Letter of Support from Our Black, Indigenous, People of Color Providers

Dear Black, Indigenous, and people of color as well as queer and trans Black, Indigenous, and people of color community,

We at the Boynton Mental Health Clinic have come together to offer our statement regarding injuries experienced by queer, trans, Black, Indigenous, people of color communities within mental health systems, and the larger medical-industrial complex. We support and encourage students to share their stories and use their collective voice in offering their lived experiences within these systems that have grown out of and maintain white supremacy and the oppression of marginalized communities.

As mental health professionals, it is our responsibility to acknowledge the pain, trauma, and dehumanization that colonization and enslavement has had on our communities. It is our responsibility to reflect on and deconstruct the colonial methods of education that we have internalized as individuals, and how we contribute to ongoing white supremacy, colonization, and cis and hetero normativity. We recognize that these systems of oppression are deeply tied together, rooted in the history of ancestral Indigenous land. We acknowledge that as “helpers” or “healers,” we have caused harm to marginalized communities and aligned with systems of oppression, further contributing to completely reasonable and valid pain and distrust. We are committed to creating a community of accountability, decolonization, and healing within Boynton Mental Health to interrupt the continued cycles of oppression these systems were created to uphold.

Historically, the medical-industrial complex and, therefore, the mental health field was not created for marginalized communities. As the Mental Health Clinic has grown in the past few years and continues to grow, as members in the clinic have worked to move out of silence and further challenge themselves to become accomplices in this work, as we have worked to reclaim our power, we are here to use that power as a community of queer, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and accomplices to challenge the system, the status quo, and turn our attention to communities who have been injured by these systems.

With care,

Mental Health Black, Indigenous, People of Color Consultation Group:

Alex Montes            Chiung Wang            Cassandra Price
Chiara Mesia           Merrily Sadovsky        Hanin Harb
Claire Banerjee        Samantha Rivera        Nastassia Pavlov
Nisha Fernandes        Reiko Hirai            Christina Walker
Folks in Solidarity:

Mental Health Overcoming White Fragility Group:

Rachel Ans  Ben Mattson  Ann Zedginidze
Emily Price  Hannah Serwe  Mary Clark
Jeremy Goldberg  Seth Christman

Additional Mental Health Therapy Staff:

Brian Post  Meg Spires  Jeff Walter
Jessie Saer  Candy Price  Katherine Bonham
Emily Kramer  Mary Utz  Matthew Hanson

Psychiatric Providers:

Jennifer Beldon  Daniel McAlvin  Kelsey Carignan
Joey Lusvardi  Anna Sandusky Joles  Steven Hermann