

## Racial Justice News Items – February 2021

Chris Martin is a member:

[\[Video\] Social Work Professor Discusses Proposed Iowa Bill to Ban Teaching from the 1619 Project Materials](#)

WQAD

The anti-1619 Project bill was introduced in the Iowa House and has passed a subcommittee. It would ban the use of “The 1619 Project” curriculum in public schools, including K-12, community colleges and public universities. WQAD’s Katherine Bauer interviews **Saint Ambrose University social work professor Chris Martin** about the proposed ban.

[NYC to test no-police mental crisis response in Harlem](#)

ABC News

New York City police will stay out of many mental [health](#) crisis calls and **social workers will respond instead in parts of northern Manhattan starting this spring**, an official told lawmakers Monday. The test program will begin in three Harlem and East Harlem police precincts that together accounted for a highest-in-the-city total of over 7,400 mental [health](#)-related 911 calls last year, said Susan Herman, who heads a wide-ranging city mental health initiative called ThriveNYC.

[The Most Ambitious Effort Yet to Reform Policing May Be Happening In Ithaca, New York](#)

GQ Magazine

If the proposal is approved, calls for service will be evaluated to determine whether an armed or unarmed respondent is necessary, or another public agency altogether would be best to respond. **Mental health calls would be outsourced to a standalone unit of social workers based on the CAHOOTS program pioneered in Eugene, Oregon.** The goal, ultimately, is to have far fewer encounters between citizens and armed government agents.

[UW Assistant Professor Receives National Recognition for Research Article](#)

University of Wyoming

A University of Wyoming assistant professor’s research article has received national recognition by the University of Chicago Press Journals. **Sandra Leotti, in UW’s Division of Social Work**, was awarded the 2021 Frank R. Breul Memorial Prize for her submission, titled “[The Discursive Construction of Risk: Social Work Knowledge Production and Criminalized Women.](#)” The prize is awarded annually for what is judged to be the best article published in Social Service Review in the preceding year.

[A Legacy of Social Justice](#)

Rhode Island College

Social workers are the epitome of the phrase "I am my brother's [or sister's] keeper" no matter your national, racial, ethnic, economic, gender or ideological differences, and

they continue today to engage in social and political action, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed people. Widely recognized in Rhode Island and throughout southeastern New England as a center of excellence in education, training and advocacy, RIC's School of Social Work has within its mission statement a commitment to "**social and economic justice in accordance with the NASW Code of Ethics.**" Over the years, faculty have shown what that looks like on the ground.