

HealthEquitySummit

Changing the Conversation

Wednesday, August 28, 2019
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Indianapolis Marriott East



- 8:30 a.m. **Registration & Check-in**
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome**
- 9:30 a.m. **Keynote Address**
 In pursuit of health equity:
 What would a transformative practice mean for us?
 Lili Farhang, Co-Director
 Human Impact Partners
- 10:45 a.m. **Break**
- 11:00 a.m. **Lessons from Louisville: Transformation Over Time**
 T Benicio Gonzales, MSW, PMP, Interim Director
 Aja Barber, M.S., Administrator
 Center for Health Equity
 Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Applying Strategic Practices to Advance Health Equity**
- 2:15 p.m. **Break**
- 2:30 p.m. **Panel Discussion:
 Conversations on Transformational Change in Indiana**
 Paula Brooks, Environmental Health Associate
 Hoosier Environmental Council
 Jill English-Cheatham, Co-Director Undoing Racism Initiative
 Child Advocates
 Rena Allen, Community Leader
 Faith in Indiana
 James E. Garrett Jr., Executive Director
 Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
- 4:00 p.m. **Closing Comments**

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Panelist: Rena Allen

Rena graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University and has a Master's in Public Affairs with a concentration in Criminal Justice from Indiana Wesleyan University. She currently works as a contractor for the State of Indiana. Rena is a Certified Life Coach, licensed minister, public servant, and community builder. Rena's belief is to challenge city leaders in order to help change people lives and communities that will lead to a better living. Rena believes that low non-violent criminals and the mentally ill don't belong in jail. She believes in redemption, opportunity, and most importantly keeping family first. Rena has hosted town hall meetings that included the sheriff, mayor, and other city officials addressing issues on reducing violence, racism and mass incarceration within the black community.



Speaker: Aja Barber

Aja Barber is originally from Texas but moved to Louisville in 2016. She received her B.A. in Political Science and M.S. in Youth Development from Texas A&M University. While in graduate school, she studied the relationship between institutional racism and trauma, the structural impact of racism on psychology curriculum, and the ways activism addresses community healing. Aja has a specialized passion for facilitating the understanding that the conditions we live in are created and we can build something different by transforming our structures and institutions in ways that work for all of us.



Panelist: Paula Brooks

Paula Brooks manages Hoosier Environmental Council's initiative to advance environmental justice in low-income, legacy communities in Indianapolis. Driven by the strong belief in the universal human right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment, she is especially motivated by troubling disinvestment in public infrastructure that threatens the health and safety of those whose very presence had become invisible to policymakers and the general public. Born and raised in Indianapolis, Paula is a graduate of Howard University where she earned a BBA in finance and a MA in development policy and planning.



Panelist: Jill English

Jill English is a native of Indianapolis and a graduate of DePauw University, where she was a founding member of the first chartered historically black Greek organization at the institution and started her journey in social justice advocacy. She began working with abused and neglected children in the 1990s and served in various roles,



advocating for the needs of children and families, training foster parents and addressing the needs of traumatized youth. Jill continues to train Court Appointed Special Advocates on Cultural sensitivity and served as a guardian ad litem for Marion county youth for several years before transitioning to the Co-Director of the Undoing Racism Initiative at Child Advocates.

Keynote Speaker: Lili Farhang

Lili Farhang co-directs Human Impact Partners and is responsible for advancing the mission and strategic direction of the organization. For nearly 20 years, she's visioned, developed, and implemented policy and systems change to advance health equity in the government and nonprofit sectors, and she's feeling energized by people's willingness to talk about race, power and the other root drivers of health. Human Impact Partners is a national nonprofit organization using research, advocacy, capacity building, and field building to challenge the inequities that harm the health of our communities with a mission to transform the policies and places people need to live healthy lives by increasing the consideration of health and equity in decision-making.



Panelist: James E. Garrett Jr.

Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., appointed James Garrett Jr., Executive Director of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males on March 14, 2005. The Commission shares recommendations, measured outcomes and proven grassroots experiences to assist black males. The Commission seeks to address the needs of black males and improve their life as part of its mission. Flexibility, adapting to change and addressing the needs of black males across the State are the mission. The keys to success for the Social Status of Black Males are community involvement, consensus building and partnership alliances.



Speaker: T Benicio Gonzales

T Benicio Gonzales currently serves the residents of Louisville as Interim Director for the Center for Health Equity. T began working of the Center for Health Equity in 2010 to coordinate the department's Racial Healing and Equity Initiative. T is supporting the department's strategy to deepen its focus on the root causes of health through authentic community engagement, strategic partnerships, addressing data gaps and challenges, and through policy analysis and development. As an active community member, T is committed to numerous organizations, projects, boards, and community campaigns. T has called Louisville, Kentucky, home since 2006.

