

# BOYNTON MENTAL HEALTH

## Letter of Solidarity from Our White Providers

To all individuals who have shared their painful experiences publicly, and to the countless others who undoubtedly have stories that have not been shared. You deserve to have culturally competent and validating experiences when you seek mental health support. As white providers, we acknowledge that we have been silent on many issues affecting the community historically and during this pandemic, including George Floyd's murder by police, the social uprising, and more recently, your individual voices and experiences on campus. We recognize our silence creates pain, perpetuates trauma, and validates your mistrust. We acknowledge that our culture is a product of, and perpetuates systemic oppression including engaging in and maintaining white-centered, hetero-normative practices, and the significant inequities in our healthcare system.

In response to the inquiries about how we as a clinic will hold ourselves accountable for the injuries caused by a lack of cultural competence among our providers:

- We commit to continuing to reflect on and take action about the ways we participate in systems that serve whiteness including how it permeates our practices, our theoretical orientations, our services, and our community.
- We will listen and collaborate with students such as members of the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) for input.
- We are collaborating with BIPOC providers to advocate for the removal of UMPD as standard procedure from our hospitalization process.
- We reinforce the efforts of BIPOC group facilitators in advocating for co-facilitation to provide students access to providers who are representative of our campus community.
- We have established a white accountability space, to promote anti-racism work, in response to requests from our BIPOC providers, and plan to continue to expand these spaces.
- We support BIPOC providers' request that we as a clinic, commit to increasing accountability around continuing education topics specifically around anti-racism.

We acknowledge this work is ongoing, and with humility, we commit to challenging our ignorance and privilege, building awareness of the nuances of intersectionality, and taking accountability in our role in social justice and healthcare equity. We commit to doing better by cultivating a community where we encourage each other to listen, seek appropriate support, self-educate, and to take action in our unending journey to become an antiracist clinic. We wish to validate the individuals who used their energy to bravely share how mental health providers have behaved in damaging ways. We stand with those engaged in protests demanding justice and

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meaningful, sustainable, and enduring change. We are committed to showing up for our community and fighting for systemic change within Boynton and the Mental Health Clinic to advance equity across our healthcare system. We recognize that this is never going to undo the pain that we have caused. If you wish to provide direct feedback to Boynton this is the contact information <https://boynton.umn.edu/contact>

Sincerely,

## ***Overcoming White Fragility Group (OWFG) at Boynton Mental Health Clinic:***

Hannah Serwe

Mary Clark

Ben Mattson

Emily Price

Rachel Ans

Seth Christman

Jeremy Goldberg

Ann Zedginidze

## ***White providers in support of this statement:***

Meg Spires

Brian Post

Michelle Krypel

Joseph Lusvardi

Mary Utz

Sue Steinberg

Jessie Saer

Anna Sandusky Joles

Dom Poulin

Emily Kramer

Candice Price

Matt Hanson

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Steve Hermann

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Dan McAlvin

Jeff Walter

## ***White administrative staff in support of this statement:***

Kathy Crothers

Carol Duffy

