

Psychologists of Color monthly call 5/9/19

Opening remarks (Christopher Watson)

VACO update (Gayle Iwamasa)

We were reminded about the Mission Act ushering in next month (June). The key issue is access to care: no more than 20-day wait and within a 30 minute drive (for most general 502 clinics); and no more than 28 days for MH specialty care (SUD, neuropsych, and PCT). An email with more details was forwarded to our listserv.

AVAPL Executive Committee update (Sam Wan)

Sam and other committee members had interactions with Sherron Jernigan, who is the Director of EEO. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) is a VA-wide office, and EEO is a VHA office. EEO can run discipline-specific reports on hiring. Some of the information depends on what employees are willing to share/provide. The office conducts site visits, provides team building, and works collaboratively with Workforce Development/Management. Sherron Jernigan is on the Health Equity Committee and has connections with the National Diversity Institute.

Action: Sam will make contact with Sherron Jernigan and add our SIG leadership so we can have her attend a future call.

Hospitality and Outreach (Arti Sarma)

Marcos Lopez provided an update on behalf of Arti Sarma. Below is a summary:

1. We invite VAPLC conference attendees interested in the AVAPL Psychologists of Color & Allies (POC) Special Interest Group (SIG) to join us for informal networking and conversations on Wednesday, May 29th at the restaurant/bar Zocca Cuisine D'Italia in the basement of the conference hotel (Westin Riverwalk, San Antonio) from 9-10:30pm.
2. The Outreach & Hospitality Committee of the VAPLC has been collaborating with us to offer the following initiatives to the conference this year:
 - a. All AVAPL SIG's will have a representative present during registration and the opening night social hour to welcome conference attendees and share more information about the SIG. This will include information for new and potential members to learn about more ways to get involved and spread informational updates with attendees about the purpose of the SIG's and the work we're doing.
 - b. Each SIG representative will be given colored-dot stickers to give out to members of their SIG during registration to put on their name badge. This can serve as an ice-breaker for attendees to learn more about each other and increase visibility of the various SIG's throughout the conference. If you are not there during the opening reception, you can still get a sticker for your badge during the breakout sessions.
 - c. The O & H committee will also be putting together a list of options for activities happening during the conference, such as the informal POC SIG networking hour. If you or others are planning any activities that can be added to the list or you have recommendations of local restaurants or

places to visit, please email arti.sarma@va.gov to have it included in the list.

Education Corner (Kristin Powell)

Kristin reminded us that we agreed to have a quarterly Leadership Journey series and introduced Josephine Ridley. Josephine poignantly shared her journey, and there was great interest and follow up discussion. This seemed to be a rousing success, and we look forward to more of the same in the next quarter.

Concluding comments (Christopher Watson)

We had approximately 15 participants in this call.

The next call will be on 6/13/19, 1-2PM EST (second Thursday).