

Community Empowerment Session

Community Healing

May 11
6 to 7:30 p.m.
Virtual meeting



Session Overview

Time	Topic	Facilitator
6:00-6:10	Welcome & Introduction	Community Relations Director Helen Ghebre & Assistant Commissioner of Community Supports Administration Jennifer Yang
6:10-6:40	Let's Talk: Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards	CLAS Policy Lead Sonya Smith
6:40-7:10	World Café	MN DHS Staff
7:10-7:25	Share Out – Harvesting	Community Engagement Coordinator Rebeca Sedarski
7:25-7:30	Wrap Up & Closing	Community Relations Director Helen Ghebre

Purpose of Community Empowerment Sessions

- To build authentic relationships with the communities DHS serves through creating and sustaining dialogue on topics of community interest
- Increase opportunity for community voices to inform policy and programming decisions at DHS
- To remove barriers in navigating and engaging with DHS
- The work of equity and antiracism requires that we are all actively committed to rebuilding trust with communities and bringing community members' voices to the table

Focus on Community Healing

Purpose and Intentions:

- To center community voices and experiences in the work of moving Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards and culturally responsive behavioral health services forward at DHS
- To share information about Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards and DHS provision of behavioral health services
- To discuss and inform what ‘culturally responsive services’ means at DHS and to the communities DHS serves



Beyond the Right Thing to Do - Health Equity

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards

Sonya Smith | CLAS Policy Lead

May 11, 2022

Ground Rules

Group principles for discussion

- Assume good intent
- Safe space for discussion
- Learn from our discomfort
- Allow for vulnerability
- Acknowledge that the virtual component of these sessions makes it challenging for us to interpret accurately how others are feeling
- Center the voices and experiences of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), and other vulnerable populations

- One mic rule: Everyone gets a moment to speak
- Actively listen, do not listen to respond, listen to engage and speak from the “I” perspective
- Make space, take space be mindful of how much space you occupy.
- Be mindful of where each of us are at when entering the space and recognize the emotional labor that those who are most impacted have to go through





The Importance of Culture

CLAS Overview & Purpose

Minnesota Racial Disparities

What is Culture?

- Systems of knowledge, concepts, rules and practices that people learn within their relationships and that they transmit across generations.
- Culture goes beyond race and ethnicity. It includes: language, religion, spirituality, family structures, where you are in life, rituals, customs, sexual identity, etc.

Health Equity: Race Video



Purpose of CLAS

The National CLAS Standards are intended to **advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities** by establishing a blueprint for health and health care organizations to implement and provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services.

Principle Standard

Provide effective, equitable, understandable, and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to:

- diverse cultural health beliefs and practices,
- preferred languages, health literacy, and
- other communication needs.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)



Standards 2-4

Governance,
Leadership &
Workforce
Development



Standards 5-8
Communication
&
Language
Assistance



Standards 9-15
Engagement,
Continuous
Improvement &
Accountability

The Cost of Health Inequity Video



Social Determinants of Health



Racial Disparities in Minnesota

The state of Minnesota as a whole has the second biggest income inequality gap between Black and white people in the entire nation. Compared to white Minnesotans, Asian people earn 94 cents on the dollar, Black people earn 71 cents, Latino people earn 70 cents and Indigenous people earn 68 cents (Minnesota House of Representatives, 2020).

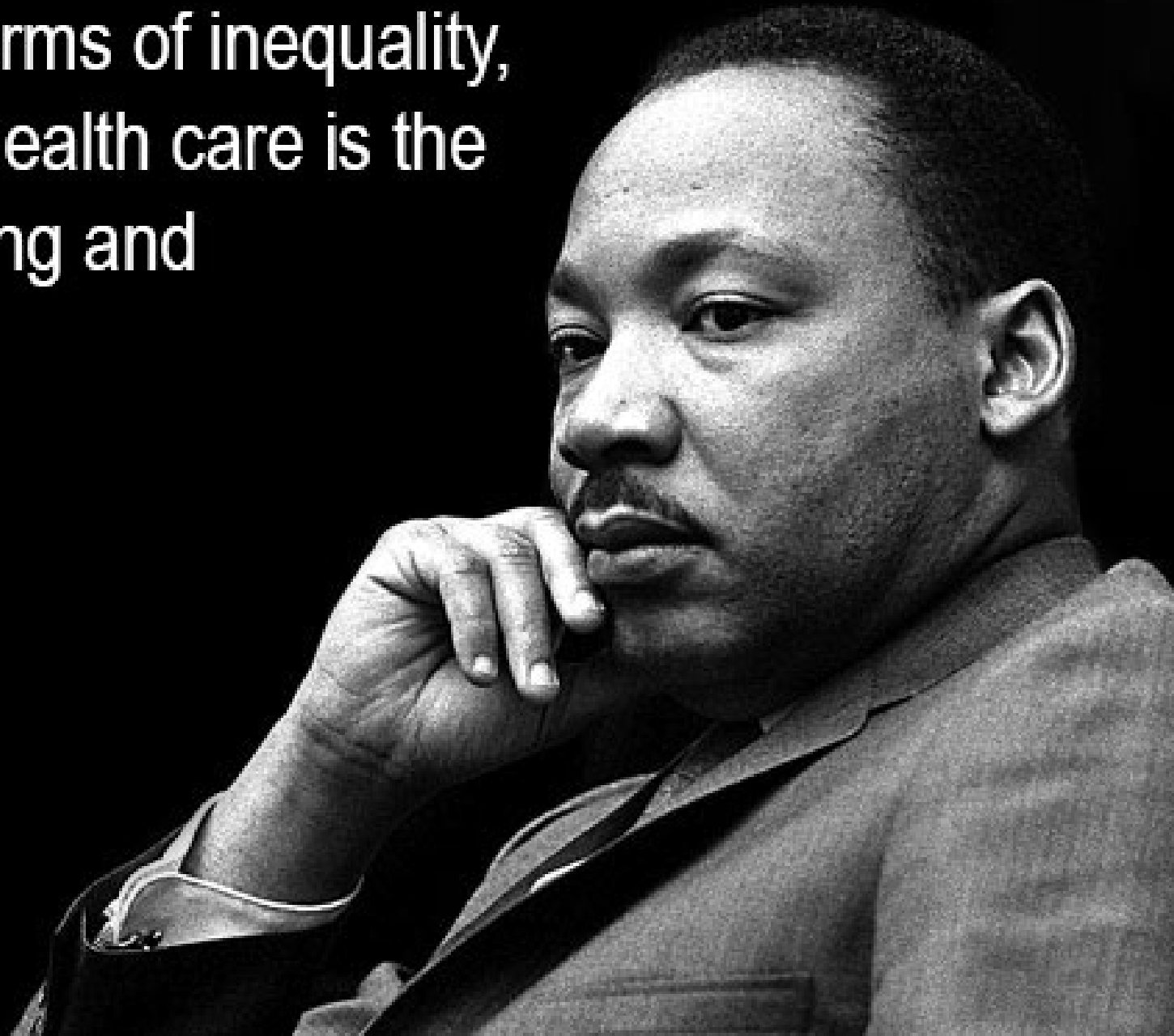
Minnesota has one of the widest homeownership gaps in the nation. While 77 percent of white households own their home, 57 percent of Asian, 46 percent of Native American, 45 percent of Latino and just 24 percent of Black households own their home (Minnesota House of Representatives, 2020).

In Minnesota, Indigenous students are ten times more likely to be expelled or suspended than their white peers. Black students are eight times more likely to be expelled or suspended than their white peers (Minnesota House of Representatives, 2020).

Black and Latino Minnesotans have reported food insecurity at more than double the rate of white Minnesotans (Wilder Foundation, 2020).

Black Minnesotans have been disproportionately affected by a loss of employment during the COVID-19 pandemic (MN Gov, 2021)

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”



Thank You!

Sonya Smith | CLAS Policy Lead

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“There has never been any period in American history where the health of blacks was equal to that of whites. Disparity is built into the system” (Evelynn Hammonds)

The World Café is a great way to foster interaction and dialogue with both large and small groups. The operating principles of this method are:

- Create welcoming space
- Explore questions that matter
- Encourage each person's contribution
- Connect diverse people and ideas
- Listen together for patterns, insights and deeper questions
- Share Collective Discoveries – Large group time

World Café Method

- Small group discussion centered around two questions - 30 min
- Large group – Harvest time, sharing knowledge and insights - 15 min

How to stay involved and connected

- Loop Back Session in 6 months (to share updates on decisions, plans, or changes that were made)
- Visit the [Community Relations & Public Engagement Website](#)
- Attend future Community Empowerment Sessions
- Get involved in the Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council
- Contact us:
Community.relations.dhs@state.mn.us
- Follow us on social media @MinnesotaDHS
- *LoopBack* Podcast series



How to stay engaged with culturally responsive behavioral health services

- Stay informed:
 - Subscribe to the [Behavioral Health Newsletter](#)
- Get connected:
 - YourOpinionMatters.DHS@state.mn.us

Your Voice Matters – Session Evaluation

Your input is valuable and will help ensure effective and meaningful Community Empowerment Sessions.

- Please see the link in the chat to fill out a short evaluation survey. The survey link will also be sent out in an email.
- We will be playing some background music if you would like to stay on to complete the survey at the end of the session.
- Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your feedback!

Thank You!

Contact us: Community.relations.dhs@state.mn.us

More information: <https://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/about-dhs/outreach-and-engagement/>