoland LGBTQ community on both grassroots and systems-based levels.

Norman White, Hate Crime Victim Advocate, CCHR, works closely with the Chicago Police Department, the State’s Attorney’s Office, and other non-governmental entities advocating and providing support to victims of hate crimes. Norman works with the local Muslim community to help create a better understanding of the Muslim faith and help organize inter-faith activities, such as Iftars, where people of all beliefs and nationalities can learn about each other. Norman also works in the Chicago Public Schools to facilitate bilingual bullying and hate crime workshops to teachers, parents and students. He is a graduate of Michigan State University, where he received a BA in Political Science and International Relations.

Sufyan Sohel currently serves as Deputy Director and Counsel at CAIR-Chicago. Before CAIR-Chicago, Sufyan worked with DePaul University’s International Human Rights Law Institute where he researched and collaborated extensively on women’s rights issues and rule of law projects in the Middle East and Asia. He also worked with the Egyptian Center for Women’s Rights in Cairo, Egypt where his focus was to educate and empower women while working with policymakers on gender reform and inclusion. Sufyan loves serving his various communities and is actively engaged on the boards of numerous local and national organizations and coalitions. He earned his undergraduate degree from Tulane University and holds a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) and a Master of Science in Finance (M.S.) from DePaul University.