

Featured Panelists

Racial Justice & Racism as a Public Health Crisis March 24, 2022



Tracey Brame

Associate Dean of Experiential Learning &
Director of the Innocence Project
WMU Cooley Law School

Tracey Brame has a passion for justice and a storied career assisting marginalized communities. She has worked in Public Defender Services for the District of Columbia, the Federal Defender Office, and State Appellate Defender Office in Detroit. While with the Alabama Capital Resource Center she garnered death-penalty litigation experience, prepared arguments for the

U.S. Supreme Court, and drafted racial-justice legislation for the state. In her current role, she started and oversees the Access to Justice Clinic in Grand Rapids. She also oversees the West Michigan Public Defender Clinic. Prior to joining WMU Cooley Law School, she served as an adjunct professor at Grand Rapids Community College. Tracey earned her B.A. and J.D. from the University of Michigan.

Rebecca Diffin

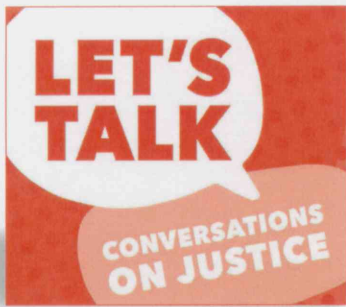
Director, Domestic Violence Supportive Housing Program
YWCA West Central Michigan

On average, Becky Diffin and her staff serve 200 families annually who are fleeing domestic violence and facing barriers that impede their ability to achieve safe, independence apart from their assailants. With a \$1 million budget and a portfolio of 50 housing units, she oversees our community's first supportive housing program to provide the unique and comprehensive supports survivors need. Becky has co-facilitated YWCA trainings on systemic racism and intersectional equity. She is former chair of the YWCA's Committee for Understanding Racial Equity where she led activities for the YWCA's annual Stand Against Racism. Before joining the YWCA, she was Regional Manager at Telamon Corporation where she served migrant and seasonal farmworkers and provided legislative advocacy related to fair wages, housing, and education.



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

west central michigan



Featured Panelists

Racial Justice & Racism as a Public Health Crisis March 24, 2022



Vanessa Greene

CEO

Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI)

With 35 plus years of experience, Vanessa Greene joined GRAAHI in late 2020 after a lengthy career leading diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at Hope College as Associate Dean of Students and Director of the Center for Diversity. During her tenure she chaired a 12-member racial equity steering committee to bring greater awareness to the issues of systemic and structural racism and establish tangible, actionable, and measurable goals toward racial healing,

equity, and institutional change. Vanessa is a certified diversity consultant, grant writer, and intergroup dialogue facilitator. She holds a master's degree in Higher Education Administration and a Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice.

Dr. Karen M. Kennedy

Primary Care Regional Medical Director
Mercy Health Physician Partners

Dr. Karen Kennedy has dedicated her medical skill and talent to serving vulnerable communities. After moving to Grand Rapids, she joined the Browning Claytor Health Center as Lead Physician. With Mercy Health Physician Partners (MHPP) she has served in several leadership capacities including Community Benefit Ministry Medical Director for Mercy Health Grand Rapids' Federally Qualified Health Centers and led similar efforts at the Wege Private Family Medicine offices. Currently, she is a Regional Medical Director and Lead Physician at Lacks Enterprises Primary Care, a MHPP direct-to-employer medical site, while also working toward a Fellowship as a current member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Dr. Kennedy has served as Vice-President of the West MI Medical Society and as a MHPP Diversity and Inclusion Champion. Originally from New York with family roots in Jamaica, Dr. Kennedy earned her Medical Doctorate from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Robert Wood Johnson Family Medicine Residency program.



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

west central michigan