



Dear WMHCA Members,

On behalf of the board of the Washington Mental Health Counselors Association, I want to reach out to you, our members to express how deeply disturbed and saddened we are by the recently witnessed death of George Floyd. This has affected us all in our country and the outcry has reverberated for the last several days. We at WMHCA want to acknowledge the families most closely affected by this terrible event so that they are not forgotten. The protests and outrage following the very public violence of Mr. Floyd's death are expressions of pain and collective grief in our communities that have experienced racism and historical trauma for many years. These expressions are both collective and individual and are not the only expressions evident right now. Sometimes, we licensed clinical mental health counselors, those who are in the business of listening, see the silent expressions too; the quiet manifestations of grief, fear, and pain. And we also, experience those manifestations. Additionally, we want to acknowledge our WMHCA brothers and sisters of diversity and especially of color ~ we see you and we care about you. Admittedly, there is a great deal to understand and we are listening and learning.

It is times like these that we can turn to our resources ~ our families, our communities, and our organization to lean on our values and purpose for support and guidance. To that end, we have compiled resources for racial awareness and social justice that may be helpful with your practice, and/or your clients, and your own self-education and self-care. These are available on our website [here](#) (please note that you must be logged in to the website to view this page. You can also access it by going to the Members Only menu at the top right of the WMHCA [website](#) and clicking Resources). We are very interested in hearing from you and continue to provide high-value resources. The initiatives at WMHCA, are focused on providing quality training for our members, influencing legislation to advocate for our members and our clients, and expanding and diversifying our membership.

We at WMHCA, seek to respect and honor the unique human spirit without discrimination of gender identity, race, age, ethnicity, disability, or socioeconomic status. WMHCA is committed to non-discriminating practices and to the prevention of harassment in all forms, verbal, physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological that infringe on the freedom for all people to be who they are.

In this challenging time of pain and grief, let us continue to provide the channels for listening, acknowledgement, learning and understanding that may lead us all ultimately to healing.

Respectfully,

The members of the board of the Washington Mental Health Counselors Association: **Marianne Marlow**, Board President, **Kaleb Kittrell**, Board

Secretary, **Shannon Thompson**, Board Education and Advocacy Director, **Sara Oppler**, Business Operations Director, **Debiruth Stanford**, Board Member, **Dominique Avery**, Board Member, **Ellen Carruth**, President Emeritus, and Training Chair, **Emily Brown**, Board Member, **Kate Chapman**, Board Member, **Karen King**, Board Member, **Karen Langer**, President Emeritus, **Kathryn Lorz**, Board Member, **Kyle Williams**, Board Member, **Susan Fee**, Board Member, **Susan Leveridge**, Board Member

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