

# Humans of CDI

*Featuring Leah Gordon, DNP, RN, CNP-C, Nursing & Patient Care Services Director*



Leah Gordon, DNP, RN, CNP, FNP-C, is the Nursing & Patient Care Services Director for PCS as part of the extension for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI). Dr. Gordon leads diversity and inclusion activities for the Department of Nursing & Patient Care Services, plays a critical role in implementing initiatives within the MGH Structural Equity Plan, focused on advancing workforce diversity, equity, and inclusion across the hospital. She oversees PCS-related training and education, program design, administration, implementation, and evaluation while incorporating these initiatives into the CDI mission.

---

## **What don't people know about you? What would people be surprised to learn about you?**

I have four degrees in nursing, an Associates Degree, a BSN, an MSN as a certified Family Nurse Practitioner, and a DNP with a concentration in cultural competence in nursing education. I am also a mother to a 27-year-old daughter who has a BS as well as an MBA. Prior to pursuing nursing and I was a freelance journalist, covering the music/hip hop scene.

## **What is your proudest moment/contribution to the work?**

I am really proud of the work [Katya Perez](#) and I have been doing with facilitated [Stepping Stones](#) dialogues within nursing and patient care services. We have had over two dozen conversations with a variety of depts/teams/groups who are committed to engaging in the important, and at times difficult conversation, of identifying racism existing, understanding the levels of racism, the challenge of systemic racism, and how racism operates here.

## **What gives you hope?**

My training and foundation as a nurse and commitment to patient care, equitable patient care, gives me hope. My belief in MGH's commitment to DE&I gives me hope. Creating a bright future of my 6-year-old niece and 4 year old nephew gives me hope.

## **Tell us about your heritage. How does your heritage influence your work?**

My father was a Black American man, Vietnam Veteran, and at one time the Commandant of the Soldier's Home in Chelsea. My mother is one of 18 children, an identical twin, and immigrated here from Panama. My parents met at Brookside Community Health Center where their public servitude impressed upon my younger brother and I. I am Afro Latina. I unfortunately do not speak Spanish, and that doesn't make me any less connected to my Latina heritage. Both of my parents grew up poor and raised my brother and I with a level of awareness of who we are, how the world may view us, and despite that how much and how large we can be in life and the world. My father passed away when I was 13, and in that short time he instilled and provided a great deal of wisdom and knowledge in my mind and heart. My commitment to this work is a reflection of my parents and a tribute to my father's legacy.

## **What do you do for fun?**

I love being able to see live music again, I love listening to good music, and I love to dance! Netflix and chill is also fun too.