



## **MARYLAND COUNSELORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (MCSJ)**

**March 1, 2019**

**Volume 1, Issue 3**

**"Our Mission** is to work to promote social justice advocacy in our society, through confronting oppressive systems of power and privilege that manifest in a lack of equal access, benefits, resources, and opportunities to large segments of our population. We work to address mental health issues caused by social marginalization, and oppressive issues that affect professional counselors, students, and the clients we serve. Our goal is to work to assist in positive change in our community and society, and call attention to additional ways counselors could be better advocates in their work with diverse, marginalized, and disenfranchised clients, through professional development." **-MCSJ**

**MARYLAND COUNSELORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (MCSJ): A DIVISION OF MARYLAND COUNSELING ASSOCIATION (MCA), AND A BRANCH OF COUNSELORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (CSJ)**



*Letter from President Dr. Chioma Anah:*

*“A Gathering of Counselors, Allies, & Communities: Social Justice Advocacy in our Current Sociopolitical Climate.” –MCSJ Conference 4/27/2019*

Dear MCSJ Community,

All hands are on deck in the preparation of our upcoming conference. We are stepping up, using our voices, and lending a hand to push towards justice, and effect real change in the counseling field, in mental wellness for marginalized populations and our communities. I hope we can count on all of you for your continued support, and participation. We thank you in advance!

Our Conference on April 27, 2019, will include a Keynote address by **Dr. Vivian Lee**, Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education, Panel discussions, Educational Sessions, Poster Sessions, and Vendors. There will also be plenty of opportunities to network with fellow counselors, allies, and community leaders.

In this newsletter, we spotlight one of our Panel Speakers, **Christopher Fay**, Executive Director of **Homestretch**, a program for homeless families in Northern Virginia. And, in MCSJ News, we announce our new Secretary, **Brett Kirkpatrick**, who has already made incredible contributions to MCSJ. Thank you, Brett!

Please don't miss this opportunity to be part of what promises to be a powerful and inspirational social justice advocacy conference. I hope to see you all on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland!

With Hope, Freedom, and Grace,

Chioma Anah, Ed.D., ATR, NCC, LCPC-S, ACS  
*President, Maryland Counselors for Social Justice (MCSJ)*

**MCSJ BOARD MEMBERS IN ACTION DURING THE TERM OF OFFICE:**



**MCSJ Executive Board Members**

**Roundtable Session**  
Date: Sunday, November 4, 2018  
Time: 1:15pm  
Presenters: Dr. Chioma Anah, LCPC-S; Evan Velleman, MS; Rebecca Schaffner, LGPC; & Jasmine Templeton, LGPC



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### *MCSJ Conference Panel Speaker: Christopher Fay*



**Christopher Fay is Executive Director of Homestretch**, a program for homeless families in Northern Virginia. Both Fay and Homestretch have earned numerous awards and media attention for outstanding outcomes in helping homeless families transform their lives. In 2017, for example, the graduation rate for Homestretch was 91.3%, meaning that 91.3% of exiting families moved into housing that they could afford on the income they earn; and of these, 63% made such progress that they could move into market rate housing. The average rise in income for a family in 2017 was 186%, and the average rise in credit score exceeded 100 points. Independent outcome studies show that 95% of Homestretch graduates remain housed and employed 2-5 years after leaving Homestretch, a result that leads the nation.

Prior to Homestretch, Fay was Director for Delancey Street Replication for the Milton Eisenhower Foundation, where he helped replicate the model in cities around the country. Delancey Street is widely recognized as the most innovative and successful program for ex-offenders in the world. Prior to that, Fay served as founding executive director of Broadway Community, Inc. (BCI) a grass roots organization for the homeless in New York City.

Chris has also illustrated over a dozen children's books including the award-winning "Inigo"; and his original screenplay for the 2004 Showtime movie "Carry Me Home" earned him a **Humanitas Award** nomination and an **Emmy Award** nomination for veteran actress Jane Alexander. Chris has served on many Boards including the Board of Trustees for the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia, the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services, and the Children of Uganda. His leadership in the field of homeless services has received profiles in New York Newsday, the Washington Post, and World Magazine. Chris earned his bachelor's degree from Carnegie-Mellon University and his master's degree from Columbia University.

---

*"Today we should all ask ourselves: What have I done to improve the surroundings in which I live?" – Nelson Mandela*

---

## Announcements/Events:



# Maryland Counselors for Social Justice (MCSJ) Inaugural Conference

**Date:** Saturday, April 27, 2019

**Time:** 8:30am- 4:00pm

**Location:** Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore (School of Education Building, 2800 N Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218)

## **“A Gathering of Counselors, Allies, & Communities: Social Justice Advocacy in our Current Sociopolitical Climate”**

### Keynote Speaker:



**\*Dr. Vivian Lee\***

*Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education*

- Education Sessions
- Poster Sessions
- Networking Opportunities
- Vendor Opportunities
- 6 CE's

### Conference Fees:

- \$50-MCSJ Members
- \$60-Non-MCSJ Members
- \$25-Students MCSJ Members
- \$35-Student Non-MCSJ Members

Online Registration: <http://www.md counseling.org/MCSJ>

## IN MCSJ NEWS:

*Meet MCSJ's New Secretary: Brett Kirkpatrick, MS, Ed.S.*



Brett is a doctoral candidate in Counseling Psychology at the University of Kentucky, although he was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and completed his master's degree Baltimore, MD. Brett's clinical experience has included working at a state psychiatric hospital, a state prison, a community mental health agency, and two university counseling centers. Brett is passionate about social justice issues, and believes that all of psychology should recognize, appreciate, and celebrate diversity. In his work, Brett strives to create genuine relationships with his clients by trying to understand how their life experiences inform their beliefs and feelings. Brett's clinical interests include trauma, resiliency, mindfulness, and depression. His research interests include antiracism and making Whiteness, White culture, and White privilege visible.

---

*"The best allies are the ones who understand how their privileged identities affect how they interact with others, know when they're taking up too much space, take a seat, and let others shine."- Kevin Nadal, Ph.D (2/19/2019)*

---

### **MCSJ Executive Board-Leadership (2018-2019):**

President- Dr. Chioma Anah, ATR, LCPC-S, ACS

President-Elect- Dr. Don Trahan, Jr., Ph.D, LPC, ACS

Counselor Representative- Evan Velleman, MS

Secretary- Brett Kirkpatrick, MS, Ed.S

Treasurer- Perri Hooper, BS

Student Representative- Kshipra Jain, MA, LPC,

Veteran Representative- Jasmine Templeton, LCPC

### **Committee Chairs (2018-2019):**

Membership & PR- Deneen Robin, MA, LCPC

Community Outreach- Sergio D. Washington, MS

Community Outreach- Daniel Fleshner

Social Justice Advocacy- Grace Abraham Lewis, MSc, NCC, LCPC

MCSJ  
Maryland Counseling Association  
nbcc

**Maryland Counselors for Social Justice (MCSJ)**  
**Inaugural Conference**

**Date:** Saturday, April 27, 2019  
**Time:** 8:30am - 4:00pm  
**Location:** Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore (School of Education Building, 2800 N Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218)

**"A Gathering of Counselors, Allies, & Communities:  
Social Justice Advocacy in our Current  
Sociopolitical Climate"**

**Keynote Speaker:**

**\*Dr. Vivian Lee\***  
Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education

- Education Sessions
- Poster Sessions
- Networking Opportunities
- Vendor Opportunities
- 6 CE's

---

*"If you assume there is no hope, you guarantee that there will be no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, that there are opportunities to change things, then there is a possibility that you can contribute to make a better world." –Noam Chomsky*

---

### **Maryland Counselors for Social Justice (MCSJ)**

P. O. Box 5631

Baltimore, MD 21210

Website:

<https://mdcounselormcsj.wixsite.com/mcsj>

Email: [mdcounselorsMCSJ@gmail.com](mailto:mdcounselorsMCSJ@gmail.com)