

Honoring Black Contributions to Behavioral Health: E. Kitch Childs, Ph.D.

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, February is Black History Month! Throughout American History, Black contributions to all facets of society have been marginalized or outright dismissed, and the contributions and achievements of Black individuals to behavioral health are no exception.

In honor of those contributions and the Black psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, doctors, nurses, community leaders, and activists who dedicated their lives to behavioral health and allowed us the opportunity to continue their critical work, each week in February, CBHA will recognize Black pioneers of behavioral health.

The Black behavioral health pioneer CBHA would like to recognize this week is E. Kitch Childs, Ph.D.



E. Kitch Childs was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on April 11, 1937. Raised by her grandmother, E. Kitch Childs was quickly exposed to the violent reality of race relations in the United States, losing two of her brothers to racial violence. Childs went on to strongly believe that Black Americans were dying from heart attacks and high blood pressure due to the stresses of racism. [1]

Childs received her B.S. degree in Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh and subsequently served in the United States Navy. [2] She attended graduate school at the University of Chicago. Childs was a founding member of the Association for Women in Psychology in 1969 and obtained a Masters degree and a Ph.D in Human Development in 1972. Childs was the first African American woman to earn her doctorate degree in Human Development at the University of Chicago. [3]

Dr. Kitch Childs was also a founding member of the University of Chicago's Gay Liberation, and was one of the architects of the gay and lesbian rights ordinance which was introduced before the Chicago City Council in 1973. In addition to being a leader for women in psychology and the LGBTQ+ community, she also owned her own practice in which she provided therapy to LGBTQ+ folks, people living with HIV/AIDS, and other marginalized members of her community.

Childs later moved to Oakland, California practicing clinical psychology from 1973 to 1990. Her last publication was a chapter in Springer Publishing's Feminist Ethics in Psychotherapy, entitled "Therapy, Feminist Ethics, and the Community of Color with Particular Emphasis on the Treatment of Black Women" [1990].

Dr. Kitch Childs died of natural causes on January 10, 1993 in Amsterdam, where she had been living since 1991. She was 55 years old. Childs was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 1993. The honor was given in recognition of her efforts to dismantle the American Psychiatric Association's position on homosexuality, which was listed as a psychological disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders until 1973. [4]

CBHA is proud to continue the work of E. Kitch Childs, Ph.D., as we advocate for public policy initiatives that create system change and equity in behavioral health for diverse communities across California.

Please see the announcements below to support behavioral health in California and reach out to CBHA staff with any questions or concerns.

In Service,



First Convening of CA Community Health Equity Alliance!

The Community Health Equity Alliance is a collaboration of mental health stakeholders, established by Janssen Neuroscience, to prioritize community-informed solutions to effectively and meaningfully advance serious mental illness care for Black adults based on community needs.

In California, Janssen Neuroscience and collaborating organizations, **California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies**, Painted Brain and California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions, will host a series of quarterly convenings including individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing health equity for African American community members who have received or may be in need of services from California's public mental health system. **The first convening is scheduled for February 15th, 2022 from 1-3pm pst.** The convenings will be solution-focused with a goal of creating a framework for how our system of care can be more attuned to prevention and early intervention strategies as well as assist African Americans in navigating the public mental health system.



If you're interested in learning more about the Alliance, please feel free to respond to this email with any questions.

First-Ever CA Nonprofit Joint Select Committee Hearing - Including CBHA's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey

We encourage you to tune in this Thursday as state representatives hold their first-ever joint hearing on the state of the nonprofit sector.

“A Blueprint to Ensure Nonprofits are Supported and Thrive During Future Emergencies: An Informational Hearing of CA Senate and Assembly Select Committees on the Nonprofit Sector” will be held from 1:30pm to 3:30pm on Thursday, Feb. 17. You'll be able to **listen in or watch** this informational hearing and offer public comments during a designated time at the end.



California now has both a Senate and Assembly Select Committee on the Nonprofit Sector, chaired by Senator Monique Limón and Assemblymember Luz Rivas, respectively. These committees, and their chairs and members, provide leadership in Sacramento on behalf of our nonprofit sector and help inform legislators about the critical role nonprofits play in communities across the state.

CalNonprofits has worked closely with the committee chairs and their staff to bring this important hearing together. The two committees jointly will hear from nonprofit leaders in California who will share information about how nonprofits have responded during the pandemic, how they are faring, and what is needed to thrive going forward – with a particular focus on serving our communities during emergencies.

Panelists include:

Panel I: COVID-19 – Nonprofit Leaders' Experience and Response on the Ground

- Maricela Morales, Executive Director, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)
- José Rodriguez, President and CEO, El Concilio of Stockton
- Karen Delaney, Executive Director, Santa Cruz Volunteer Center
- Janet Marinaccio, CEO, MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity)

Panel II: Identifying Future Opportunities to Support Nonprofits During Emergencies

- Jan Masaoka, CEO, CalNonprofits
- Julie Baker, Executive Director, Californians for the Arts
- Jennifer Hark-Dietz, CEO, PATH (People Assisting the Homeless)
- **Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey, CEO, CA Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies**

We are very excited that this hearing will bring more visibility to California's nonprofits, especially now as the 2022 legislative and budgetary work gets underway in full force. We thank Assemblymember Luz Rivas and Senator Monique Limón for their leadership and for creating this opportunity for legislators to hear directly from nonprofit leaders about our work and what nonprofits need to continue to serve our communities during the current crisis and in future ones.

Watch or Listen to
Briefing

Governor Newsom Announces \$38 Million in Grants to Combat Youth Homelessness in California - Including CBHA Member Agency, Bill Wilson Center

SACRAMENTO – Taking action to support teens and young adults experiencing homelessness, Governor Gavin Newsom today announced \$38 million in new grants for community-based organizations across the state through the Homeless Youth Emergency Services and Housing Program. The grants will allow local service providers to deliver temporary housing and supportive services for youth experiencing homelessness.



Office of Governor
GAVIN NEWSOM

“These grants will provide relief and emergency support to young people across California experiencing homelessness, who are too often left in dire situations to fend for themselves,” said Governor Newsom. “We’re providing immediate aid for those living on our streets – bringing resources and services directly to young people in need and helping them onto a path towards a stable future.”

The grants are being distributed through the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to 12 community-based organizations from San Diego to Humboldt for local partners to provide youth experiencing homelessness with access to a range of housing options that meet their needs, as well as mental health support with crisis intervention and stabilization services.

“This funding represents an important lifeline in protecting some of the most vulnerable members of our communities,” said Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci. “Through the partnership with these community-based organizations we are able to provide meaningful support and change lives.”

“Addressing youth homelessness takes a village,” said Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramírez, who serves as Co-Chair of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. “This is why this investment in community-based organizations that make up the village and provide bridges of support to young people is an important part of our efforts to prevent and end homelessness.”

The following organizations were awarded Homeless Youth Emergency Services and Housing Program grants:

- **Bill Wilson Center (Santa Clara County)**
- Center for Human Services (Stanislaus County)
- Community Human Services (Monterey County)
- Interface Children & Family Services (Ventura County)
- Larkin Street Youth Services (San Francisco County)
- Orangewood Foundation (Orange County)
- Redwood Community Action Agency (Humboldt County)
- Ruby’s Place (Alameda County)
- San Diego Youth Services (San Diego County)
- Volunteers of America Los Angeles (Los Angeles County)
- Waking the Village (Sacramento County)
- Women’s Center – Youth & Family Services (San Joaquin County)

The funds aim to ensure safe shelter for teens and young adults experiencing short or long-term housing instability. California has the second highest rate of unsheltered youth experiencing homelessness in the nation, and the number is growing. Nearly 36 percent of all homeless youth in the United States are living in California without a safe place to call home. These targeted grants bolster Governor Newsom’s wider efforts to protect vulnerable Californians by **combating the root causes of homelessness** and rebuilding the state’s mental and behavioral health infrastructure.

“Funding from the Homeless Youth Grant Program will provide meals, supportive engagement counselors, case management services, educational re-engagement services, and flexible housing funds

that can be used for short-term hotel vouchers, food cards, and transportation cards, to ensure youth have a safe place off the streets as they await longer-term housing placements,” said Sherilyn Adams, Executive Director of Larkin Street Youth Services in San Francisco. “Larkin Street will utilize OES funds to ensure young people are quickly linked to transitional, supportive, and subsidy-based housing resources via low-barrier engagement programs in our Engagement and Community Center.”

“This grant will expand the range of housing options available to youth experiencing homelessness in Orange County and enable Orangewood to shepherd youth through the continuum of housing, ranging from emergency shelter to independent housing,” said Chris Simonsen, Chief Executive Officer of the Orangewood Foundation in Santa Ana. “The grant will enable Orangewood to hire two full-time Youth Support Specialists, along with a Program Supervisor, all dedicated to the YE Program. These staff will work with at least 150 youth experiencing homelessness each year to get them into safe and stable housing.”

Last year, Governor Newsom took unprecedented action to address the state’s homelessness crisis, investing a historic \$12 billion to help get our most vulnerable Californians off the streets and get them the mental and behavioral health services they need. The California Blueprint builds on this bold investment with a proposed \$2 billion to advance behavioral health housing and encampment rehousing strategies, creating a total \$14 billion package. The Governor’s multi-year homeless housing plan will provide 55,000 new housing units and treatment slots, once fully implemented.

*We appreciate UST, long-time **Affinity Member**, for their partnerships that both provide our members exceptional services and sponsor our advocacy efforts.*



*We appreciate our **Business Associates** for their partnerships that both provide our members exceptional services and sponsor our advocacy efforts.*



California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies

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