

CT BOS Steering Committee Co-Chair Candidates 2020

Rev. Andre' L. McGuire, JD

Rev. Andre' L. McGuire, JD a member of the Central Area Health Education Center, Inc. Board of Directors a past member of the Board of Directors of Charter Oak Health Center and their Clinical Affairs Quality and Compliance Committee Chair. He is the past Co-Chair of the Greater Hartford Ryan White Planning Council (Planning Council) as well as a prior Co-Chair of the Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium (CHPC). Andre' through the Planning Council has been instrumental in reinvigorating People Living with HIV (PLWH) and motivating them to become active participants bringing about needed changes in the groups directives, service categories and allocation of funds. As the Co-Chair for the CHPC Rev. McGuire has been a mentor to new PLWHA members, encouraging and empowering them to advocate for themselves and others. He uses his substantial skill and ability developed while practicing law and as a Pastor to effectively communicate with all parties involving planning processes. Rev. McGuire uses his intellect and experience to encourage critical thinking and meaningful analysis that often lead to improvements in the delivery of services and the retrieval of data, ultimately improving health outcomes and health equity. He applies wisdom with persistence to encourage change and realize a larger vision over an extended period of time and across complex systems involving the interactions of religious institutions, individuals, families, communities, healthcare institutions, and funders among others.

Two words in scripture stand out to Rev. McGuire. They stand out because life's situations can cause some to be without hope and to give up. Those two words are "But God" when God gets into the mix people and things change.

Why are you interested in being a co-chair?

I am interested in becoming a co-chair because I am a firm believer in a slogan I first heard in the HIV arena, "There can be nothing for us without us"! I have watched many come up with solutions that did not work in the Black Community largely because of a lack of understanding and or willingness to look to the community gatekeepers for answers as well as by in.

What skills and experience will you bring to the position?

I come to the table having successfully navigated most of the things that have affected many in this community; homelessness, substance use disorder, HIV and prison. A ministerial calling (I am an ordained pastor) keeps me tied to the community. I am currently employed at McKinney Shelter where I am a member of the Greater Hartford CAN attending regular CAN and Operations meetings. Prior to McKinney Shelter I worked at Tabor House assisting residents for independent living. I have a Juris Doctorate which allows me to analyze legislation, policies and documents.

Monique Price-Taylor, MS

Monique Price-Taylor, is a strategic innovator with over fifteen years of experience in the non-profit sector in program management, youth development, capacity building, and training and technical assistance.

As a Program Manager for The New England Region with The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). Mrs. Taylor manages a diverse portfolio of training and technical assistance clients for Supportive Housing providers in the New England region. She is instrumental in advancing a race equity perspective through operationalizing The CT Race Equity Framework for Housing and Homelessness stakeholders in Connecticut. Often referred to as an alchemist she is well-rounded knowledge in project management, retention, implementation and program evaluation.

Mrs. Taylor has devoted most of her career to empowering the lives of young people in Connecticut. She has served as a Consultant with The Obama Foundations Hartford Community Leadership Corps program. As a servant leader she currently serves on the CT Race Equity Council for Leadership Greater Hartford, and a former Board member of Epsilon Omicron Omegas Foundation for Excellence (FEO) where she served three years as the financial secretary.

Mrs. Taylor holds a Master's degree in Counseling with a specialization of student development in higher education from Central Connecticut State University and a B.S. Communication degree from Eastern Connecticut State University. She lives by the motto "Maximizing your minutes, by optimizing your gifts."

Why are you interested in being a co-chair?

For years many systems in Connecticut have continued to perpetuate systematic racism in various ways. As a catalyst for change being elected as a Co-Chair provides an opportunity to shift the paradigm of power by ensuring CT-BOS continues to advance race equity in every aspect of the infrastructure.

In addition, in this role I will advocate to include People with Lived Expertise and People of Color at the forefront of every discussion. There has to be an intentional paradigm shift of power, and a continuous consciousness to foster collaboration within the network.

What skills and experience will you bring to the position?

As a leader there are many characteristics that would attribute to the role as Co-Chair. I have the innate ability to provide clear understanding and strategies of how to demonstrate co- leadership. I possess the skillset to facilitate, organize, and comprehend the nuances of an issue, and establish trust and create a process to provide consensus on complex issues.

In the Co-Chair role, I can assist with ensuring equal treatment of all BOS members, and cultivating a Race Equity Culture that focuses on social impact and promotes a race equity lens and counteract racial inequities and replace them with opportunities to transform and strengthen BOS partnerships

Carlton Smith, MSW

Carlton Smith is the current Director of Programs at Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services. Chrysalis provides emergency shelter and advocacy for victims of domestic violence. Carlton also served as the Community Organizer of "Real Strength" the primary violence prevention division at Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services in Meriden, CT. Real Strength aims to raise awareness and inspire leadership that will help end the culture of men's violence against women. Real Strength offers primary prevention education, mentorship training, and leadership sessions that empower individuals as difference makers in their community. Carlton received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Connecticut. Carlton serves as the Corps Sergeant Major of the Salvation Army Hartford North End Worship and Community Center located in Hartford, CT. Additionally, Carlton serves as a board member on the Midstate Chamber of Commerce, and has served as a member of the Hartford Food System Advisory Board. Carlton recently graduated from Springfield College in May of 2020 with his Masters in Social Work. Carlton was awarded MSW Student of the Year Award from the National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter (NAWS-CT) in 2019. He has also been selected to receive the Graduate Social Work Department Distinguished Graduate Student Award from Springfield College.

Why are you interested in being a co-chair?

As an individual who oversees programing that supports victims of violence, it is important to have representation at the highest level that can reflect and be a voice for the most vulnerable populations. Diversity can create the illusion of participation, but it fails when power and authority, decision making, and resources are not shared. The potential co-chair on the steering committee should have lived experiences of growing up in or working with people who come from communities that were plagued with violence, unemployment, underfunded educational systems, lack of access to healthcare and mass incarceration. Proximity to the most vulnerable would make the next co-chair of the steering committee a valuable asset. I believe affordable housing should be made available for all. A home is a source of pride and dignity, the next co-chair must understand that we are not only ending homelessness, but empowering families in taking the next steps in unlocking their full potential.

What skills and experience will you bring to the position?

I am the current Director of Programs of Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services, a community agency which provides emergency shelter and advocacy for victims of domestic violence. As Director of Programs, I manage all coordinated advocacy services including a 24hr hotline, individual and group services, and sheltering and transitional living services. Over my career working in victim services I have advocated for the most vulnerable by securing over \$30,000 in grants for prevention efforts and programming that support individuals impacted by domestic violence. Due to my outstanding primary prevention work with Chrysalis, I was awarded the Meriden-Wallingford NAACP Community Service Award in 2015. Within the last three years I have worked closely with my staff to help victims of violence secure affordable housing through Rapid Rehousing, Transitional Living, and securing other opportunities utilizing the local Coordinated Access Network (CAN).

In addition to my career experience, I was able to earn my Masters of Social Work (MSW) from Springfield College in May of 2020. As a full-time manager and graduate student, I successfully balanced my work responsibilities and put forth maximum effort in my coursework. As a reflection of my commitment to excel in the classroom I achieved a 3.98 GPA and accumulated many awards. One of the highest honors I received was the National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter MSW Student of the Year award in 2019. I also received the 2019 Springfield College Excellence Scholarship Award for Graduate Study as well as the 2020 Springfield College Distinguished Graduate Student Award.

I believe that this opportunity will provide the forum that will allow me to utilize my skills as a critical thinker who can communicate in an effective manner verbally, and through written composition. My ability to cultivate professional relationships will contribute to the overall success of the CT BOS Steering Committee.