

## Racial Justice News Items - December 2020

Ellen Fink-Samnack is a member:

[Addressing the Root Causes of Health Inequality](#)

[HealthLeaders Media](#)

“Being mindful of unconscious, implicit, even explicit bias is critical,” [**Ellen Fink-Samnack, MSW, ACSW, LCSW, CCM, CRP, DBH(s)**] says. “It’s tough for case managers to consider their bias, or that they have any. However, everyone has bias; these are the natural values, beliefs, and mores we all grew up with.” Having bias doesn’t make you a bad person. “The challenge for case managers is when these biases interfere with patients, their families, or interactions with them...”

Charles Robbins is a member:

[Stony Brook Experts Discuss How SBU Built a Culture of Success, Eliminated Equity Gaps and Accelerated Social Mobility](#)

[Stony Brook University](#)

**Charles Robbins, who also holds the title of Executive Director of Stony Brook’s Center for Changing Systems of Power**, has led Stony Brook’s efforts to improve graduation rates and the quality of the undergraduate academic experience, and was the initial coordinator of Stony Brook’s engagement in UN Women’s HeForShe campaign. He was the Associate Dean at the University’s School of Social Welfare and chair of the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness, and is affiliated faculty in the Graduate Program in Public Health.

Michele Manco is a member:

[\[Audio\] Treating the Traumas of Capitalism: Inside the Life of a Social Worker](#)

[In These Times](#)

The Working People podcast chats with Michele Manco, a clinical social worker in the Bronx with years of experience working in psychiatric emergency and crisis settings. We talk about Michele’s life and the road that led her to being a social worker, the history of social work itself, and the very real struggles and often harsh circumstances that are a daily reality for social workers and the people they serve.

Sheryl Neverson is a member:

[Department of Employment Services partners with community organization to help DC area youth](#)

[WTOP](#)

The organizer and activist said he’s also enlisted the help of **mental health professional Dr. Sheryl Neverson, a licensed clinical Social Worker** with more than 25 years of experience in behavioral health. He said Neverson is able to “connect with young people in a way where they don’t feel like they have a disease or something is wrong with them.”

[Haverhill police want to add therapist to ride with officers](#)

[HomeNewsHere.com](#)

Police in Haverhill are asking the city to hire a therapist to ride along with officers and

respond to calls involving people in mental or emotional distress. Police Chief Alan DeNaro made the request at last week's City Council meeting, the Eagle-Tribune reported. The council voted to submit a letter asking the mayor to approve the hire. DeNaro's proposal would hire a **licensed clinical social worker** to ride with officers 40 hours a week. The idea was recommended by local health officials and could help defuse tense situations, he said.

[Behind the mistaken raid by Chicago Police on an innocent social worker's home](#)  
CNN

**Dogged by increased scrutiny over the Chicago Police Department's mistaken raid on the home of a social worker in 2019**, Mayor Lori Lightfoot released body camera footage from the officers involved in the encounter and announced that she has reached out to the woman to set up a face-to-face meeting. The 20 videos from officers involved in the raid show officers sweeping through the home of Anjanette Young, guns drawn expecting to find a felon with a gun while she stands naked and distraught in her living room, confused as to why the police were there.

[Why 2020 Was the Year of Social Justice](#)  
Inside Edition

**The National Association of Social Workers was one organization that encouraged those who can vote to exercise their right.** The organization hosted webinars on engaging millennials to vote and understand the barriers low-income individuals, college students, seniors and minorities may face when trying to cast their vote. Some say the pandemic helped highlight the importance of ensuring one's voice is heard.

[Gov. Baker signs landmark policing reform law](#)  
Cape Cod Times

The so-called POST Commission will be composed mostly of civilians – the governor will appoint a police chief, a retired Superior Court judge and a social worker chosen from a list of five nominations submitted by the local chapter of **the National Association of Social Workers**; the attorney general will appoint a law enforcement officer below the rank of sergeant, a law enforcement officer chosen from five nominations by the Massachusetts Association of Minority Law Enforcement Officers and an attorney selected from five nominations from the Civil Rights and Social Justice Section Council of the Massachusetts Bar Association; and the governor and attorney general will jointly appoint three others, one of whom must be chosen from five names recommended by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.