

## Racial Justice News Items – July 2021

Latesha Newman is a member:

[Chicago Public Schools Vote on Whether or Not to Keep Police in Schools](#)

[Chicago Defender](#)

**Latesha Newson, MSW, LCSW, Chair of the NASW-IL DEIC Committee**, states: During the 2015 to 2016 school year, 1.6 million students attended a school with a sworn law enforcement officer and no counselor or social worker. The NASW *Standards for School Social Work Services* (2012) calls for at least one social worker per 250 students in schools and one social worker for 50 students in schools with intensive needs. Yet, even with recent hires made by CPS, the ratio of social workers to students does not come near these recommended levels. This is a complete disservice to children and youth in Chicago who are bombarded with trauma consistently.

Stephanie Prince is a member:

[\[Video\] Mental Health, and the disparities faced by minority communities](#)

[KGET](#)

Mental illness and mental health issues do not discriminate, yet minorities seek help at a significantly lower rate than their white counterparts. Several factors are to blame, including a fear that the people closest to them will judge. **Stephanie Prince, a licensed clinical social worker**, said “in minority communities, what goes on in our home stays in our home, so I think the stigma really comes from just not knowing what mental health services look like and what does that mean.”

Kylee Jones is a member:

[Depression in Indigenous Communities: Cultural Understanding Matters](#)

[PsychCentral](#)

**Kylee Jones, an associate clinical social worker at [Indigenous Circle of Wellness](#) in Los Angeles, California**, says that avoidance and resistance often arise as signs of intergenerational trauma — trauma handed down through generations and shared among members of a culture. “In many cases, our ancestors had to assimilate for survival, meaning our parents and elders may have punished us for saying or doing certain things that would otherwise be normal or praised,” Jones says.

Douglas Nygren is a member:

[Opinion: New memorials first to acknowledge difficult truth of slaves in Greenwich](#)

[The Darien Times](#)

**Project co-founder Douglas Nygren views racism as an assault upon our democracy**. It must be countered immediately, he says, or else it will rapidly grow. Nygren, a licensed clinical social worker, treats abused children. He sees his skills in treating victims of trauma as helpful in addressing what he considers the national trauma of racism that results from ignorance and hate. Nygren hopes that the Witness

Stones will fight ignorance with truth, and make it clear that Black history, long neglected, is an integral part of the American story.

Brittany Hogan is a member:

[\[Podcast\] When the Culture War Comes for Your Job](#)

[What Next \(Slate\)](#)

Brittany Hogan worked in diversity and inclusion for the Rockwood School District for eight years. As public debate intensified over the way race is discussed in schools, and threats were made against her, Hogan eventually was pushed to resign. Guest:

**[Brittany Hogan](#), former director of educational equity and diversity for the Rockwood School District in St. Louis County.**

Troy Brindle is a member of the NASW National board of directors:

[Students accuse Bible college of racism as historic social work program is shuttered](#)

[The Washington Post](#)

**Troy Brindle, a former adjunct professor of social work at Cairn and a current member of the National Association of Social Workers' national board**, pointed to the creation of the graduate program last year, saying it doesn't make sense to expand the program one year only to eliminate it the next. Even if that were a plausible explanation, he added, the administration's shifting story raises questions. "I'm like, 'Can you make up your mind on what you want the story to be,'" Brindle said. "Because what you led with is not a story of financial lows."

Kiva Harper is a member:

[North Texas counseling service educates therapists on how systemic racism affects mental health care](#)

[The Dallas Morning News](#)

**Kiva Harper, a licensed clinical social worker**, sees clients who are predominantly people of color. Many of them share stories about microaggressions — or subtle and often unintentional instances of discrimination — that they encounter with other therapists. Some of her clients feel they have been stereotyped as the "angry Black woman." Other therapists have treated them "as if they were threatening" when they expressed anger in sessions, Harper said. This forced her clients to hold back from being truly vulnerable, and they often felt unsafe in therapy.