



Breakout Session Descriptions

Thursday, September 27, 1:00-2:30

The Adultification of Black Girls: Discussion of Study

Join the authors of "Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Childhood" for a discussion of adults' perception of Black girls as older and less innocent than their white peers. Dr. Jamilia Blake, Senior Scholar at the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality and lead researcher of the report, and Rebecca Epstein, Executive Director of the Center on Poverty and Inequality and lead author of the report, will discuss the results of their recent study on adults' perceptions of Black girls and potential implications for the treatment of Black girls in schools and the juvenile justice system. The presentation will include interactive elements to engage the audience and learn about their own insight into these issues.

Data Dashboard: Announcing a New Tool to Access Allegheny County Juvenile Justice Data to Inform System Change

Allegheny County Juvenile Probation has had a longstanding commitment to transparency and continuous improvement. As part of that effort, Juvenile Probation has developed a new online tool that allows advocates to access rich data about youth who are involved with the justice system. The dashboard can answer questions like: *How many Black girls are currently involved with juvenile probation? How old are they? Where do they live? What offenses brought them to the attention of the system? Where did they commit these offenses? How are these patterns different for Black girls than for White girls or boys? It can also reveal data about trends in specific communities.* This session will demonstrate how to use the data dashboard and answer questions.

Lessons Learned from the Youth Media Advocacy Project

Presenters from the Youth Media Advocacy Project (YMAP), a partnership between Carlow University and Saturday Light Brigade Radio, will present a workshop on encouraging youth voice and empowering girls to connect their concerns to policy change. Part 1 of the session will model our tested and practiced ideation process that guides youth to identify problems that affect their lives and to understand the power and decision-making that underlie the problems. Part 2 will present participants with our youth-directed approach for encouraging creative problem-solving and policy change.

One Girl, Better Systems: A Collaborative to Improve Services for Marginalized Girls

This presentation will provide an overview of collaborative efforts between community members, non-profits, schools, courts and state agencies in Washington State to use community-based participatory research to improve services for girls who are at risk for court contact due to status offending behavior (e.g. truancy, running away, etc.). The presentation covers new and unique ways to collaborate across multiple stakeholder groups and highlights successes and challenges from replication of the Delores Barr Weaver Community Framework for System Change in Washington. Examples will be provided of stakeholder engagement processes, ways to identify and access critical data for analysis and presentation, and methods for effectively communicating research results to stakeholders to encourage action.



Trauma-Informed Worldview

In this session, participants will be introduced to trauma theory, attributes of trauma informed environments, the impact of trauma on the brain, the origins of trauma, how trauma impacts social and community connections, the intergenerational transmission of trauma, and vicarious trauma.

Thursday, September 27, 2:45-4:15

Education, Child Welfare, and the Juvenile Justice System: Improving Outcomes for Young Women and Girls

The purpose of this panel is to engage national and local experts in discussion about effective strategies for improving the outcomes of young women and girls in the education, child welfare and the juvenile justice systems. Experts will give an overview of the status of young women and girls in each field and discuss effective and ineffective practices. Additionally, experts will discuss points of intersection between each system and give insight into the experiences of young women and girls navigating multiple systems. At the end of the discussion, experts will give recommendations on how to identify and advocate for the best practices for improving outcomes supporting young women and girls.

Mommas in the Classroom: From Lactation to Graduation

Although teen birth rates have steadily declined over the last several years, one in 10 new mothers is a teenager. Despite these declines, racial/ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic disparities continue to exist. Black teen moms have a unique set of challenges to face in their journey to graduation. This presentation will discuss the role implicit bias, cultural humility, and social determinants of health have on black teen moms in the school system and ultimately their success in obtaining their high school diploma. Best practices designed to prevent teen mothers from dropping out of school will be discussed. Finally, infant and maternal mortality and morbidity will be discussed as it relates to teen moms and their families.

Reproductive Justice: What Is It and How Does It Affect Me?

Reproductive justice is a social change movement led by women of color. It focuses on the complete physical, mental, spiritual, political, social, environmental, and economic well-being of women and girls, based on the full achievement and protection of women's human rights; all while raising awareness and advocating for full autonomy over our bodies and lives. This session will unpack the reproductive justice movement and explore implications for Black women and femmes.

Restorative Practices and Racially Disproportional Suspensions: Promises, Outcomes, and Barriers

National data from the 2013-2014 academic year indicate that Black K-12 students were 3.8 times more likely to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions compared to their White peers (2016). Further, Black girls accounted for 8% of students enrolled and 13% of students receiving one or more out-of-school suspensions (OCR, 2016). Starting in 2015, restorative practices were introduced to Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) to improve school climate and reduce high and racially disproportional school suspensions. This presentation will provide a review of a restorative justice model, discuss the use of restorative practices within PPS, review promising discipline outcomes, describe barriers to implementation, and review practice and policy implications for implementing restorative practices in an urban school setting.



Friday, September 28, 9:00-10:30

Conferencing and Teaming: Empowering Families to Utilize Their Villages

In 2014, Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Family Services (OYCF) implemented a data-driven approach to identifying and addressing racial disproportionality in the child welfare system. Review of the administrative data revealed that Black girls have the poorest outcomes in the child welfare system. In this workshop, we will discuss the efforts, programs and practice changes implemented by OCYF to address racial disproportionality. Emphasis will be to explore the principles and values of the Conferencing and Teaming model that work to empower families while reducing disproportionality.

No More K12: Ending Sexual Harassment in Allegheny County Schools

Members of the BGEA Education workgroup will present on their collaborative efforts to end sexual harassment in K-12 schools in Allegheny County. The presentation will emphasize the voices and experiences of girls in the region who have spoken up about sexual harassment in their schools. The FISA Foundation will present the NO MORE K12 campaign, including PSAs developed by adolescent girls. Girls from the GirlGov program will share their work learning about sexual harassment and Title IX policies in their schools. Representatives from Pittsburgh Action Against Rape will discuss best practices in prevention and intervention to sexual harassment. Staff from the Women's Law Project will offer guidance regarding Title IX and other laws relevant to sexual harassment in K-12 schools. Finally, researchers from area universities will discuss the current state of research regarding Black girls' experiences of sexual harassment.

Pittsburgh's School-to-Prison Pipeline + OUR Vision for OUR Future

This interactive workshop will showcase Youth Undoing Institutional Racism's (YUIR) recent work to end Pittsburgh's School-to-Prison Pipeline and campaign to abolish out-of-school suspensions for grades 3-8 at Pittsburgh Public Schools. During the 2017-18 school year YUIR created a zine (mini-magazine with an agenda) with instruction from the Black Unicorn Project to support their campaign. This workshop will take participants through key aspects of the zine and share alternatives and action steps. Participants will begin to create a zine of their own in relationship to the campaign.

Stigma, Trauma and Barriers: The Legacy and Future of Mental Health Care

Research, to date, that specifically focuses on the differential experience of Black girls with mental health treatment will be the focus of the presentation. Adult Black women are 20% more likely to report serious psychological distress than their white counterparts (Williams, 2013), yet White women are 20% more likely to get treatment for a major depressive episode (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2013). Issues such as stigma, barriers, lack of access and treatment availability will be discussed. At the end of the presentation the group, will generate a list of possible directions for future research to assess and generate strategies for engaging Black girls in treatment.



Friday, September 28, 10:45-12:15

Comprehensive Sex Education: The Missing Pieces

This presentation will introduce the research conducted by Black Girl Equity Alliance Comprehensive Sex Education workgroup, which will be published as a report in late fall. The report will include preliminary qualitative findings from a study that engaged high school students in focus groups about their experiences with in-school sex education and their level of understanding of basic topics; results from a survey the workgroup created and distributed to all of the known external providers of sex-education resources and services within the Pittsburgh region; and an analysis of data on teen pregnancy and STD rates in the Pittsburgh region disaggregated by neighborhood to determine which areas of the city are most in need of responsive and comprehensive sex education and services.

The Criminalization of Youth: Problems and Alternatives

The presence of law enforcement in schools has expanded in recent decades, both in numbers and the roles they play. Pennsylvania has one of the highest student arrest rates in the country, especially for Black students. In this workshop, we'll explore the relationships between schools and law enforcement, the consequences of police contact for students, and recent efforts to create better school environments while minimizing justice system involvement.

Overcoming the Historical, Social and Political Legacies of Racialized and Engendered Trauma in Black Girls' Lives

This session will identify historical, social, and political occurrences that have perpetuated racialized and engendered trauma in the lives of Black girls and deprived them of the essential social, political, and cultural supports necessary for maximizing their growth and development. An analysis of the oppressive contexts in which Black girls live will be undertaken and participants will be invited to examine their roles and the roles of the organizations, institutions, and communities of which they are a part in mitigating the ongoing trauma in these settings through the implementation of culturally-grounded and trauma-informed policies and strategies.

The POWER of SELF-ESTEEM

This session will focus on the importance of self-esteem for young women and girls, especially in the face of negative situations, stigmas and labels, and the lack of positive images of Black women and girls in the media. Participants will engage in activities on how to encourage themselves, focus on the positives, shed light on their gifts and talents, and create a positive image of self.

Up-Rooting: Positive Racial Identity, Cultural Humility and Exploring our Racial Narratives

Through critical self-awareness, reflective writing, dialogue and movement, participants will take an "inside-out" journey of exploring and processing early experiences, messaging, and influences about race and how these messages impact how we show up in the world and in our work. Workshop participants will also gain an understanding of the use and benefits of positive racial identity development in early education (P.R.I.D.E.) as a strategy to uplift Black children in educational and community spaces. In tandem, participants will learn about the 3-part approach and framework of cultural humility (ongoing self-exploration, recognizing and shifting power imbalances, and addressing institutional inequities), a step beyond cultural competency that helps us create more open, effective engagement experiences to better recognize and appreciate the inherent humanity within us all.