

Racial Justice News Items – August 2021

[A Black Veteran's Wife Feared for His Safety. Officers Fatally Shot Him.](#)

[The New York Times](#)

Melvin H. Wilson, a senior policy adviser with the **National Association of Social Workers**, said that Ms. Dale's call for help was the "exact kind of thing" that would be better handled by someone other than police officers. "The assumption is that de-escalation can happen without direct primary police involvement," said Mr. Wilson, who contributed to a [recent analysis](#) of responses to 911 calls by police departments. "It reduces the possibility of a lethal encounter with the police," he added.

Matt Richards and Arturo Carrillo are members:

[City set to partner mental health clinicians and police responding to calls related to mental health, as governor signs statewide measure](#)

[Chicago Tribune](#)

Indeed, the mayor's plan was met with criticism from the groups who have been lobbying for the non-police version of such a plan, saying the pilot also appears too small. "The fear and escalation with the police presence is always going to be a problem," said **Arturo Carrillo**, a **social worker who works as an organizer for the Collaborative for Community Wellness**. "The pilot is so small scale. It's only one shift."

Mallory Visser is a member:

[Social worker to assist Little Rock police, provide mental health resources for community](#)

[Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#)

Little Rock Police has begun using a social worker to provide a resource to people who officers encounter in the course of the duties but need help beyond what a typical officer can provide. **Mallory Visser**, who worked in the department's victim services department since 2019, said she is excited to be able to help people in her new role. "It's exciting," Visser said. "There's something new every day, and I like helping people."

Carmen Reese Foster is a member:

[Social Work Coalition Offers Mentoring, Support for Black Students](#)

[The University of Tennessee – Knoxville](#)

Carmen Reese Foster was only a week into her role with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, College of Social Work when a Black student entered her office in tears. "She had never had a Black instructor before—not in undergrad, not in K-12," said Foster, an assistant professor of practice and online field coordinator for Middle and West Tennessee. The student wasn't upset. She was relieved to find Foster, who at the time was the only Black faculty member on the Nashville campus.

Brittany Peters is a member:

[Learning to cope with Black trauma amid George Floyd and a pandemic](#)

Tampa Bay Times

Black America is suffering from post-traumatic stress. The national racial reckoning with policing and the criminal justice system catalyzed by George Floyd's death last year was difficult enough for Black Americans. That it happened amidst the coronavirus pandemic made it even more challenging, said **Brittany Peters, director of the Center for Wellness and Clinical Development in Tampa.**