



## **MARYLAND COUNSELORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (MCSJ)**

**December 1, 2018**

**Volume 1, Issue 2**

**"Our Mission** is to work to promote social justice advocacy in our society, through confronting oppressive systems of power and privilege that manifest in a lack of equal access, benefits, resources, and opportunities to large segments of our population. We work to address mental health issues caused by social marginalization, and oppressive issues that affect professional counselors, students, and the clients we serve. Our goal is to work to assist in positive change in our community and society, and call attention to additional ways counselors could be better advocates in their work with diverse, marginalized, and disenfranchised clients, through professional development." **-MCSJ**

***.MARYLAND COUNSELORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (MCSJ): A DIVISION OF MARYLAND COUNSELING ASSOCIATION (MCA), AND A BRANCH OF COUNSELORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (CSJ)***



**MCSJ**

Maryland Counselors for Social Justice

*Letter from President Dr. Chioma Anah:*

***Mindfulness: There are daily opportunities to make a difference and change the world.***

Dear MCSJ Community,

As I excitedly share with you the second issue of our newsletter, I am profoundly reminded about what a continued honor it is to serve as the first President of MCSJ. We have made so many strides in achieving the goals we set out to accomplish, and we couldn't have done it without ALL of your love, support, and participation. We thank you!

Our professional development initiatives have been thriving. To date, we have hosted two very important Workshops, and MCSJ Executive Board Members were active participants at the Maryland Counseling Association (MCA) Conference on November 4, 2018, by presenting on very powerful and timely social justice topics. Also, on April 27, 2019, we will be hosting our Inaugural Conference. In this newsletter, we are going to focus on highlighting some of these powerful and inspirational presentations dealing with a wide range of social justice issues.

Change does not always happen overnight. We have to be consistent, show up, and participate. Remember that there is always an opportunity to make a difference and change the world, daily. Let us continue to work together for unity, love, and justice!

I wish each and every one of you, a wonderful and safe Holiday Season. See you all next year!

With Hope, Freedom, and Grace,

Chioma Anah, Ed.D., ATR, NCC, LCPC-S, ACS  
*President, Maryland Counselors for Social Justice (MCSJ)*

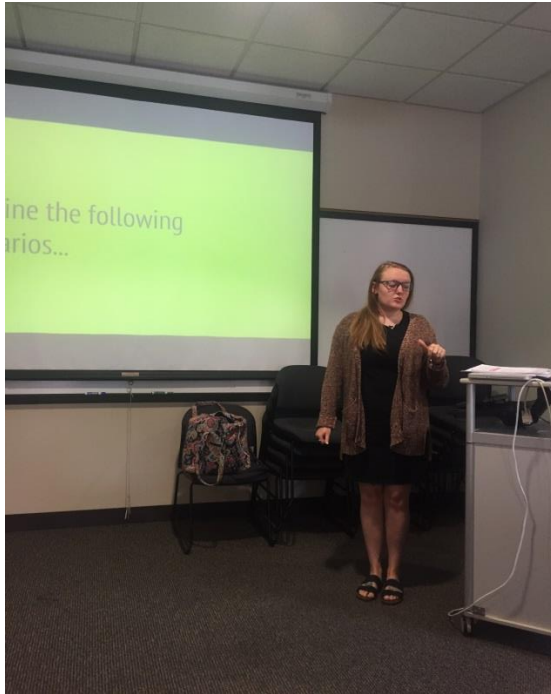
**MCSJ BOARD MEMBERS  
PRESENT AT THE 2018  
MCA CONFERENCE IN  
BALTIMORE ON SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4, 2018**



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### *A Successful Workshop*

MCSJ's Workshop: ***Law Enforcement & Counseling: Courageous Conversations on How Best to Serve the Community & Clients***- on September 22, 2018- Presented by \*Perri Hooper\*- was a great success. Many thanks to all those who came out to participate, and support us!



Perri Hooper



Grace Abraham Lewis & Irene Burks

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*“Today we should all ask ourselves: What have I done to improve the surroundings in which I live?” – Nelson Mandela*

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## *A Successful Maryland Counseling Association (MCA) Conference*

On Sunday, November 4, 2018- MCSJ Executive Board Members successfully presented at the 2018 MCA Conference.

Anah, C., Velleman, E., & Templeton, J. (November, 2018). ***Taking a stand: Our journey, & roles of counselors as social justice advocates, in our current political climate.*** Baltimore, MD. Maryland Counseling Association (MCA) Conference.



Evan Velleman, Dr. Anah, & Jasmine Templeton



Dr. Trahan

Hughes, S., & Trahan, D. (November, 2018). ***Constructivist group career counseling with low-income, first generation college students of color.*** Baltimore, MD. Maryland Counseling Association (MCA) Conference.

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*“If you assume that there is no hope, you guarantee that there will be no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, that there are opportunities to change things, then there is a possibility that you can contribute to make a better world.”- Noam Chomsky*

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS**

# **Maryland Counselors for Social Justice (MCSJ)**

## **Inaugural Conference**

**Date: April 27, 2019**

**Time: 9:00am- 5:00pm**

**“A Gathering of Counselors, Allies, & Communities:  
Social Justice Advocacy in our Current Sociopolitical  
Climate”**

**Keynote Speaker:**

**\*Dr. Vivian Lee\***

**Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education**

**Education Sessions**

**Poster Sessions**

**Networking Opportunities**

**Vendor Opportunities**

**CE's**

**\*NEEDED:**

**-Sponsors**

**-Volunteers**

**Please contact us at: email: [mdcounselorsMCSJ@gmail.com](mailto:mdcounselorsMCSJ@gmail.com)**

### **MCSJ Executive Board-Leadership (2018-2019):**

President- Dr. Chioma Anah, ATR, LCPC-S, ACS

President-Elect- Dr. Don Trahan, Jr., Ph.D, LPC, ACS

Counselor Representative- Evan Velleman, MS

Secretary- Rebecca Schaffner, MA, LGPC

Treasurer- Perri Hooper, BS

Student Representative- Kshipra Jain, MA, LPC,

Veteran Representative- Jasmine Templeton, LCPC

### **Committee Chairs (2018-2019):**

Membership & PR- Deneen Robin, MA, LCPC

Community Outreach- Sergio D. Washington, MS

Community Outreach- Daniel Fleshner

Social Justice Advocacy- Grace Abraham Lewis, MSc, NCC, LCPC



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*“Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year- it is the struggle of a lifetime. Be persistent and consistent. We shall overcome.”- U.S. Representative, John Lewis (11/7/2018)*

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### **Maryland Counselors for Social Justice (MCSJ)**

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