

2021 PRIDE Month Presentations
June 2, 2021 12:00 to 1:00 PM

Presenter Bio

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Demond E. Bledsoe has served as a Sr. Program Director with Western Psychiatric Hospital for the past 6 years. His responsibilities include providing clinical support to inpatient Behavioral Health Units in UPMC facilities as well as several outpatient sites. His research and scholarly writings focus on the impacts of psychological trauma and diversity in behavioral healthcare and clinician training. He has worked in a variety of treatment settings throughout his career and has served on numerous state and local boards and committees. Doctor Bledsoe received his Doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision from Duquesne University.

Name and Narrative Description of your Presentation

Name of presentation: **ADDRESSING INTERSECTIONALITY IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE**

Patients' experiences of psychological dysfunction and dysregulation are often exacerbated by the presence of intersecting identities. These identities are often indicative of groups that are underserved and marginalized. Treatment providers often do not recognize the intersecting identities or the impact of the experience of marginalization and discrimination on the overall well-being of the patient. These stressors along with the accompanying gap in knowledge of the providers may lead to a reduction in the efficacy of treatment and lack of engagement on the part of the patient. This presentation will discuss the presence of multiple minority identities in a significant portion of the population served. It will elucidate the impact of racism, discrimination, and oppression on the mental health and wellness of patients experiencing challenges with mental health conditions. Topics such as assessment, referral, and recovery-oriented treatment of underserved and minority populations.

Please contact Doreen Barkowitz at barkowitzdh@upmc.edu for additional information regarding this speaker and presentation.

Three (3) learning objectives

By the completion of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Identify two strategies for effectively engaging patients with intersecting identities
2. Illustrate three examples of patients with intersecting identities that exacerbate symptoms
3. Recommend at least one change in process to identify patients with intersecting identities.

Three (3) current (within the past 10 years) peer-reviewed publications that support the evidence base for the content of your presentation

1. Hopkins, P. (2019). Social Geography I: Intersectionality. *Progress in Human Geography*. Vol 43(5), 937-947
2. Ratts, M. J., Singh, M. A., Nassar-McMillan, S., Butler, S. K., and McCullough, J. R. (2016). Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies: Guidelines for the Counseling Profession. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*. Vol 44 (January).
3. Seng, J. S., Lopez, W. D., Sperlich, M., Hamama, L., & Reed Meldrum, C. D. (2012). Marginalized identities, discrimination burden, and mental health: empirical exploration of an interpersonal-level approach to modeling intersectionality. *Social science & medicine (1982)*, 75(12), 2437-2445.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2012.09.023>