

BOYNTON MENTAL HEALTH

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 Sadlovsky

Hanin Harb

Claire Banerjee

Samantha Rivera

Nastassia Pavlov

Nisha Fernandes

Reiko Hirai

Christina Walker



BOYNTON MENTAL HEALTH

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

