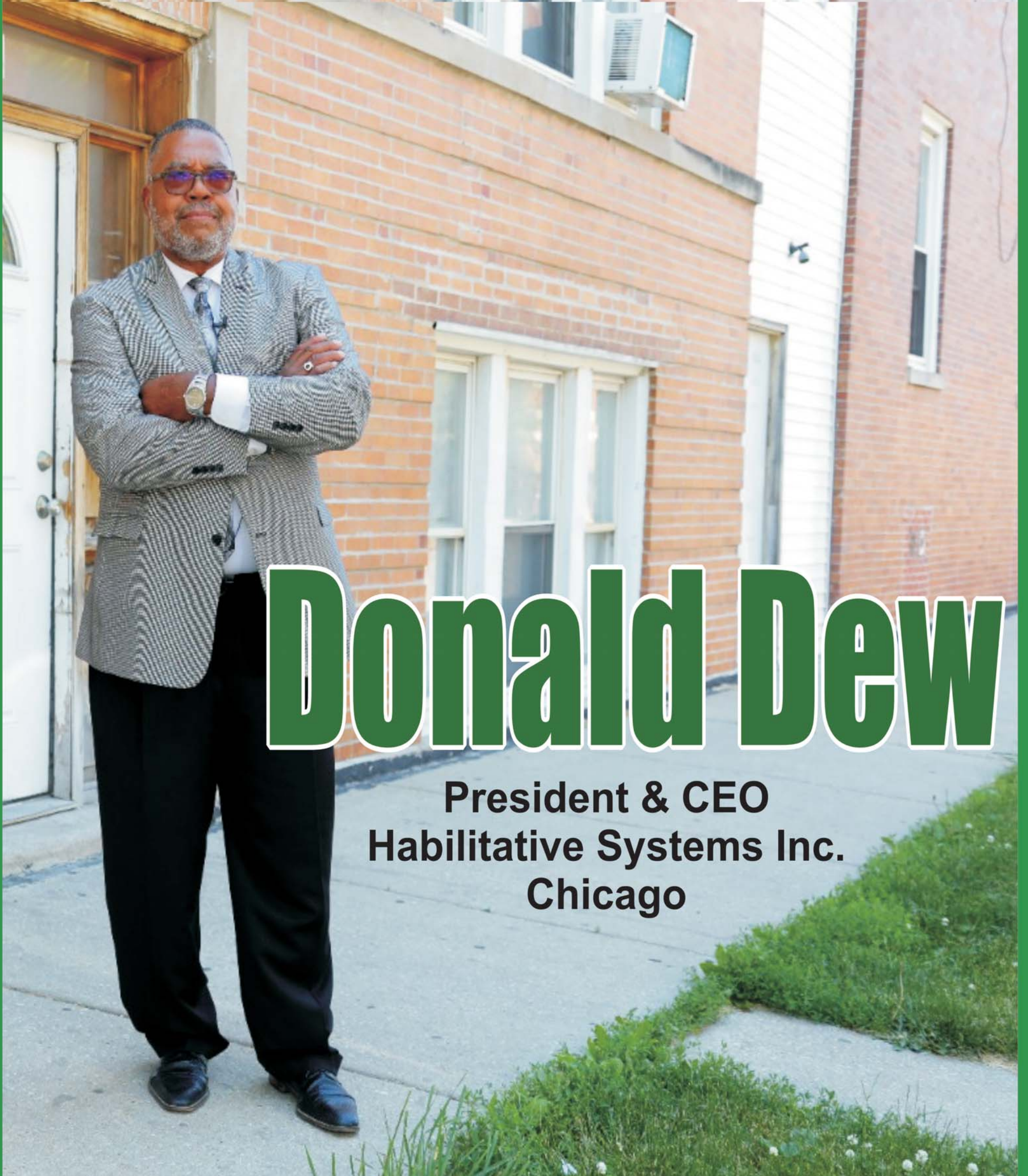


THE  
**GLOBAL EYE**  
DIGITAL MAGAZINE



**Donald Dew**

**President & CEO  
Habilitative Systems Inc.  
Chicago**

# FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Global Eye Digital Magazine's readership has grown to 35million households today including 33 million households in India and 2 million households in Greater Chicago. The overwhelming letters to the editor and your feed back is much valued. We are unable to publish all the letters and our editorial team randomly picked up a few for publication. Your feedback and letters are important, please feel encouraged to continue to email them to us. The 15th edition's cover story featuring Donald Dew, CEO of The Habilitative Systems Inc, Chicago is inspiring and the need of the hour for all of us throughout the world as the importance of behavioral health is taking center stage. U.S. Congressman Danny K Davis presented the Gandhi King Legacy Award to Donald Dew at the 9th Annual Congressional International Women's Day Celebrations in Chicago.



This edition covers the Top 20 Chicagoland Women of Excellence 2021 Awards ceremony hosted by Indian American Business Coalition and The Global Eye Digital Magazine at MEDSTAR's Naren Patel Auditorium , Hillside, IL. The showstopper at The Top 20 Chicagoland

women event was the inspiring Call to action address delivered eloquently by Mrs. Surabhi Kumar, wife of Amit Kumar, India's Consul General at Chicago . The most spectacular 9th Annual Congressional International Women's Day celebrations hosted in Naperville, Illinois where the Top 20 Global Women of Excellence were honored is also covered extensively in this edition.

The Spotlight section covers the historic Town Hall meeting hosted by Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthi and Danny K Davis for the Citizens Action Alliance on Behavioral Health which was excellently moderated by Dr. Twin Green , CEO, TLOC, South Holland, Illinois. India News Feature highlights New India on the Transformative Path . Our usual sections including In Conversation, Nostalgic Update and Bollywood have interesting snippets.

Our next edition will showcase the mesmerizing and dazzling 10th Annual Community Oscars among other celebrations. Yes, Together we can celebrate life and stay safe.



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The Global Eye reaches 35 Million households worldwide including over two Million in Chicagoland Area

## INDEX

**Dr VGP Talk Show With Donald Dew, CEO of Habilitative Systems Inc.**

Page no.....5

**9th ANNUAL MEATF & AMEC CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY GALA**

Page no.....13

**NEW INDIA ON THE TRANSFORMATION PATH**

Page no.....28

**Citizens Action Alliance for Behavioral Health's Town Hall Meeting for Behavioral Health Providers**

Page no.....32

**INDIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS COALITION (IABC) & THE GLOBAL EYE DIGITAL MAGAZINE HONORS TOP 20 CHICAGOLAND WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE**

Page no.....43

**Alia Bhatt fumbles as Karan Johar Asks rapid fire questions, Tanmay Bhat recalls her Prithviraj Chauhan goof-up.**

Page no.....59



Letters to the Editor

Thanks for sending me the special version of the magazine. The representation is wonderful and a wide range of news enriches us with knowledge. Please send me regularly

--Chilwal

Please accept my congratulation for bringing out a very nice and informative magazine.

--Ashish kalyane

My best wishes to the team of The Global Eye Magazine for bringing out such an informative piece. I request you to send hard copies for readers who are interested.

--Maya Dharmishraa

I take the pleasure to inform you that for the last few weeks I am a regular reader of digital issues of The Global Eye. It is indeed useful and informative. I wanted to express my opinion for issuance

--Rita Brata

Thanks for sharing The Global Eye in which we got a lot of relevant information. Hope we will be getting more information from Current Affairs. With best regards,

--Prof. Bhartendu K. Singh

I applaud the Editor Dr Vijay Prabhakar efforts in creating The Global Eye, a magazine that matters. It carries worthy news without any noise. Kudos! Wishing you the very best,

--Mandar Dahake.

Very Colorful Edition with tons of pictures.

Hi Sir, a very good issue with a nice presentation of articles. Why can't you cover Indian personalities in Nostalgia? Please check there are so many. Give some good info about Ayodhya Ram Janam Bhoomi.

-- Pranay

The Global Eye is a well designed and informative magazine. It is very reader-friendly. As a History student, I know the importance of the social, economic and political conditions of the past. In future, these magazines will help people to understand the past with accuracy. Big thanks to you for choosing me to send the magazine. Yours faithfully

--Krishnapriya K S

The Global Eye information in a proper way. Overall this magazine will be extensively circulated. I wish for its success. Thanks

--Dr. Ratna Tiwari

Very Informative.

--Ram Kumar

This is a very good initiative and very help-

ful for increasing knowledge about India's growth story... Please continue with this endeavour but make it a weakly... Thank you

--Pushpa

Nice to see the extended form of Globaleye with 60 full-colour pages. It is containing very interesting information. Thanks for the email.

-- Naga Rani

First of all, accept my congratulations for bringing out this fantastic magazine. Please give some articles that will enlighten us and be useful for society. Thanking you

--Hitesh Kunvarni

We Salute to the Editor in Chief for giving us such an informative Digital News Monthly for free. We imagine how much effort would be required to get this wonderful monthly news.

-- Raj Kumar

Sir, I have read the current issue and found that it is a mirror of the initiative taken by the Government of India to build a New India. My best wishes for every step in this regard. Congratulations and all the best to The Global Eye Team.

Yours faithfully,

--Madhusudan

Dear Sir/Madam, I am a regular reader of THE GLOBAL EYE MAGAZINE

The Magazine is filled up with news, thoughts and information about social, Political reflecting a milieu of hope & progress despite an air of despair caused by some fear mongers.

--- Ram Prasad

How can I subscribe to a hard copy of this news monthly? I want to gift it to my father as it has a lot of information. He enjoys reading.

--Balaram

Respected Sir, At first, I congratulate all of you for publishing The Global Eye magazine. I read the online edition of May and I was amazed to read the informative content. Please send Bangla and the English versions of the magazine to my e-mail ID regularly. I would like to know if there is any printed version of the magazine. Thanking you,

--Sumit Mahata

I am Arun Raj from Perambalur, Tamil Nadu. First of all, I would like to thank for the PDF version of The Global Eye Magazine. It is very useful for all.

--Arun Raj

Thank you so much for the information by

the team of Global eye. All pages are informative.

-- Kamakshi

Excellent Stuff from excellent publisher. Couldn't find such informative news in any other media house.

-- Rani

After reading the Global Eye, I found that the magazine reflects a true picture of present situation. Thank for sending the magazine.

-- Kumar

The global Eye magazine infuses positive ideas and makes us feel good. It also tells us how India is making progress in each and every field. Thanks

-- Rama Rao

Thanks to the editorial team for presenting a true and postive picture and news of present situation.

-- Kumud Raja

I am an avid reader of Global Eye eagerly wait for next issue. Please send the Global eye Magazine regularly.

--S Das

The Global Eye Magazine makes us aware about the progress in India and around the world. I have been reading the valuable magazine online and find it very interesting and informative. Kudos to the team for an efficient management and service.

---Jayanta

The Global Eye shares thought-provoking articles. Lovely to read.

--Rama Krishna

Excellent & Comprehensive Digital Monthly

--Srikanth

The global Eye magazine is a good and informative magazine. It should be made available in offline and printed versions as well. Could you please send me through post regularly? Seeks your kind cooperation in this regard.

-- Prafulla Kumar

Thank you for sending the magazine. It is a very impressive magazine that is very helpful in intellectual progress. It is a very transparent Magazine.

--- Vinitjain

This 60 pages edition shows tremendous effort and an exemplary work. Many current updates of the season and multiple categories of news.

Truly an International Monthly !!

- Amulya

Good and informative.

-- Lasya

The Global Eye gives us news, articles that are not found in any other media. Excellent Reading. I look forward to each issue and am always surprised by the amazing content and different writing styles. Welcome The Global Eye, today's Leader in Digital media

**-- Pradeep**

I am a regular reader of your magazine, it is doing great job. I wish your team all the best in your pursuit to provide rich content in the future as well.

**-- Ashik**

The Global Eye is a very informative magazine. I am a student of Class X in Don Bosco Academy, Patna, Bihar. I find this magazine very interesting. As economics is one of my subjects, the magazine gives me an idea of new developments.

**-- Aditya Ganguli**

Global Eye Mag is a good initiative providing relevant information on various development initiatives. It gives information from diversified fields which is very useful for the students.

**-- Chenna Reddy**

I am a regular reader of The Global Eye. It contains a lot of useful information and it is a pleasure to read it.

**-- Shakti Singh**

Dear Editor in chief:  
The Global Eye digital mag is very informative. Please give some more useful information with Nostalgia update with India Legends from India and the tech gadgets also would be the latest. Thanks

**-Priyanka**

Hello Global eye, Read the articles from Global eye Magazine. Forwarded this newsletter PDF to my family and friends, Cover story is very interesting.

**-- sudhakar**

Very nice Magazine and photos. Enjoyed reading the articles. Thanks for giving the informative magazine.

**-- Raja Nagendar**

I enjoyed Global Eye reading and especially the elaborate articles of cover story. Please continue giving the best one to the readers.

**-- Johnson**

My name is N Swamy Rajesh from Andhra Pradesh. I read the Bureau of Outreach and Communication's magazine The Global Eye. It's very informative and very knowledgeable for every person of our country. I read this regularly. I want the hard copy of the magazine so that my entire family could read it. I want it in two languages 'Telugu and English'.

**- N Swamy Rajesh, Andhra**

Thanks for forwarding e-magazine of The Global Eye. I am thrilled to see so much of activities across India and USA. The magazine is compiled in a nice and interesting manner. Our wishes for the magazine to reach across more miles. We wish the entire team all the best.

**- Madhurima**

Too much coverage on Biden and Harris. No other articles covered this time. hope this will not repeat again. hope you understand

**- K.Sravikar**

want to get your esteem publication Global Eye magazine in other language. This magazine is most valuable and informative for me.

**- Pavitramailto**

Nice and good looking  
Nice presentation It includes all important news from top to bottom

**- Shilpa**

Firstly congratulations for the very useful magazine. I am very happy to read it. It is very useful in the current situation.

**Patel M, Gujarat.**

At the outset, let me congratulate you for your monthly magazine "global eye" I happened to get the December issue by chance and really admired the informative and valuable content presented. Please send me further issues, regularly on this mail id. If any subscription, please let me know.

**- Santosh**

We Salute to the Editor in Chief for giving us such an informative Digital News Monthly for free. We imagine how much effort would be required to get this wonderful monthly news.

**- Chaman Lal**

I wish to congratulate you for bringing out such an informative magazine.

**- Sumana G,**

Thanks for sending me the special version of the magazine. The representation is wonderful and wide range of news enriches us with knowledge. Please send me regularly

**- Chawla, New Delhi**

Please accept my congratulation for bringing out a very nice and informative magazine.

**- Naveen Kumar,**

One of the best magazines. I feel extremely happy whenever I receive a copy of this magazine in my e-mail. In my family, everyone reads this magazine and even sends it to my friends to read the magazine to get

abreast with the all-around updates taking place.

**- Rama Rao**

I receive the Global Eye e-magazine by e-mail. I am very happy to read every edition of this magazine. I also get to read news of my interest in the magazine. I love news related to social, cultural, and sports. The photos in the magazine are very attractive.

**--Ekta**

Heartiest congratulations on India's 75th Independence Day. On this occasion, I am reminded of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Ji's famous lines: Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high... into that heaven of freedom my father, let my country awake.

**---- Pramod Chadrashekar**

The global eye is a great medium that provides a wealth of information, inspiration, and creative ideas for readers. I am obliged to be a regular reader of this informative magazine that is Portable and Convenient, Interactive and easily accessible. I am thankful to the team of global Eye

**--- Harpreet Kaur**

fortunately, I saw this magazine on 13.08.2021. It is very good because one can find what, how and the progress of the community, country in a clear and immensely commendable manner. I am awaiting for the next edition

**-- Rupa Mukherjee**

The Global Eye is a good and informative magazine. It should be available in all levels as well. I want to subscribe to this magazine. Could you please send me through Post regular? Seeks your kind cooperation in this regard.

**--- Prafulla Kumar**

This magazine is very helpful for all ages. It is a very impressive magazine that is very helpful in intellectual progress. It is a very transparent magazine

**--- Malini**

I am a Dubai resident and I receive this from my friend. I'm a regular reader of this global eye digital news magazine. It is a great initiative to circulate this magazine through email. It's a pleasure to read it.

**--- Samhita**

Magazine of the readers, by the readers, for the readers. Let Globaleye magazine continuously evolves and remains in a pivotal position.

**--- Karthik**



# Dr VGP Talk Show With Donald Dew, CEO of Habilitative Systems Inc.

Welcome to Dr. VGP's Talk Show, our guest is Donald Dew, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Habilitative Systems Inc., a vital Chicago-based Behavioral Health and Human Services organization, providing programs and services for children and families with special needs.



Habilitative Systems, Inc. (HSI) is a nationally recognized human services agency that uses a continuum of care approach to provide much-needed programs to underserved populations and people living with an array of health and human service needs. Headquartered on the west side of Chicago, HSI has offered supportive programs to Chicago's most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents for 40 years and provides services to over 7,000 people annually in the North Lawndale, West Garfield, Austin and Englewood communities in Chicago.

HSI is the only organization on the west-side of Chicago that specializes in providing assistance to individuals with developmental disabilities and has created a unique social enterprise that produces packaging supplies while teaching important life skills and delivering supportive services to program participants. The organization also serves individuals with mental illness and substance abuse challenges, youth and families at risk, veterans, seniors, ex-offenders, the homeless and those who are unemployed.

**Dr VGP:** Talking of Workforce Development and the Habilitative Systems Inc., during your leadership tenure of the last 30 years. You have had a significant impact in this space of Workforce Development. Could you enlighten our readers on all the different initiatives you have done to put people mentally challenged and people with disabilities to work?

**Donald Dew:** Thank you so much for the opportunity. We really appreciate it.

Since 1978 Habilitative Systems has been focusing efforts on special populations, that include people with Intellectual and

Developmental Disabilities, Mental Illness, Substance Use Disorders, children with Adverse Child Experiences and senior citizens. In this particular location, we've had a focus on Workforce Development for people with disabilities, and we have persons who previously resided in state institutions, who have been given the opportunity to work here in the community and live in the community. We also have scores of individuals who have never had to go to an institution because they're living with their parents and natural caregivers, and we provide them support through these day services. So, over the years, we have done a number of different contracts that have employed a lot of employees,

thousands of people with disabilities and cognitive impairments, engaged in pillow manufacturing for Eastern and United Airlines, Amtrak passenger line. We shipped pillows all over the country; Philadelphia, Washington D.C, Los Angeles. Thousands of cases of our pillows were shipped from our docks onto trucks for shipment to the airlines and trains.

Also, we helped assemble the telephones for the Democratic National Convention in 1996, we actually, assembled over 8,000 telephones right here in this Workshop, red, white and blue telephones that have the Ameritech emblem and the DNC emblem and the City of Chicago. All



those phones are now commemorative, collector phones . We also out of this location have done significant janitorial training.

We were able to form this ServiceMaster franchise called AbleServ. And in fact, we were contracted with janitorial services for Rush University Medical Center, The Jesse Brown VA Administration Center, and The Austin Bank of Chicago. So, we had a number of different general contracts operating as well. So, you know, we have been trying to create these employment opportunities to keep people maintain the community.

I've been here since 1984, and there were persons that I screened in disability institutions at the state level who came here back in 1984, who are still here. They never have had to go back to an institution. We constructed five facilities for people with disabilities right here on the West Side of Chicago. It's a beautiful thing to be able to see that type of Life Enrichment and qualitative Services over the decades.

**Dr VGP:** That's great , the Continuum of Care Services that Habilitative Systems Inc. provides includes the behavioral care outpatient services along with this component of vocational training is amazing. This vocational training component which is also recognized by the Commission On Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities- the national rating service system is wonderful. I mean, it's something really awesome, that you in the west side of Chicago are able to do this. What is happening now, tell us what are the clients doing right now?

**Donald Dew:** And of course, because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are still engaged in social distancing, and we are only maybe operating at about 25 per cent capacity at this time. Normally you would see over 80 persons with different levels of disabilities working on this floor doing assembly, packaging, sorting and in fact, providing opportunities again for folks with disabilities to get more related experience from here ,we move into supported employment and as they continue to improve transition into competitive employment.

Our next goal is to transform this particular site into an integrated work setting so that people with disabilities and people without disabilities are in fact working together.

**Dr VGP:** I really love the idea how you're

saying that you're going to transition from supported employment to competitive employment and then making it an integrated workplace. Are you open to those companies who are now looking to collaborate with Habilitative Systems Inc., to teach the mentally challenged and developmentally disabled? Are you open to such partnerships coming up in this year during post-Covid?

**Donald Dew:** Absolutely. In fact, historically, speaking years ago we were able to receive a grant from the US Department of Education and we operated a McJobs program with McDonald's Corporation. And we were actually training people with disabilities in the foodservice industry. And once they finished their training here, they were able to get jobs at McDonald's. So yes. I mean corporations have always been supportive of us and we're looking forward to more opportunities.

**Dr VGP:** The comprehensive Habilitative Systems Inc. is an outstanding model. Let's take a walk and look at your senior facilities, you raised a great 20 million dollars from the Housing and Urban Development to build these two senior facilities and Recovery homes. So let's take a look at that Chief Donald Dew..You are a man of action...

We are here at Mike's recovery home, you've done an outstanding job in converting the beaten-down basement into a 30 bed halfway house. We just saw the kitchen area and this is one of the ideal rooms in this halfway house. Please go ahead and tell us how did this happen? And what's the future?

**Donald Dew:** Yes. Well, you know, we started out as a hundred-bed overnight shelter for the homeless. We had 60 beds for men and 40 beds for women. Later, we realized that most of the people who were on the streets during the mid-80s were men, single men because women who had homeless concerns also had children. So, they went into shelters for women and children. We were only able to accommodate single individuals. We then converted to an all-male shelter and realized that we needed to deal with the causes of homelessness; so, we then began to provide more treatment services for alcoholism and substance use disorder and went over the trauma and exposure to violence that have caused poverty. Many persons served were referred directly from Cook County Jail. In many cases for over sixty per cent of people. That's clear, you know, for many this is their first stop back in the community after they've been incarcerated and separated from their family.

**Dr VGP:** You brought out a very important aspect and spoke about homelessness . How you give the home, some approaches to bringing the Behavioral Healthcare services, and also the recovery program, the optic, especially the second chance act, where you getting the people from the Illinois Department of Corrections and integrating them into society. I mean, this is this is something which should be known to all. Just by writing, something beyond the homeless shelter, the whole Paradigm of services, it is so critical, you know. Absolutely critical. Today, folks, always talk about people falling through the cracks. Well, people don't fall through cracks, absolutely fall into another system. So when talking about settings, you know, so they're not in facility services, then they fall into the homeless runs and then end up in the emergency rooms or institutionalized. Or become incarcerated but they found it'll crack into another system .

You know in times like this, the COVID pandemic is a worldwide Phenomenon with an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. These types of Institutions like Habilitative Systems Inc. and what you're doing today is so important and especially the way you're dealing with these most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. Like you just explained to us. I mean we need to spread the word and to see how the community can engage in you, in a meaningful purposeful, supportive manner.

**Donald Dew:** Absolutely. We are part of the community, you know, years ago, we had the opportunity to move our corporate offices downtown. But we said no, we wanted to stay in the community. So you know, HSI has 15 different locations. On the west side and also in the Englewood area and we want to be neighbors. Good neighbors. We wanted to be an extension if you will of the nuclear family so many times, At times, the people that we end up serving are people that we knew. And know, I mean, I was born and raised right here on the West Side of Chicago, home grown.

**Dr VGP:** Chief, since you took over in 1990 as the Habilitative Systems Inc., CEO your budget has increased from \$6 million to nearly \$10.5 million in 2021. This signals a significant increase in services to the Chicago area residents, especially during this adverse COVID pandemic which we are going through.

**Donald Dew :** Yes, doctor, please. Thank you so much for the opportunity and privilege to be on your show today. I truly appreciate this opportunity. It is significant and is also an indication of just being responsive to intense and very critical community need throughout our history for over 40 years. We have endeavored to be just that responsive to the community. Simple mortality. Looking at the plight of persons with disabilities children who have been abused and neglected and child welfare, looking at the violence and trauma experienced by youth in the Juvenile Justice System. We have always tried to be responsive and, of course, now that the pandemic is here, you know, we join forces with our elected officials and our funding agencies to ensure that folks are tested and vaccinated and in fact continue to receive the comprehensive services that are so needed. The providers are addressing social determinants of health and how to meet daily challenges.

**Dr VGP:** Mr Dew, You are a household name in the city of Chicago. Tell us about your early childhood and you're upbringing days. You are a master of many, many multifaceted talents. You're also an avid Photographer. I'm also told that you are a good writer and spiritual person becoming a spiritual Guru. Now once upon a time you were in the janitorial field ,when I saw the polished floors of the Mike's Recovery Home, it truly reflects that you take pride in what you do. Give us a little insight into your early childhood and education.

**Donald Dew:** Thank you so much. I was born and raised on the west side of Chicago. The son of Willie Maurice Dew and Anna Dominique Dew. My father migrated from Mississippi and my mother came from Louisiana. So they were part of that great migration of folks from the south seeking a better way of living. I'm so glad that they chose to come to Chicago. I often say that my mother was the first strategic planner I met and she was determined that we also needed to go to private schools, which included Saint Malachy and Hales Franciscan H.S. I attended Lewis University and the UIC Jane Addams College of Social work. She was big on education, as she knew that education was a ticket for liberation. She also knew that Civic engagement was critical. That's why she was so involved with persons like Congressman Danny Davis to actually found the Mile Square Health Center, one of the first comprehensive health centers in the United States. So, I grew up around folks like that; strong work ethics, community-minded and for me, it was a simple choice to give back to our community. When I first started my professional career, I was a psychotherapist specializing in cognitive behavioral therapy interventions and doing a lot of individual, family and group work and also specializing in Stress Management and picked up techniques around the town in terms of meditation and studied the teachings of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and the history of African Americans in this country, how the Middle Passage affected us dramatically along with slavery and trauma for 400 years that many of us have experienced in this country. Looking at the struggles, and the triumphs, and the resiliency of African American people in this country and specifically, those who came to Chicago, we did a video documentary called "Heading West" that talked about how many folks came from the south to the west side of Chicago, and that's a very powerful story.

**Dr VGP:** Great. Especially it's so good to know that your mother was one of the co-founders of Miles Square Health Centers. It's one of the first federally Qualified Health Care Centers (FQHC's) in the United States. Today we have over 230 FQHC's, thanks to Congressman Danny Davis, who's known as the father of Community Health Care in the U.S.A. Habilitative Systems Inc. is today a nationally recognized human service agency that uses a Continuum of care approach to provide much-needed programs to the underserved populations with an array of Health and Human Services. Headquartered here on the west side of Chicago, Habilitative Systems Inc. has offered support to programs to Chicago's most disadvantaged, and vulnerable residents for over 40 years. Like you just said provides services to over a thousand people annually in the North Lawndale, West Garfield and Englewood communities in Chicago. Chief Donald Dew, what would you say is the most significant achievement- that you see, one single achievement of Habilitative Systems

Institute today is?

**Donald Dew:** I think that one of the most significant achievements is the creation of affordable housing for senior citizens. We constructed two 60-unit facilities and also did another 5 facilities for people with disabilities valued in excess of 20 million dollars. That's significant because society is often defined by its treatment of its elders and children. So HSI historically has always taken care of the children and our elders and to be able to build facilities that, in many cases represent the best living standard for our seniors they've ever had in their lifetime has been very significant for me, and very gratifying. Today, Habilitative Systems Inc. has over 15 locations for Behavioral Health Care outpatients and residential centers.

**Dr VGP :**Could you tell us what type of services you provide and about your Triage Center?

**Donald Dew:** We are operating the Westside Community Triage and Wellness Center in partnership with the Bobby Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center. This facility is designed to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and really prevents persons from unnecessary emergency room visits, psychiatric hospitalization and incarceration. We have case managers and therapists and LPNs on staff, who provide comprehensive assessments and provide opportunities for assessments. This center is funded by Cook County Health for \$4.5 million multi-year grant. They actually provided the funding for us during a very difficult time when the State of Illinois did not that pass the budget under Governor Rauner for nearly three years. Many agencies were shutting down and then closing, but Cook County came through.

**Dr VGP:** You brought a very interesting perspective ,that during Republican Governor Rauner's administration a lot of the welfare programs were reduced or minimized. Same also with the federal government under Trump. Now with the new Biden and Harris Administration, and Governor Pritzker the Illinois Governor at the helm, how do you see the change of funds flowing to not-for-profits and for the much-needed human services?

**Donald Dew:** And that's very interesting perspective because let me just point out that HSI's early growth and development was actually under Republican Governors.

**Dr VGP:** Oh good. Yeah, Governor Jim Edgar.

Yeah, I heard that a lot about Governor Jim Edgar, he was really supportive of not for profit organizations across the communities.

**Donald Dew:** Also, James Thompson. I mean, you know, we've done well under certain Republican Governors, And of course, now with the new administration in DC and in Illinois by the state capitol, Governor Pritzker and President Biden, We are ever hopeful with their new domestic policies we'll be able to continue to respond responsibly and of course effectively to the community.

**Dr VGP:** One of the things we recently heard Chief Dew, was that you received a large allocation of \$3.7 million in 2020 for the census initiative. Could you expand on that? And how did that come about? And what work did you do last year?

**Donald Dew:** That was a very significant achievement on multiple levels. First of all, we actually ran this program over two years and the allocation ended up exceeding over five million dollars. We ended up having a 30-plus organizational Coalition, we founded the Counting on Chicago Coalition 2020, and it was significant because it was all about serving hard to count communities on the south and westside of Chicago. We want to be able to respond. And, you know, of course, during this time we were hit with covid-19 and pandemic, we were also hit with civil unrest after George Floyd's murder, which made it very difficult and yet we continued to engage our communities, to make sure that people work at it. And so, we were able to build this coalition and refer over 45,000 people for basic human needs services.

**Dr VGP:** And I think that census initiative, people need to know is so important and critical to delivery of Health and Human Services especially for the vulnerable populations.

**Donald Dew:** Absolutely. And I wish we could have had a better impetus for the Census and the State of Illinois because as you know, we lost one of the Congressional districts. Today from 18 congressional seats, we are now down to 17 because much of the people didn't come out and get themselves counted in the census. It was also due to the loss of population. We certainly have lost some of the population in the city of Chicago and throughout the State of Illinois. So was going to be very difficult to, you know, get just back. Specifically, given the size of Chicago is that



For Complete Video Interview Click on the Link :  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1gyByOod8E>

persons who are currently incarcerated cannot be counted from the communities of origin. They're very critical and it's a fight our legislators like Rep. Ford has fought over the years, and we want to make sure that we can turn that around for the next Census count.

We witness across the country in terms of voter suppression and you know it's critical but folks are given the opportunity to vote and that the prohibited and inhibited from voting. In fact, used in this acronym vote to stand for voting is an opportunity to deal with the traumatic experience in the country. Voting is an opportunity to deal with a traumatic experience, vote. We vote. We were able to neutralize some trauma when we vote were able to get the equal opportunity when we vote, we have greater representation and we vote, we have more problematic input and we vote, we have the housing. When we vote, we have fair employment and so on and on and on.

**Dr VGP:** I think your entire life has been devoted to the development of Habilitative Systems Inc. for the last 40 years. Since you started out here on a personal note, how do you keep yourself active? I know you have a very charming wife and what do you do in your spare time? If at all you have any time, I know you're also tied up with community activities, leading so many initiatives in Chicago, travelling around the country. Also, you are on the Governing Council of the National Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, which is a very big honor to serve on that -a nationwide accreditation body for rehabilitation facilities.

**Donald Dew:** First of all, in my personal life my wife Kimberly, she helps to maintain some balance and make sure that we get that quality time. If it was not for her, probably I'd be a working man to all the time. I make sure that I spend quality time with her and quality time with our family and we enjoy that time together and of course when we look at policy and when I look at the opportunity to serve as a trustee of the commission, I'm on the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities which is a tremendous honor and privilege. Because you know, we're dealing with quality care. We're talking about policies that impact millions of people with disabling conditions across the country and throughout the world. And we realize that we've got to continue to emphasize the importance of providing quality levels of care to persons with significant disabling conditions.

**Dr VGP:** What are the challenges that organizations like yours face during the COVID pandemic and beyond?

**Donald Dew:** Sustainability, you know, funding helps and flows and we have been really trying to ensure that we develop a social entrepreneurial approach. That is why at one point in time we formed a janitorial franchise with ServiceMaster trying to do that. But the Housing Initiative has been out of our social entrepreneurial strategy to create greater sustainability for our organization. Also engaging in integrated Healthcare. And, of course, now opening up the door for significant involvement in terms of contact tracing and Healthcare transformation within the State of Illinois. It's really all about being able to sustain ourselves with programs that ultimately are essential to the community.

**Dr VGP:** That's wonderful to hear that. You have led a very successful model of social entrepreneurship in the not-for-profit arena. Who have been your partners that you would like to call out at this time, who have helped you in different stages of development over the last 31

years while you have been leading this organization?

**Donald Dew:** Well, you know, first and foremost are our funding sources, the major funding sources such as the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitations Services and Division of Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery, Healthcare Family Services, Department of Rehab Services to Public Health, Cook County Health and Hospital Systems and a number of corporate partners such as Ameritech, WGN, NBC, Ralph G. Moore, AT&T, & ComEd, Cochran Law firm. We've had also many corporate partners over the years.

**Dr VGP:** I think People's Gas had a significant role to play in developing the basement in the Mikes recovery home and parking lot. Habilitative Systems Inc. is a true model of public-private partnership in action. Tell us something about the community-based Research Institute, which HSI has launched and located in the Englewood neighborhood.

**Donald Dew:** Yes, at that location 6845 S. Western Avenue, Chicago is our Urban Behavioral Health Services Institute. One of the reasons why we named that location was because of my mentor and colleague Dr. Carl Bell. When his organization Community Mental Health Council folded, some of those funding dollars were directed towards Habilitative Systems Inc. Dr. Bell was an impactful community-based researcher and renowned psychiatrist and my first exposure to research was through Dr. Bell. Here at HSI, we have been doing community-based research with partners, such as the University of Illinois, Urban Trauma Center, and Dr. Karen Dixon has led our community-based research efforts. We've done research around HIV AIDS among elementary school-aged children and made sure they were protected against the HIV/AIDS epidemic years ago. We've done research around trauma-informed care. We've done research around restorative justice and its impact from a wraparound model and case management model, getting family members involved in care. So it is significant that we continue to engage in evidence-based practices and evidence-informed practices systems that work and make a difference.

**Dr VGP:** Habilitative Systems Inc. has definitely made a difference in people's lives and I'm sure the founder Larry Bird if he was alive today

would be astounded to see how you've expanded it. It all started I think 50 years ago with Clair house church when in those days as an offshoot and you've grown it to be a very reputable National agency, a model Agency for people, you have gone into diversification not only the Workforce Development for providing jobs and training for the disabled population and mentally challenged. But also you've gone into the housing by providing senior housing centers that we have looked at and also the Triage centers. There's so much going on today in the Habilitative Systems Inc.

Thanks to Donald Dew, your leadership. I mean it is so infectious. Your staff are so hard-working and the Triage Center on Madison Street sees over a hundred people and more coming in 24 hours around the clock for much-needed Behavioral Health Services. Today, the Illinois State, the mental health national statistics for the state of Illinois states 20% of Illinois's population of 12 million population suffer from a serious mental health disorder which is really quite startling statistics and so we need more institutions like you. The community at large, the government, the private sector need to come forward in a big way to support institutions like yours. Public Health experts have predicted that in the year 2030, behavioral health -mental health is going to be the biggest challenge America is going to face.

**Donald Dew:** And you know, we've seen the suicide rate increasing as well and of course, we know that there's significant influence from the covid-19 pandemic. We know that generational trauma has continued to have an impact as well as systemic and institutional racism has been there. I mean, these are all factors that are impacting the populations that we target, that we serve.

**Dr VGP:** In the year 2030, where do you see Habilitative Systems Inc.?

**Donald Dew:** About this, that if they can be done on the west side of Chicago, it can be done anywhere in the world.

**Dr VGP:** We would love to take you across the globe. I'm the Global Ambassador for Rainbow Push Coalition. So hopefully, we can take Habilitative Systems Inc. model to several developing countries where it can be replicated. Yes, HSI is keeping HOPE alive in our City of Chicago. Thank You.

**Donald Dew:** Thank You so much, Dr. Vijay Prabhakar for featuring us on your show. God bless.





# Understanding How Violence is Both a Consequence and a Cause of the Mental Health Crisis



**Donald J. Dew, MSW, ACSW**

The pandemic, the recession, and general social instability is a crisis like we have never seen before. So many people in our society have a newfound sense of powerlessness against external forces that seem out of our control with no end in sight. Americans, in general, are experiencing symptoms of depression at a number three times higher than before the pandemic, according to a study published in August by JAMA Network Open. But imagine living with this kind of ever-present insecurity, uncertainty and foreboding – not for mere months – but as a permanent state. What does that kind of sustained trauma do to a person's psychological wellbeing? How does it impact the way a person interacts with the world? That is exactly what many of Chicago's hardest hit communities and people face. Every day and night scores of our children and families exist in poverty-stricken conditions; traumatized and paralyzed in states of fear, desperation, and uncertainty. And many of them know no other reality. The pandemic and its cascading consequences are making everything worse. A report released by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) shows a significant increase in opioid overdoses and opioid-related deaths in 2020, many on Chicago's West Side. In Cook County, there have been 71 suicides in the Black community so far in 2020, compared to 56 in 2019. The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office says 2020 is on pace to be the worst year for suicides in the Black community in a decade.

## The Ongoing Cycle of Violence and Trauma

Violence is, by far, the number one scourge in Chicago. Those who have lost their lives or have sustained catastrophic injuries are the first – but not only – victims. The families of the direct victims are very much victims themselves. This includes children at the most vulnerable age who are not well equipped to process information, emotions and grief. It includes adolescent youth who are just starting out in life; their behaviors, attitudes and habits forming to last a lifetime. When a person is shot, there are hundreds of people who are impacted. Ask our children and they will tell you of someone they know who has been shot or killed. Some express their experiences with great empathy and emotions. Others seem numb and desensitized, like they've watched a movie or video game. The violence in some neighborhoods is so prevalent that residents, especially young men, see it as normal. And when the violence is at the hands of the police – the consequences become even greater. When a child does not (or cannot) trust those in uniform who are ostensibly there to protect, it creates deep wounds that are difficult to heal.

## Violence as a cause of trauma

We have all become familiar with the term Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD. But for many in our society, there is nothing "Post" about the trauma they are facing. It is ongoing. If some are asking about the year 2020 "when will this madness end – it's already been seven months", imagine someone who has faced a worse kind of instability for as long as they can remember. This kind of trauma changes people in many different but always destructive ways. What's more, there is a growing body of research that severe trauma can cross generations in a family. Generational trauma, first recognized in the descendants of Holocaust victims, is the concept that severe trauma experienced by parents can be unintentionally and subconsciously transferred to their children. Trauma manifests in a variety of ways. The emotions can include anger and a desire for revenge for the loss of a loved. The emotions can include hopelessness and depression, which can create a downward spiral of behaviors such as self-medicating drug addiction, lethargy or even suicide.

## Violence as a consequence of trauma

The reverse is also true. A great deal of the violence can also be the result of mental illness; if not acutely in a specific diagnosis, then over the longer term in the numbing of one's outlook on life. While it is true that most individuals suffering from mental illness are NOT violent, we can say that most perpetrators of violence do indeed have some underlying mental health issue. Whether it is domestic violence, street violence or violence by police, trauma in an individual is a contributing factor to how they might act, think, and perceive their life circumstances.

## A Way Forward

Chicago has a mental health crisis. In 2012, six of the City's 12 public mental health clinics were closed. This was already reduced from the 19 clinics that were once in place. This was drastically inadequate before 2020 ushered in a whole new host of problems.

There is a growing movement in Chicago and the nation to move some resources from police to mental health professionals. This is long overdue. Many circumstances that today are handled by police would be more effectively handled by mental health professionals. Nationally, at least 1 in 4 people killed by police have a severe mental illness, according to the Treatment Advocacy Center's 2015 report "Overlooked in the Undercounted: The Role of Mental Illness in Fatal Law Enforcement Encounters."

This disconnect is funneling people into the justice system when they don't belong there. According to the National Alliance on Mental Health, about 2 million people with serious mental health illnesses are booked into jails throughout the country. As a general principle, we have failed people when they have their first experience of mental health services within the justice system. We have failed people when they have their first experience of mental health services within an emergency room.

Specifically, there is a proposal in Chicago to develop a publicly funded and operated 24-hour crisis hotline through the Office of Emergency Management and Communications. This would include vans dispatched from a network of public mental health clinics covering the full City of Chicago. One of the plan's short-term initiatives is to create a co-responder pilot program, in which a mental health professional would respond to a mental health situation with a Chicago police officer. The mental health professional would then work to connect the

person in crisis with additional resources outside of the criminal justice apparatus. This would be an enormous step in the right direction.

Yes, this will require public investment. But can we afford not to? Two municipalities in Oregon were able to divert as much as 20 per cent of calls from the Police department to mental health providers, say nothing for the savings on other areas of government support when a person is helped rather than jailed. Two and a half years ago, the Cook County Health and Hospitals System funded Habilitative Systems, Inc. to work in partnership with the Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center to establish the Westside Community Triage and Wellness Center to address this issue; thereby reducing unnecessary incarceration, institutionalization and emergency room visits.

Beyond individual programs, we need to keep up our work on removing the stigma around mental health. How is it that an eight year old boy will tell an adult about a knee injury from falling off a bike but will not tell an adult about alarming emotions he is having after a friend of his is killed. In Chicago's African-American communities, admitting the need for mental health care remains one of the biggest challenges.

Most broadly, we need to commit to greater investments in human services generally. The ecosystem of well-being is an interconnected web of education, employment, food security, physical safety, housing, and yes, mental health. It is counter-productive to treat just one area and ignore the others. The social fabric of our society must be repaired for normal development to occur and reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACE's). We should all commit ourselves to doing what we can to make this decade of the "20's", which has started off so poorly, the decade when this country and this city finally got on top of the ills which have dogged us for so long. In 2020, let's have a clearer vision and plan for an effective path forward. We have it within our power to create change if only we have it within our will.



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# Congressman Danny K Davis Presents The Gandhi King Legacy Award of Excellence to Donald Dew



MAFS Founder Santosh Kumar presenting the Gandhi 150th Medallion to Chief Donald Dew .



MEATF Communications Director Neelam Jaiganesh garlanding Chief Donald Dew.



Rep. Danny Davis with Mrs Kimberly Dew and Donald Dew



Cynthia Prabhakar wife of Dr. VGP honoring Kimberly Dew with a silk shawl.



Chief Donald Dew thanking MEATF & AMEC for this historic honor.



Naperville City Commissioner Shree Gurusamy presenting a bouquet to Kimberly Dew.

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# 9th ANNUAL MEATF & AMEC CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY GALA

**HONORS TOP 20 GLOBAL WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE IN A SCINTILLATING SHOW IN NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS, USA**



**The MEATF & AMEC Top 20 Global women of Excellence 2021 are :**

- 1.Ms. Kamala Harris**  
Vice President  
United States Of America, Washington D.C.
- 2.Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan**  
Honorable Governor of Telangana & Lt. Governor of Puducherry, India
- 3.Ms. Sanna Mirella Marin**  
Prime Minister of Finland, Finland
- 4.Jacinda Kate Laurell Ardern**  
Prime Minister of New Zealand, New Zealand
- 5.Ms. Annetta Wilson**  
Founder & Executive Director  
Sanfoka Safe Child Initiative Inc., Chicago, IL
- 6.Ms. Patricia Eidam**  
Mayor of Lansing, Lansing, IL
- 7.Ms. Kim Foxx**  
Cook County State Attorney, Chicago, IL
- 8.Ms. Mabel Moy**  
Chairperson Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, Chicago, IL
- 9.Ms. Selene Hammon**  
CEO, Maximon Behavioral Health  
Huntington Beach, California
- 10.Ms. Kay Khiwa Rho**  
Executive Director  
Korean Cultural Center of Chicago, IL
- 11.Ms. Jade D Curry**  
Mayor of Lynnwood, Illinois
- 12.Ms Chinta Strausburg**  
Radio Host/ Journalist, Chicago, IL
- 13.Ms. Kristen Prinz**  
Founder & Managing Partner  
The Prinz law Firm, Chicago, IL
- 14.Ms. Mary S Alexander-Basta**  
Mayor of Bolingbrook, Bolingbrook, IL
- 15.Ms. Josina Morita**  
Commissioner Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- 16.Dr Asha Oroskar**  
President & CEO  
Orochem Technologies Inc. Oakbrook, IL
- 17.Ms. Elizeth Arguelles**  
Lead Organizer, #Increase The Peace Little Village Chapter, Chicago, IL
- 18.Ms. Janel L Forde**  
Director of Illinois Central Management Services, Naperville, IL
- 19.Ms Bev Frier**  
Senior Community Activist, Naperville, IL
- 20.Ms Karen Yarbrough**  
Cook County Clerk, Chicago IL

Congressman Danny K Davis's Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force, MEATF and American Multi Ethnic Coalition, AMEC hosted the Ninth Annual Congressional International Women's Day in the Mall of India at Naperville, Illinois. 2021's theme is, "Achieving an equal future in a COVID 19 World". The highlight was celebrating the Top 20 Global Women of Excellence for their pathbreaking achievements.

Dr. VGP at the outset said that this year is especially significant as America has elected its first ever WOMAN Vice President and all of us at MEATF and AMEC have gone all out to make this historic celebration as a global milestone. A giant step for women empowerment, gender parity and gender equality.

Jonathan Brown, Popular Singer and Gauri Yadav, MEATF Students Chair served as the Master of Ceremonies with aplomb and eloquence to honor the Top 20 Global Women in a spectacular awards ceremony which included the Red Carpet, media interviews, dazzling entertainment, gourmet dinner, live telecast and inspiring stories of the honorees. The show stoppers at the sparkling ceremony were two reigning beauty queens, 2020 Friendship Ambassador Jamie Moy and MFA 2020 Runner Up Amy Xie who escorted each honoree to the dais.

A musical prelude by Korean performing Arts Institute Drummer Chansoo Lee set the tone for the celebrations in an elegantly decked up indoor courtyard of the Mall Of India which was transformed for the event by Metro Events, Chicago. The Young Gala Hosts duo Abitha Dhanaraj and Emilio Martinez ushered in the Top 20 Global women of excellence and walked them down the red carpet ramp. The Grand procession started with Dr. Zenobia Sowell, Awards Jury Chair escorting Naperville Commissioner Dr. Vasavi Chakka, who gave the Call To Action, followed by the MEATF Chairman Martino Tangkar escorting MEATF Gala Chair Santosh Kumar. MEATF Youth Chair Tanya Prabhakar escorted U.S. Congressman Danny K Davis to the dais to the accompaniment of

trumpets. The Great Lakes Naval Center Color Guards presented an impressive Guard Of Honor which preceded the powerful solo rendition of the American National Anthem By Renowned Operatic Soprano Marisa Buchhert. Martino Tangkar, MEATF Chairman welcoming the gathering greeted them in Indonesian, "Selamat Datang" and said that this year success is due to the team work, partnership, cooperation and collaboration. Dr. Santosh Kumar, MEATF Gala Chair in her opening remarks noted that it was a refreshing challenge for the Awards Jury members to name 2021 Top 20 Global women of excellence from a record number of 200 nominations received from around the world.

Tanya Prabhakar, MEATF Youth Chair introducing Congressman Danny Davis said that these 20 Global Women of Excellence who are being celebrated today are trailblazing pioneers using passion, indignation and anger to spark real change in the world around them. Congressman Danny Davis presenting the honor to each of the Top 20 Global Women said that women are the largest emerging core group in the world. Collective action and shared ownership for driving gender parity is linked to economic prosperity and therefore women's advancement and leadership are central to business performance and economic prosperity is imperative added Congressman Davis.

Congressman Davis presented the Gandhi King Legacy Award to Donald Dew, CEO of Habilitative Systems Inc, Chicago on the occasion. Dr. Suresh Reddy, President, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin AAPI USA presented the President's Leadership Award 2021 to Dr. Vijay G Prabhakar, Founder MEATF and the President's Community Service Award 2021 to Dr. Santosh Kumar, MAFS Founder at the event. Mrs. Alli Dhanaraj, International Women's Day Celebrations Coordinator proposed a vote of thanks. Ms. Claudia Ong and her dance troupe presented an enchanting Indonesian Dance. Neelam Jai Ganesh of Beautiful Ideas Boutique, Naperville opened the event with a colorful fashion show.

## Kamala Harris

Vice President of the United States



Kamala D. Harris is the Vice President of the United States of America. She was elected Vice President after a lifetime of public service, having been elected District Attorney of San Francisco, California Attorney General, and United States Senator. Vice President Harris was born in Oakland, California to parents who emigrated from India and Jamaica. She graduated from Howard Uni-

versity and the University of California, Hastings College of Law. Vice President Harris and her sister, Maya Harris, were primarily raised and inspired by their mother, Shyamala Gopalan. Gopalan, a breast cancer scientist and pioneer in her own right, received her doctorate the same year Vice President Harris was born. Growing up, Vice President Harris was surrounded by a diverse community and extended family. In 2014, she married Doug Emhoff. They have a large blended family that includes their children, Ella and Cole. Throughout her career, the Vice President has been guided by the words she spoke the first time she stood up in court: Kamala Harris, for the people.

In 1990, Vice President Harris joined the Alameda County District Attorney's Office where she specialized in prosecuting child sexual assault cases. She then served as a managing attorney in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office and later was chief of the Division on Children and Families for the San Francisco City Attorney's Office. She was elected District Attorney of San Francisco in 2003. In that role, Vice President Harris created a ground-breaking program to provide first-time drug offenders with the opportunity to earn a high school degree and find employment. The program was designated as a national model of innovation for law enforcement by the United States Department of Justice.

In 2010, Vice President Harris was elected California's Attorney General and oversaw the largest state justice department in the United States. She established the state's first Bureau of Children's Justice and instituted several first-of-their-kind reforms that ensured greater transparency and accountability in the criminal justice system. In 2017, Vice President Harris was sworn into the United States Senate. In her

first speech, she spoke out on behalf of immigrants and refugees who were then under attack. As a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, she fought for better protections for DREAMers and called for better oversight of substandard conditions at immigrant detention facilities. On the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, she worked with members of both parties to keep the American people safe from foreign threats and crafted bipartisan legislation to assist in securing American elections. She visited Iraq, Jordan, and Afghanistan to meet with servicemembers and assess the situation on the ground. She also served on the Senate Judiciary Committee. During her tenure on the committee, she participated in hearings for two Supreme Court nominees.

As Senator, Vice President Harris championed legislation to reform cash bail, combat hunger, provide rent relief, improve maternal health care, and address the climate crisis as a member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Her bipartisan anti-lynching bill passed the Senate in 2018. Her legislation to preserve Historically Black Colleges and Universities was signed into law, as was her effort to infuse much-needed capital into low-income communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. On August 11, 2020, Vice President Harris accepted President Joe Biden's invitation to become his running mate and help unite the nation. She is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected Vice President, as was the case with other offices she has held.

## Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan

Governor of Telangana & Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, India



A physician-turned-politician, Tamilsai Soundararajan received her MBBS degree from Madras Medical College, Chennai. She also pursued her DGO from Dr. MGR Medical University, Chennai, and a special training in Sonology and FET therapy in Canada. She started her profession by working as an assistant professor in Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai. After five years, she jumped into full-time politics by working for BJP. She started her political career as South Chennai District Medical Wing Secretary in 1999, and held various positions in BJP.

Soundararajan became interested in politics from childhood, having been brought up in a political family. She was elected as a student leader



during her studies at Madras Medical College. Though belonging to a leading, traditionally Congress Party family, she was attracted by BJP ideology and started working full-time for BJP. She served the Tamil Nadu state BJP unit in various capacities starting from South Chennai District Medical Wing Secretary in 1999, State General Secretary Medical Wing in 2001, All India Co-Convener (Medical Wing for Southern States) in 2005, State General Secretary in 2007, State Vice-President in 2010 and elevated as National Secretary, All India BJP in 2013.

Tamilsai Soundararajan is the daughter of a well-known congress leader Kumari Anandhan. Her husband is a Doctor-Professor at Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai. Tamilsai Soundararajan is well known among public in her locality as a physician for about three decades. She has translated a lot of medical and political articles from English to Tamil for major Tamil dailies and weeklies. She is also a main translator in BJP for the speeches of its popular national leaders during their visits to Tamil Nadu. BJP cadres fondly call Tamilsai Soundararajan as "Sushmaji of Tamil Nadu." Mrs Soundararajan has been vocal for women's right and she has supported

the #MeToo movement.

She conducted a very successful programme of Oratory Skills for students and children, which was broadcast in the Tamil Channel "Raj Tv" for more than 10 years which had a very good TRP rating. She conducted a popular weekly programme for women in "Doordarshan" Channel which was aired as Magalir Panchayat (Women's Court) for over 5 years. She participated in several political debates with other political leaders in leading TV Channels including Sun Tv, NDTV, Times Now and various local channels.

**2021 - Dr Tamilsai was given the additional charges of Lt. Governor of Puducherry on 18 February 2021**

**2019 - Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan was appointed the second governor of Telangana state on 8 September 2019**

**2013 - Tamilsai became National Secretary (All India BJP).**

**2010 - Tamilsai was appointed as State Vice-President (Tamil Nadu BJP Parent Body)**

**2007 - Tamilsai became State General Secretary of Tamil Nadu BJP Parent Body**

## Sanna Mirella Marin

Prime Minister of Finland



Sanna Mirella Marin, (born November 16, 1985, Helsinki, Finland), Finnish politician who was the youngest person to serve as prime minister of Finland (2019– ). She became leader of the liberal Social Democratic Party in 2020. Marin was born in Helsinki, but she grew up in Pirkkala, where she graduated from high school in 2004. Her parents separated when she was very young, and she was raised by her mother and her mother's female partner. She later studied administration sciences at the University of Tampere (M.A., 2017). In 2020 Marin married Markus Rääkkönen, with whom she had a daughter (born 2018).

Marin, who worked in a bakery and as a cashier, joined the youth wing of the Social Democratic Party in 2006, and two years later she ran for a seat on the Tampere city council. Although that bid failed, she ran again in 2012 and was elected. She was made the council's chair the following year. Marin remained in that post after she ran successfully for parliament in

2015. Two years later she was chosen as the first deputy leader of the Social Democrats, and she also was reelected to the city council. In the 2019 parliamentary elections she retained her seat, and Antti Rinne, leader of the Social Democrats, became prime minister. He named Marin minister of transport and communications.

However, after Rinne's mishandling of a pay dispute involving the postal service threatened the dissolution of the coalition government, he stepped down, and Marin replaced him as prime minister on December 10, 2019. At the time, 34-year-old Marin was the youngest female head of government in the world. She succeeded Rinne as head of the Social Democratic Party in August 2020. Marin was regarded as one of the more left-leaning members of the party and was admired for her clear thinking and her focus on policy. Her agenda focused on shoring up Finland's social welfare program and on social equality and climate change issues.

## Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister of New Zealand



Jacinda Ardern is the current Prime Minister of New Zealand. She became the youngest female head of state, assuming office on 26 October 2017. She is a member of the NZ Labour Party and describes herself as a social democrat and progressive. She has been praised for her handling of the 2017 Christchurch Mosque shootings and also the NZ response to Covid-19, which saw an early lockdown and limited spread compared to other western economies. She has also sought to raise global awareness for issues such as the environment and human rights. Her leadership style has gained her an international profile much greater than usual for NZ leaders.

Ardern was born in Hamilton, New Zealand on 26 July 1980. She studied at Morrinsville College and later the University of Waikato, where she studied politics and public relations. As a teenager, she described herself as an 'acceptable nerd'. "I was novel, but I never felt ostracised." She became involved in politics from a young age, joining the Labour Party aged 17 and becoming a prominent member of the Young Labour section. After university, she spent six months in New York, volunteering in a soup kitchen and contributing to women's rights campaigning.

In 2008, she was elected President of the International Union of Socialist Youth and spent time in countries around the world. In 2008, she was also elected for the first time to the New Zealand Parliament. A rising star in the Labour Party, she was placed 20th on the party's list and secured a place in parliament. In the 2017 General Election, the Labour Party received 36% of the vote and gained 14 seats. Even though this was short of the National Party on 46%, she was elected Prime Minister through a coalition with the Greens and the New Zealand First Party.

In March 2019, Ardern took early steps to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in New Zealand. New Zealand was one of the earliest countries to force returning travellers into self-isolation and banning large events. Declaring a national emergency on 25 March, she spoke to parliament saying: "From midnight tonight, we bunker down for four weeks to try and stop the virus in its tracks, to break the chain,"

She also announced she and her cabinet would take a 20% pay cut out of solidarity with the economic crisis hitting New Zealand

## Ms. Elizeth Arguelles

Lead Organizer, #Increase The Peace Little Village Chapter, Chicago, IL



Elizeth Arguelles is a first-generation student who graduated from Dominican University in 2020. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus on International Business. Elizeth's entrepreneurial spirit was born from her family's business. Her mother cooks and sells Tamales since 2008. Elizeth has been selling tamales in the Little Village area for more than 10 years.

As someone who grew up undocumented, Elizeth knows the value of resilience and heart. She is the lead organizer of the #IncreaseThePeace Little Village chapter.

In 2020, Elizeth took part in organizing a Relief Fundraiser to support 40+ street vendors with \$500 grants. She also organized a women's drive, food giveaway, Covid 19- protection gear. Furthermore, in January 2022, Elizeth and a team of 4 volunteers accomplished their goal of raising \$11,100. The funds blessed 11 undocumented families in the Little Village area.

## Ms. Josina Morita

Commissioner Metropolitan



Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Josina Wing Morita is a Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Elected in 2016, she is the first Asian American elected to a countywide board in Cook County—the second largest county in the country. As an urban planner and policy advocate, Josina brings expertise in equity policy, land use, stormwater and regional planning. She is the founding chair of the Asian American Leaders Caucus. She sits on the National Blue Ribbon Commission for On-Site Non-Potable Water Systems and the bi-national Great Lakes Commission.

Josina's human rights, racial justice and water justice work has been recognized locally and nationally. In 2007, she was named one of the top 35 leaders under 35 fighting racism and poverty in Chicago by the Community Renewal Society. In 2013, she received the Emerging Leader Award from the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform and the Breaking Barriers Award from the Chicago Foundation for Women. In 2016 she was named one of 50 Young Asian American Stars in Politics by Asian Fortune Magazine. In 2017 she received the Spirit of the River Award and in 2019 she was named #22 of the 40 People Who Made a Difference in the Last 40 Years by Friends of the Chicago River. And in 2018 she was recognized as a National Water Hero by WaterNow. She holds a B.A. in Sociology and International Race Relations from Pitzer College and a Masters in Urban Planning and Public Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago

**Ms. Annetta Wilson**

Founder & Executive Director Sankofa Safe Child Initiative Inc., Chicago, IL



Dr. Annetta Wilson is the Founder and Executive Director of Sankofa Safe Child Initiative, which grew directly out of a grass-root community concern and activism. Sankofa originated from a Town Hall meeting on Adoption, Placement and Parental Rights held on June 18, 1999 by U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis with the National Council of Negro Women Chicago Midwest Section.

Sankofa's mission is to provide trauma informed supportive services, resources & skills that encourage underserved families and communities to be strong, self-sufficient and



remain intact. Her vision is to accomplish the mission is by referring families in crisis to specific community resources such as churches, social service agencies, and health providers that can give meaningful, effective solutions to the urgent needs of our families.

Mrs. Wilson has been working in the child welfare arena for over 23 years and received her Doctorate Degree of the Letter September 28, 2013. She is an innovative, energetic leader in her community and throughout the state of Illinois and is an inspiration to those who work with her and who are the recipients of her vision. Congressman Danny K. Davis appointed her as Chair to his 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Child Welfare Task Force, She has worked tirelessly addressing the question, "Why are there so many African American children in the child welfare/juvenile systems?" To address those issues, Mrs. Wilson has convened conferences, forums and hearings along with child welfare brain trusts at the Congressional Black

Caucus and throughout the United States. Mrs. Wilson has painted a portrait of a woman founded in civil issues, social justice, spirituality and family.

**AWARDS:**

- Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition "Loretta Lacy Advocacy Award"
- Illinois Department of Public Health in "Appreciation of dedicated Service to the HIV Prevention Comment Planning Group in Illinois"
- National Association of Black Socials "Social Worker of the Year Award"
- National Council of Negro Women "Advocacy Award"
- North Langdale Symphony of Services Community of Care "Develop of Youth Programs Award"
- Westside Community Development Corporation "Leadership Development Award"

**Ms. Mabel Moy**

Chairperson Chicago Chinatown



MABEL MOY - Born in Hong Kong, parents were born in Shanghai, China. Four Seasons Travel- Manager of a full service travel agency in Chicago Chinatown since 1986.

**AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce - Chairman of the Board 2020-Present  
 Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce - President 2018-2020  
 IL. State Treasurer's Asian Advisory Council - Member 2017 - Present



Chicago Moys Family Association / Women's League - Senior Advisor 1985 - Present  
 AACC 2016 Community Service Award - Recipient  
 Unity 2013 Chinese New Year of Greater Chicago - General Coordinator  
 Asian American Advisory Board of Senator Mark Kirk - Board member  
 Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission of ROC - Advisor  
 Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce - President 2009-2010  
 National Women's League of ROC in Chicago - Executive Director 2010  
 International Airlines Travel Agents Network - Member  
 Chinese Women's Club of Chicago - Advisor,

Former President  
 Chinese Women's League in Chicago - Board Director  
 Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce - Director  
 Chinese American Service League - Former Director  
 Chicago Chinese Community Center - Former Director  
 Chicago Women's League of Moy's Association - Founder, Former President and Advisor  
 Overseas Women's Association of Taishan City, Guangdong Province - Advisor  
**AWARDS**  
 Asian American Women in Small Business - Recipient  
 Asian American Hall of Fame 2009 - Recipient



## Ms. Selene Hammon

CEO, Maximon Behavioral Health  
Huntington Beach, California



As an Founding Partner and CEO for the Maximon Behavioral Health, I have held numerous executive roles in varying psychiatric care delivery environments where I received high recognition and awards for my work in financial turn-around, growth and quality improvement. My experience also includes direct involvement in shaping mental health public policy changes in the State of Texas, serving as past Chair of the Texas Council Quality Management Consortium from 2006 to 2010. In 2016, I was appointed to sit on the Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Committee which is comprised of key elected officials, law enforcement, and community leaders in Dallas County focusing on the behavioral health care needs



in the area. I have also served in various Boards throughout my career focusing on addressing the social determinants of health for the vulnerable behavioral health population.

CEO/Founding Partner, Maximon Behavioral Health; Huntington Beach CA Development of strategic vision to ensure continued growth and success of the company through effective executive oversight and operational initiatives. Responsible for the successful development and implementation of behavioral health management contracts in acute care hospitals across the country to include inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services. Set strategic direction in each market resulting in significant EBITDA for each hospital.

CEO, Dallas Behavioral Healthcare

Hospital; Dallas County TX – 2015-2019 Achieved significant EBITDA performance resulting in a 9MM turn-around; the largest turn-around in the company's history. Received three company awards for highest financial performer, most improved outpatient services and most improved clinical services. CEO and COO, El Paso Behavioral Health System; El Paso County TX– 2010-2015 Executive oversight of large inpatient acute free-standing behavioral health hospital holding 163 beds and multiple outpatient locations providing services to children, adolescents, adults, rehab/detox, and geriatric population ensuring financial, clinical and regulatory goals were met. Achieved highest profit margin of 52% in the history of the hospital.

## Ms. Kay Khiwa Rho

Executive Director  
Korean Cultural Center of Chicago, IL



Kay Kihwa Rho has a strong, deep history as a committed executive and community leader of the Chicago metropolitan area. Her professional background includes work as a Systems Engineer for Rockwell International and an Application Specialist in Education for Accenture. She oversaw operations as a managing director at ioTrio Co. for 8 years, and from 2015-2017 she served as Executive Director for the Global Children Foundation.

Ms. Rho is currently the Executive Director of the Korean Cultural Center of Chicago (KCCoC). KCCoC is the leading desti-



nation where all people can participate in programs celebrating Korean culture and heritage. Under her leadership, Ms. Rho has significantly grown KCCoC's organizational capacity, including securing a major \$600,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities under her leadership.

Ms. Rho has also been actively involved with the Asian American Coalition of Chicago (AACC), an organization that promotes equal opportunity in government, education, economic development, and international affairs to increase Asian American involvement in Chicago's civic leadership. With the AACC, Ms. Rho chaired multiple events that helped to raise the profile of the Asian American experi-

ence to a broader community as well as honored notable public officials, including State's Attorney Anita Alvarez and former Governor of Illinois Pat Quinn.

Ms. Rho has been recognized for her commitment to community through awards from Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and Asian America organizations. Ms. Rho was born in Korea and moved to the United States nearly 4 decades ago and has resided in the Chicagoland area for the past 24 years. She graduated from Cleveland State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Information Science, and also holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Drama & Theater from Dong-Guk University in Seoul, Korea. She earned an MBA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Ms. Patricia Eidam**

Mayor of Lansing, Lansing, IL



Mayor Patty Eidam moved to Lansing in 1979 when she was hired as Lansing's first full-time female police officer/paramedic. She and her husband Bud have been married 37 years and have 3 children and two grandsons. She has served as a Director of L.A.C.E (Lansing Association for Community Events) and is a two-time Lansing Volunteer of the Year award winner (Lan-



sing Historical Society in 2007 and Lansing Junior Woman's Association in 2012). Mayor Eidam is also past President and Vice-President of the Lansing Historical Society. She spearheaded and chaired Lansing's very successful public art project 'Tri Motors in Plane View' in 2006. In 2007, she received the prestigious ATHENA Leadership Award, presented annually to an individual who is honored for

professional excellence, community service, and leadership skills. From 2001 to 2009 Mayor Eidam served as a Village Trustee and then as Village Clerk from 2009 to 2013. She served as Village Trustee again from 2015 to 2017. She was elected as Lansing's first female mayor in 2017. She is also a proud military veteran having served as a military intelligence analyst in the United States Army

**Dr Asha Oroskar**

President & CEO Orochem Technologies Inc. Oakbrook, IL



Dr. Asha Oroskar co-founded Orochem Technologies Inc. in 1996 in her home in Oak Brook, Illinois. Prior to starting Orochem, she worked at Nunc, now Thermo-Scientific Nalgene Inc. as part of a team that develop the membrane bottom filter plates and the molecular biology medical devices which evolved into a significant focus for Nalgene Nunc. At Orochem Technologies, her focus was to develop innovative value-added high throughput devices to serve the Biotech and the Bioanalytical industry. Her first product at



Orochem was a high-throughput synthesis 96-well plate for Oligonucleotide Synthesis. This oligo synthesis plate became an industry-standard format, and led to the implementation in leading Oligo houses of the 384-well Oligo Synthesis format. Asha was one of the leading entities to integrate depth prefilters into high-throughput filter plates, a concept first introduced by Orochem into the diagnostic community, and now routinely used for DNA extraction from human tissue samples in the identification of infectious agents. With a focus on prob-

lem solving, Asha was the first to develop a protein-precipitation filter-plate concept for carrying out sample clean-up in bioanalytical samples. Matching Technology and Products to Needs, and building capabilities, all the way for Orochem to become vertically integrated is a key strength, Asha brings to every aspect of work at Orochem. A scientist by training, an innovator by experience and a business woman by nature, Asha brings together all the qualities needed to bring innovative products to market rapidly and make them successful.

**Ms Chinta Strausberg**

Radio Host/ Journalist, Chicago, IL



Ms Chinta Strausberg is a journalist, a producer and host of WVON's "On The Case" show, reporter, Chicago Crusader, editor-in-chief for the 3:16 Magazine, TV talk show host Chinta Strausberg is the Communications Coordinator, Rainbow Push from 2016. A Writer and renowned journalist that covered Chicago Mayor Harold Washington exclusively for The Defender newspaper, then served as Press Chief to Cook County Board President Todd Stroger.



**Ms. Jada D Curry**

Mayor of Lynwood, Illinois



Jada D. Curry, MA,PHR is Owner and Chief Recruiting Specialist for Education Recruiting

Specialists, a full service, search firm that also offers Human Resources consulting. Education Recruiting Specialists prides itself on being a well-respected HR firm that believes in cultivating meaningful relationships with every client. We nurture these relationships by taking the time to fully understand the culture of the organization and creating customized solutions. ERS is committed to seeking out diverse talent, coaching, training, and helping organizations maximize the potential of their human capital.

Mrs. Curry has spent her entire life nurturing and cultivating relationships in both her personal and professional worlds. Prior to stepping out on faith and forming ERS, Mrs. Curry spent 15 years working for one of the world's leading providers of early childhood and educational enrichment programs for children. For six of those years she held a variety of operations roles. It was in the last nine years that she discovered her passion for the field of Human Resources, specifically Talent Acquisition. Upon joining the Talent Acquisition team, she began the journey of understanding the needs of others and helping to connect great people with a great organization. As the Program Manager for the Talent Acquisition team she spearheaded several major events that included staffing the largest contract signed in company

history in less than 30 days and revamping the field-based training model to ensure that it better matched the needs of a new leader. She left behind a legacy of operating in the spirit of excellence, challenging others to step outside of their comfort zones and she set the standard for hiring top talent.

Mrs. Curry earned her Associate of Arts from South Suburban College. She went on to earn a Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from Governors State University. She holds an LBS1 teachers license as well as a PHR certification from the HR Certification Institute. Mrs. Curry is currently a Trustee for the Village of Lynwood. Prior to that she spent 6 years on the Board of Education for Sunnybrook School District 171 where she served as Board President for her last 2 years. She is also the President of the YWCA Early Headstart Advisory Board. Jada is a member of Living Grace Church in Lynwood, IL. where she also sits on the Board of Trustees. Perhaps her greatest title held is that of wife and mother. She enjoys being married to a law enforcement officer and considers it an honor to be a Police Wife. She is the mother of a 26-year-old daughter who is currently a Teacher and History Department Chair and a 15-year-old son who is a sophomore in high school.

**Ms. Janel L Forde**

Director of Illinois Central



Janel L. Forde is the Director of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS). CMS is the operational engine enabling the State's more than 80 agencies, boards, and commissions to deliver efficient, reliable services to all Illinois residents. CMS oversees administrative services for Illinois' executive agencies with an annual budget of nearly \$8 billion. These services include human resources, benefits for employees and retirees, facilities management, diversity leadership for public contracting and State hiring, joint purchasing coordination, fleet management, surplus property administration, communications services, internal audits, and administrative hearings.

At CMS, Ms. Forde has focused on expanding and improving administration and operational outcomes through a program called Rapid Results. The program builds the leadership and management skills that enable State executive agencies to continuously improve service processes internally, by identifying and eliminating waste and building service value to the end customer. Rapid Results, to date, has trained more than 2,400 State employees in 35 agencies. These agencies together have identified and eliminated unnecessary costs totaling some \$14 million each year, while

capturing and reallocating more than 800,000 hours of previously wasted time, annually. Before entering the public sector, Ms. Forde worked as a consultant in the Boston Consulting Group's Chicago office, where she specialized in the financial services and operations sectors. Originally an East Coast native, Janel worked in marketing and business development at American Express, and as a consultant with Roland Berger Strategy Consultants, all in New York.

She previously served on the boards of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Continuum of Care. In 2020, she was named the National Association of State Chief Administrator's (NASCA) Walton Leadership Award recipient as well one of Ariel Investments/WVON's Chicago's 40 Game Changers. She holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, where she became a Toigo Fellow, and a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Economics with a dual concentration in Marketing and Management from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Forde lives in Chicago and enjoys traveling, baking, and all types of arts and crafts.

**Ms. Kristen Prinz**

Founder & Managing Partner



Kristen Prinz is an employment lawyer, business counselor, and founder of The Prinz Law Firm. Ms. Prinz represents business owners, senior executives, lawyers, and physicians in matters ranging from employment agreements and non-competes to complex employment disputes. She is passionate about advocating for her clients' interests and helping them achieve outcomes consistent with their professional goals. Ms. Prinz provides clients with innovative and cost-effective solutions to their legal and operational problems, enabling them to fully realize their potential. She has leveraged her litigation and culture management experience to guide clients in implementing employment best practices, effectively training staff, and creating a productive workplace culture. Ms. Prinz has litigated employment law matters before state and federal courts at the trial and appellate level; administrative agencies including the EEOC, the Illinois Department of Human Rights and the Cook County Human Rights Commission; and numerous arbitration panels. She has obtained a multi-million dollar verdict for a client on defamation and retaliatory discharge claims.

Ms. Prinz has had numerous

successes drafting, enforcing and defeating restrictive covenants in Illinois. Her appellate experience includes helping to advance the law related to non-competition agreements in Illinois by successfully arguing a case before the Third District Appellate Court, defeating a mandatory arbitration provision in the Second District, and successfully protecting a retaliation claim before the Second District. Ms. Prinz also successfully limited the applicability of a general release of claims in an employee's background check on appeal in Indiana.

Ms. Prinz is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago, the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the National Employment Lawyers Association. She is President-Elect of The International Women's Forum, Chicago Chapter and serves on the board of the National Sleep Foundation.

Ms. Prinz was selected for inclusion in Crain's Chicago Business' List of 50 Most Influential Female Attorneys, and has been named a Leading Lawyer by Leading Lawyers, as well as a Super Lawyer for 2020. Kristen received her J.D. with honors from IIT Chicago Kent College of Law and a B.A. in English from the University of Iowa.

**Ms Bev Frier**

Senior Community Activist, Naperville, IL



**Honors Received**

2007 – Received honorary recognition from DePauw University for Community Service.  
 2011 – Was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chamber of Commerce.  
 2014 – Honored with the My Fair Lady award from the Center Stage Theatre  
 2016 – Woman of the Month – Women in Business Naperville Chamber of Commerce  
 Woman of the Month – Naperville Country Club  
 2017 – The Paul Harris award by the Rotary



**Club.**

**Current Affiliations**  
 1952 Member of Naperville Country Club – Bill Frier member  
 1966 Naperville Chamber of Commerce. Emeritus Board Member  
 1966 Interlochen Center for the Arts, Interlochen, Michigan– Emeritus Board  
 1967 Naperville Country Club – Husband joined in 1952.  
 1975 Martin Manor – Board - 2019 Advisory

**Board Member**

1984 Glades Country Club - Naples, Florida.  
 1999 Founding member of Omnia Performing Arts Center.  
 2010 Member of United Flying Octogenarians  
 2014 Founding Co-Chair of City of Naperville Senior Task Force – 2019 Advisor  
 2016 Founding Co-Chair of RAN – Ride Assist Naperville – 2019 Advisor  
 2016 Advisory Council for Benedictine University  
 2017 Advisory Council for Loaves and Fishes

**Ms. Mary S Alexander-Basta**

Mayor of Bolingbrook, Bolingbrook, Illinois



The Basta family are very involved in service to the Bolingbrook community, and can be seen at many community events. Mary states that she was strongly influenced toward community involvement by her parents. Both her mother and her uncle now live in Bolingbrook, as well. Because of her passion for youth development, Mary currently serves on the Executive Board of the Bolingbrook Soccer Club, which recently celebrated its 40th year of service to youth in Bolingbrook in 2018. Mary's dedication to youth development has led her to support the school community as President of the John F. Kennedy PTA, President of the Plainfield Middle Schools Music Boosters, and prior to that as PTA President at Eichelberger Elementary School. She continues to serve as a consultant ECN Children's Cancer Network in Newport Beach, CA,



coordinating fundraising events and creating new chapters in other states. Additionally, she maintains the organization's legal registration status and works with auditors to ensure accurate financial reporting. Her community service is not limited to only youth, Mary previously served as President of the Bloomfield West II Homeowners Association. Mary served as the Chair of the Bolingbrook Plan Commission, which reviews new residential and commercial development in Bolingbrook and makes recommendations to the Village Board.

Mary and her husband, Dr. Emad Basta, moved to Bolingbrook in November 2003. They are parents of two sons, Peter (16) and Benjamin (14). Bolingbrook was their choice, because of its diversity, its opportunities to serve and for all of the amenities that others have also found attractive about the community. While she found

her career challenging and satisfying, she and her husband also wanted to raise a family here. Since a position in the hospitality industry was not a nine to five job, she left the corporate world to start a family. As her children grew, Mary found herself seeking more adult interaction, so she looked for ways to get involved, which led her to serving in the PTA. In all of her activities, both professional and community service, Mary enjoys problem-solving; finding ways to work smarter, not harder; and to take them to the next level of success. Mary has received recognition as the recipient of the CAPE (Coordination of Parent and groups for Educational Efficiency) in 2013, 2017 and 2019. In honor of her exemplary service to the Bolingbrook community over the years, Mary was chosen as the 2018 Bolingbrook Female Citizen of the Year.

Ms Karen Yarbrough

Cook County Clerk, Chicago IL



Karen Yarbrough is an American politician currently serving as Cook County Clerk. Elected on November 6, 2018, she is the first female and African American to hold the position. Yarbrough previously served as Cook County Recorder of Deeds from 2012 to 2018 and as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives from 2001 to 2013. She became the interim Chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois after long-time chair

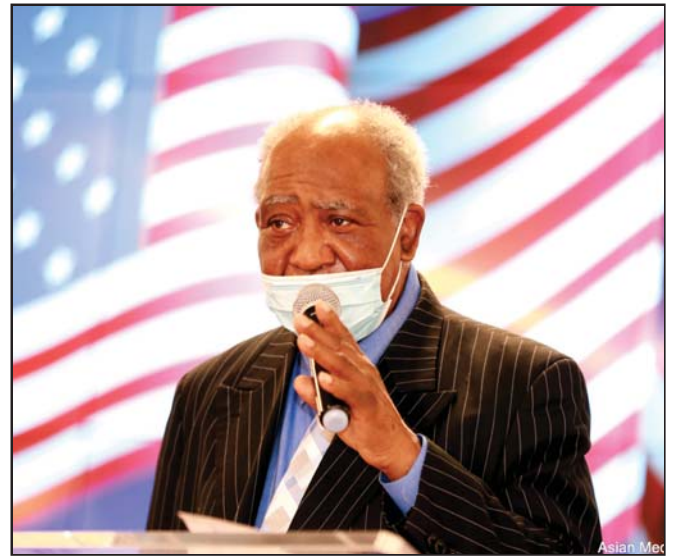
Michael Madigan resigned from the position on February 22, 2021. Yarbrough earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Chicago State University, a master's in Inner City Studies from Northeastern Illinois University and attended non-degree executive education at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. Yarbrough is the founder and CEO of Hathaway Insurance Agency, where she has worked for thirty years.

Yarbrough has served as president of the Maywood Chamber of Commerce, and on the boards of United Way of Suburban Chicago and the Oak Park YMCA. Yarbrough's father, Don Williams, is an insurance agent and former village president of the Village of Maywood. She is married to Henderson Yarbrough, Sr., a current Maywood village trustee and former Maywood village president. They have seven grandchildren

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U.S. CONGRESSMAN DANNY K DAVIS



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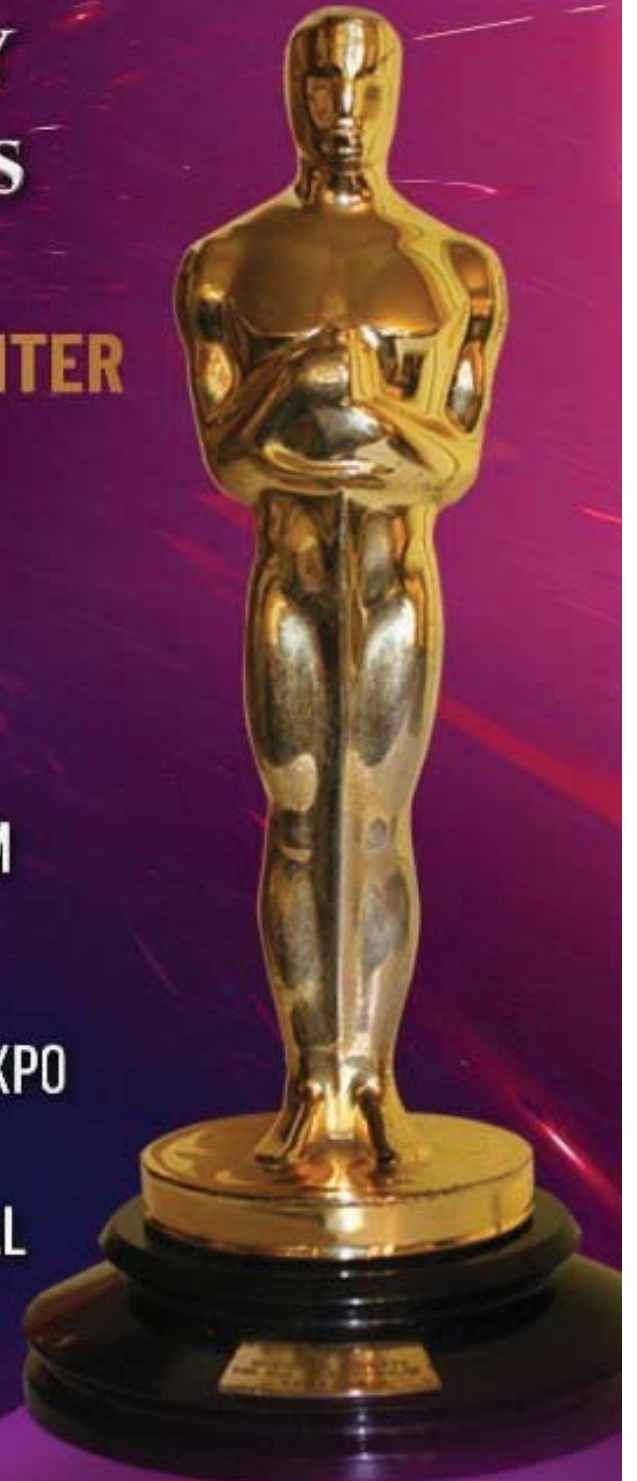
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# NEW INDIA ON THE TRANSFORMATION PATH

*The Country, which was relying on destiny for decades, is now on the path of Progress by way of inclusive development and use of technology....*



**Our ideology is for the benefit of the country. We have grown up with the same ideology that talks about Nation First. It is our ideology that we are taught the lesson of politics in the languages of national Policy. In our politics also national policy is paramount. We have to accept on the these-politics also national policy. Our values teach us to accept national policy and keep politics at second number. We are proud that our ideology talks about 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', which is the mantra that we also live by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

If the 20th century was shaped by political superpowers, the 21st century will be led by technology superpowers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi built a roadmap for the technological development which provided an impetus to good governance in India. India's rapid development not only surprised the global community but also raised the country's stature at various international platforms. It is due to the

efficient use of technology that the country continued to move forward even during the Corona pandemic. Despite the lockdown, the poor were able to get their entitlements easily. In dealing with this disaster, a country with a dense population like India, set up such a health infrastructure that the country set a record in the first wave of Corona. Now that the second wave took a terrible turn, the Central Government once

again gave the mantra of 'Jaan hai toh Jahan hai' making it clear that saving lives is its topmost priority. Better use of technology in this work has provided quick results.

The importance of technology in the new century can also be gauged from the fact that for the first time in the country, the benefits of government schemes are reaching directly to even the most marginalised sections of the society. Science and technology have become such an important tool in India's development that projects ranging from administrative reforms, power, rail reforms, curbing corruption, tax transparency, one nation-one tax through GST, Skill India, Startup India, Digital India, initiatives for farmers and women, changes in the field of education to defence modernisation and realisation of projects which were stalled for over decades is all becoming possible now.

A look at the various projects completed in the last few years set a new benchmark for development. Who would have thought that a place like Ladakh, with temperature of -30 degree Celsius, could have access to tap water? Construction of Bogibeel Bridge on the Brahmaputra River could be completed in record time? Who would have thought the work on the Atal tunnel which was delayed for over 26 years could have been completed in the last six years? Who would have thought resources like LPG, electricity and roads available in every village could be made possible in the last few years? Who would have thought the country could be made open defecation free by constructing over 11 Crore toilets? Who would have thought that 40 Crore poor citizens could be brought under the network of banking facilities by opening bank accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana? Who would have thought the country can provide universal healthcare by providing free treatment of up to Rs 5 Lakh to more than 50 Crore

**The role of technology in shaping modern society is undeniable which not only impacts our personal and professional lives but also acts as a catalyst for the conduct of diplomacy and guiding the economies of the world**

Decisiveness in framing policies, taking quick action for development, empathy for the villages and poor, progressing through promoting technologies and improvement in the living standard are the barometer of India's new success model

people under a scheme like Ayushman Bharat? The debt-ridden farmers can be rid of their debts through the Samman Nidhi scheme? School children can create unique innovations and compete globally who could imagine? Youth of the country can turn job creators through schemes such as Startup India who could think that? Bodo and Bru-Reang agreements can be fructified to bring peace and stability in the northeast? That for the first time, Sikkim can emerge on the aviation map of India? That Article 370 can be abolished? That Triple Talaq can be banned? Or can the work on Ram Temple be started in an atmosphere of peace and harmony? Can a leadership connect the country's masses by instilling the mantra of AatmaNirbhar Bharat amid a disaster like Corona? Through the Uri surgical strike or Balakot airstrike, India signalled shedding its soft state image. There are scores of examples where the Government has taken apt and decisive actions keeping in view India's long-term interest.

**A NEW DAWN FOR INDIA**

An ambition to give impetus to economic development is being facilitated by the robust mechanism of good governance that gives importance to consensus rather than a majoritarian point of view. The idea of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' has emerged as the driving force behind all the development initiatives. The country has set an ambitious target of freeing the country from poverty, filth, corruption, terrorism, casteism, and communalism before we commemorate the 75th year of our Independence. Reflecting upon his idea of a New India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi says, "New India means building a nation of dreams which fire the imagination of the youth comprising 65 per cent of the population below 35 years of age. It envisages a country of empowered women. A new India which inspires the

poor of the country to seek opportunities to do something for the country rather than seeking benefits. The poor in the country has renounced the parochial minds of liking somebody in return for some gain. Now the poor want to prove their mettle on their own through sweat and toil, for which they only require opportunities. This is the foundation of New India."

**TECHNOLOGY- THE BASIS OF OUR NATIONAL POLICY**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi belongs to that school of thought which tries to solve the problems with the apt solutions. Due to the untiring efforts of Prime Minister the good governance is being facilitated by increasing the use of technology. The digital transactions in the country got a boost with the demonetisation. India is among the handful of countries that is giving priority to its technological policies with an eye on the future. Among the various sectors where technology has made an impact is agriculture. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being promoted to reduce poverty, improving the lives of farmers and facilitating efforts to make the lives of specially-abled people easier. Prime Minister's emphasis is to encourage more and more people to become entrepreneurs who can be job creators instead of job seekers. In this regard, GST has emerged as a game-changer as it brought the freelancers and service providers under its ambit. The Government aims to 'Cultivate one Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators' through Atal Innovation Mission and Atal Tinkering Labs. It is due to the rising impact of digital technology that salaries are now directly transferred to bank accounts and through other digital payment modes instead of paying in cash. The Government's various initiatives to promote digital technology are encouraging employers to reorient their



The Indian demography is also favourably disposed towards it as half of its population is below 27 years of age which can play a significant role in building a New India

employment services terms and conditions. Labour reforms are aimed at taking the country on the path of fast progress.

**FAVOURABLE TIME FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**

India has set very ambitious and voluntary renewable power capacity targets to promote renewable energy in the country. India took a leading role in shaping the Paris Climate Agreement and launching the International Solar Alliance. India is among the very few nations which have continuously improved its Global Innovation Index and it has reached the 48th spot. During last few years annual per capita income has risen between Rs 78,000 to Rs 1.25 Lakh. The trend of

negative agriculture growth rate has been reversed, the number of income taxpayers has more than doubled. The pace of construction of national highways improved from 12 to 37 km per day. Besides, rural road construction improved from 70 to 130 km per day. The electrification of rail lines has crossed from 3,000 kms to over 13,000 kms. Enhancing electricity generation capacity, laying an extensive network of optical fibres, and promoting financial inclusion which reached 99.6 per cent has resulted in high FDI inflow to the country and a jump in the various growth indexes. India has improved its Ease of Doing Business Ranking from 142 in 2014 to 63 presently. In the World Bank Electricity Accessibility Ranking India has jumped from 99th spot in 2014 to 26th spot in 2018. In the Global Competitiveness Index India improved its ranking from 71 to 58 in a very short span of time whereas in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index India improved its ranking from 65 to 34. Strong and responsible leadership is also taking timely decisions enabling fast progress. During the adverse times of Corona, the Government is taking every possible step to mitigate the crisis. This is also a test of India's resilience. It has been proven time and again that when India wholeheartedly resolves to reach a target, then it pulls every stop to achieve it. This is also one of the key lessons of our independence struggle. A poem of those times by one of the most respected literary personalities of the country Sohan Lal Dwivedi which was dedicated to the entire freedom movement and Mahatma Gandhi highlights this national trait of 'Unity is Strength'.





TRANSFORMATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

After a wait of 5 decades  
**KOLLAM BYPASS**  
in Kerala sees the light of the day

“When we construct flyovers and roads then we not only connect cities with villages but also bridge desires with achievements, hope with opportunity, and expectations with happiness.”



Projects which are long overdue get a boost

There is a long list of many much-awaited projects which have been completed in last few years. It includes a much-sought refinery in Barmer, long-overdue projects for 56 years such as Sardar Patel Sarovar Dam or 65 years delayed Bansagar project and 16-year-old Bogibeel bridge project in Assam. In the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who said now the culture of ‘obstruction, delaying and wandering’ has come to an end.

These words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of the Kollam bypass in Kerala on January 15, 2019, are reflective of new found wisdom and zeal in giving a fresh thrust to the road infrastructure projects in the country. Kollam bypass is symbolic of all other delayed development

projects that were long overdue for several decades because of the apathy of the earlier governments. This thirteen and a half kilometer-long bypass reduces the distance between Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram. This project was completed in 2019.

**HALDIA - VARANASI WATERWAYS**  
TAPPING THE VAST POTENTIAL OF INLAND WATERWAYS IN EASTERN INDIA

In the past, the Indian rivers could be easily spotted with a big fleet of ships. But in post-independent India, the development of water infrastructure faced negligence but now the scenario is improving with Government's initiative



**GOODS BECOME CHEAPER WITH FREIGHT RATES COMING DOWN**

Haldia - Varanasi waterways has become the harbinger in transforming the inland water infrastructure which has benefitted most part of Eastern India promoting extensive development in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal

The start of the waterways facility between Varanasi to Haldia has slashed the transportation cost drastically. The plans to turn Haldia into a multi-modal terminal are also on the cards. In the future, it is envisaged to connect the waterways with Bangladesh

HALDIA - VARANASI WATERWAYS	
Length: <b>1,390</b> kilometres	Expense: <b>Rs 4,200</b> Crore
As part of the trial run, a consignment of Maruti cars was transported from Varanasi to Haldia in August 2016	

Today there are 111 waterways as compared to just 5 in 2014 having a length of 20,275 km spread over 24 states



TRANSFORMATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY



**MAKING AIR TRAVEL ACCESSIBLE FOR THE COMMON MAN**

“My aim is to make people wearing 'hawai-chappal' fly in a 'hawai-jahaz'”

- This remarkable slogan highlights Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dedication towards ensuring air travel accessible to the common citizens of the country by bringing down the airfares. In a short span of time his vision has turned into a reality as the common citizens are able to take flights at a price as low as Rs 2,500
- Under the Udan scheme, the aim is to provide affordable air travel to everyone. Surprisingly the average cost of travel by flights would come down to Rs 5 per kilometre under this ambitious scheme whereas even travel by taxi costs Rs 10 per kilometre in India
- An hour-long air journey of 500 km by a fixed-wing aircraft or a half an hour journey by a helicopter has been capped at Rs 2,500 only

- Under this scheme so far an estimated 53 Lakh people have undertaken air flights for Rs 2,500
- Now plans are afoot to connect 1,000 air routes in the country which will enable one Crore travellers to take flights
- At present, through the 5 heliports, 53 airports and 2 water aerodromes the air services are operational in over 303 routes
- The helicopter and seaplane services have been also brought under the ambit of the Udan scheme. Eleven operators are facilitating cheaper flights to the Udan air travellers
- The scheme envisages starting 1,000 new air routes and operationalising as many as 100 airports
- The work is also in progress to overhaul the aviation infrastructure by adding 30 new heliports and 10 water aerodromes for sea-planes
- India's first seaplane service between Ahmedabad and Kevadia in Gujarat was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year

**BOGIBEEL BRIDGE: BOGIBEEL BRIDGE:**

**A promising future for Assam**

The completion of the Bogibeel bridge signals India's growing technological prowess in developing infrastructure projects which is emerging as the driving force in scripting India's growth story. There are a plethora of success stories from across the country be it the East, the Northeast or the South. The Bogibeel bridge in Assam has become the country's longest rail and road bridge whereas the Pamban sea bridge in the South which connects Rameswaram to Mandapam in Tamil Nadu has re-established India's technological dominance and expertise.

**4.94**

kilometres-long bridge between Dhemaji and Dibrugarh districts has cut short the distance from 500 km to 100 km which earlier used to take a travel time of 24 hours. The demand for the Bogibeel bridge was being raised since 1965. For the completion of this project 30 Lakh sacks of cement have been used which includes constructing 39 girder spans of 125 metres in length. This is a one of its kind project completed by the Indian Railways in the recent past which highlights its technological

**Rs. 5,900**

Crore has been spent on building this rail-cum-road bridge which consists of a double railway line in the lower deck and a three-lane road network in the upper deck through which even heavy military tanks can pass easily

**PAMBAN SEA BRIDGE:**

**A fresh impetus to the development of Tamil Nadu**



The under-construction new Pamban sea bridge in Tamil Nadu will replace the previous 105-year-old bridge which is expected to be completed by December this year. This is the country's first Vertical Lift Railway Sea Bridge which has been built using the Span technology

The Pamban sea bridge will not only just allow the fast movement of trains but also enable them to carry more freights. Every year Lakhs of tourists visit Rameshwaram and Dhanushkodi which is expected to get a further boost with the coming up of the Pamban bridge



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PATENT PENDING TECHNOLOGY

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# Citizens Action Alliance for Behavioral Health's Town Hall Meeting for Behavioral Health Providers






## CITIZENS ACTION ALLIANCE FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

### TOWN HALL MEETING For Behavioral Health Providers in Chicagoland

Theme: Race To Increase Funding For Behavioral Health In Chicagoland

Friday April 9 : 12 Noon to 4 PM : Naren Patel Auditorium, Medstar Laboratories, Hillside, IL 60162










### PROGRAM

**MODERATOR:** AMBASSADOR TWIN GREEN, C.E.O, The Link & Option Center, South Holland, IL  
**12 Noon: OPENING SESSION: SELF INTRODUCTION OF ALL PARTICIPANTS**  
**WORD OF WELCOME:** CONGRESSMAN DANNY K DAVIS  
**GREETINGS:** NEAL PATEL, CEO, MEDSTAR LABORATORIES  
**Opening Remarks:** Dr Tariq Butt, President, Chicago Medical Society & CAABH Chairman  
**Call To Action:** Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, 8th District - Illinois  
**Dazzling with the Stars:** Vince Grzeticz, Vice President, MEDSTAR Laboratories Inc.  
**W.H.O Day Update 2021:** Dr Vijay Prabhakar, Founder Chair, MEATF & CAABH President  
**Behavioral Health in Digital Age:** Ramesh Nagul, Chief Product Officer, ENSOFTEK Inc.  
**Gandhi King Summit Report:** Dr Mrs Santosh Kumar, Executive Director, MAFS  
**12.45pm - 1.30pm : LUNCH**  
**1.30PM - 3.00pm : Behavioral Health Providers Speakout...**

- Dr. D. Lustig, President & CEO , Haymarket Center
- Teresa Garate, Senior Vice President, Gateway Foundation
- Jae Myung Lee, Director of Family Wellness and Operations, Hanul Family Alliance
- Jeff Blythe, Vice President, Counseling and Youth Development Services
- Neli Rowland, Co-Founder, A SAFE HAVEN FOUNDATION
- Wanda Parker, Vice President of Clinical and Therapeutic Services, Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness
- Sherifat O. Olowopopo-Hardrick, Int. Sr. Director of Clinical, Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc.
- Carrie Patch, National Advocacy and Public Policy Assistant, National Youth Advocate Program, Inc.
- M Carmen Gonzalez-DJangi, Clinical Director of Behavioral Health
- Brandi Jackson, Director of Integrative Behavioral Health, Howard Brown Health
- Dalia GALVAN MORALES, Director, Community Engagement, Heartland Health Center
- Chirag Raval, Medical Director of Case Management Program, Edward Hines Jr. VA Medical Center
- Eric Lindstrom, Director of Programs, Asian Human Services
- Rashad K. Saafir, President/CEO, Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center, Inc.
- Joanna Trask, Director of Behavioral Health, PCC Community Wellness Center
- Alex Sierra, Psychiatry Intake and Crisis Manager, Saint Anthony Hospital
- Greg Lee, Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health, Pillars Community Health
- Jackie Glass , Director, Hartgrove Hospital, Chicago
- Charles Levy, Director , West Garfield Hospital, Chicago
- Erin Brumfield Grima, MS, LCPC, LPHA, Director of Behavioral Health, Pioneer Center for Human Services
- Kelly J. Epperson, J.D., Sr. Vice President and General Counsel, Rosecrance Health Network
- Ashley Ice, LCSW, Behavioral Health Director, National Youth Advocate Program Inc.
- Albert Johnson, Dir. Business Development, New Life K.N.E.W Solutions
- Bruce Spraggins/ Syed Quadri, Medical Stabilization/ Crisis Worker, Saint Anthony Hospital
- Dr James Miller, Internal Medicine, Rush Presbyterian Hospital & Mount Sinai
- Dr ABDEL FAHMY, Co Founder, Soft Landings Lab

**3.00pm - 3.30pm: Floor Open for Comments & Discussion**  
**3.30 pm: Congressman's Response : REP DANNY K DAVIS,**  
 Chair, Worker & Family Support S.C ;U.S House Ways & Means Committee  
**4.00pm : Adjournment**

<https://youtu.be/OV557KWCXsg>

Very few periods over the course of modern history have tested our resilience and shaped humanity, culture and politics the way 2020 has. From a global health pandemic, racial injustice and an increasingly volatile climate to complex geopolitics, the impact of 2020 will be felt for decades to come. Experts predict that Behavioral Health Crisis will pose the gravest challenge to America in 2030.

On 26th February 2021, a network of Concerned Citizens, Elected Officials, and Behavioral Health Providers came to work together towards creating greater awareness of the challenges of the issues surrounding service delivery while striving to improve and increase the behavioral health resources in our communities at the Gandhi King Legacy Roundtable Summit.

**This Summit resolved to form a Citizens Action Alliance for Behavioral Health (CAABH) to nurture, enrich and empower behavioral health providers while spreading awareness of the importance of Behavioral Health in our communities.**

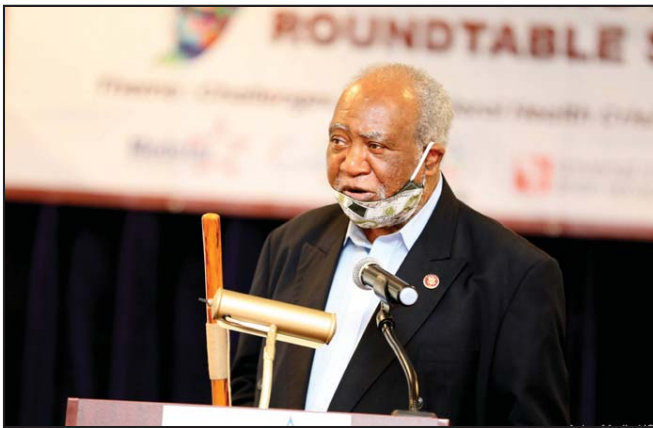
This Gandhi King Summit further called for bi monthly town hall meets of elected representatives, community leaders, behavioral health providers and concerned citizens for behavioral healthcare as a constructive follow up. CAABH organized the first TOWN HALL meeting hosted by Congressman Danny K Davis (7th CD-IL) and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (8thCD-IL) on April 9, 2021 at Naren Patel Auditorium, Medstar Laboratories, Inc., Hillside, Illinois. The theme of the first Town Hall was "Race o Increase Funding for Behavioral Health Providers In Chicagoland". This Town Hall was well attended by over 40 Behavioral Health Providers in Chicagoland. It gave an opportunity for our elected officials to have the information directly from the field providers on the Challenges especially during this pandemic and discuss possible mea-

asures to lessen the burden on the providers. Both Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi and Congressman Danny K Davis also spoke about the available new funding for mental health and their continued efforts to seek increased funding for behavioral health providers going forward.

**This Citizens Action Alliance For Behavioral Health (CAABH)** was jointly established by MEATF, MAFS, Chicago Medical Society, American Association Of Multi Ethnic Physicians, The Link & Option Center, South Holland and is powered by **THE GLOBALE EYE, a worldwide digital magazine that reaches two million households throughout greater Chicago and 33million in India. MEATF-Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force** is a think tank and advocacy group established by Congressman Danny K .Davis in 2010 to empower the different ethnic communities of Chicago by integrating them with the African American Community to share and serve the residents of City of Chicago. **MAFS- Metropolitan Asian Family Services** which was established in 1992, is the largest and oldest ethnic Senior organization headquartered in Chicago with 14 offices spread through out Chicagoland, serving over 5,000 Senior Citizens. **Chicago Medical Society** is the oldest professional medical organization in the Country, over 150 years old with a membership of 17,000 practicing physicians in the Cook County. **American Association of Multi Ethnic Physicians (AAMEP)** is a professional membership organization of 300 physicians from various ethnic communities. **The Link & Option Center (TLOC)** South Holland established in 1992 is a comprehensive behavioral health center with three offices serving the Southland, Illinois health providers. Join us in our journey as we partner together to strengthen Behavioral Health Care and transform lives.



# Citizens Action Alliance for Behavioral Health's Town Hall Meeting for Behavioral Health Providers



Host Congressman Danny Davis greeting the 42 CEO's of Greater Chicago Mental Health agencies to the CAABH's first Town Hall .



Co Host Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi giving the Call to Action.



Dr VGP , CAABH President giving the W.H. O. Day Update 2021.



Sponsors of the Town Hall , Medstar C.E. O. Neal Patel, Dr. Twin Green, Charles Dressner & Raj Patel, C.O.O. Medstar .



Moderator of the Town Hall , the dynamic Dr. Twin Green, C. E. O. TLOC, South Holland, IL.



Neal Patel, C. E. O Medstar Laboratories welcoming the 42 Behavioral Health C.E.O.s to the Town Hall.



Ramesh Nagul , Chief Product Officer, Ensoftek Inc, Portland , OR introducing the Dr Cloud EHR.



Ramesh Nagul of Dr Cloud interacting with some of the CEO 's at the meeting.



Wanda Parker of Aunt Martha's, Teresa Garate of Gateway Foundation, Roshita Pandey of MAFS and Radhika of UMAS, Naperville at the meeting.



Congressman Raja K interacting with Metro Events Alli Dhanaraj while Brandi Jackson of Howard Brown looks on.



Rep Raja Krishnamoorthi flanked by Ramesh Nagul , Joanna Trask, Alli Dhanaraj & Sheriffa Olowopopo-Hardrick .



Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi giving the Call to Action at CAABH's Town Hall meeting.



CAABH Chairman & Chicago Medical Society President Dr Tariq Butt giving his opening remarks.



Medstar Laboratories Vice President Vince Grzetch speaking about the toxicological drug testing services available at Medstar.



CAABH Leadership team with Congressman Danny Davis and the Town Hall Meeting Sponsors The Medstar Brothers Neal & Raj Patel.

# CALL TO ACTION

## Raja Krishnamoorthi, U. S Congressman

I want to say a special thank you to all of you and all the distinguished members of the behavioral health and mental health Community for being here. Today is so special! Thank you to Neil and Raj Patel and MedStar, give them a big round of applause.

They are true leaders in the community. They are civic-minded, charitably minded folks. I've known their family for a very long time and it's so nice to be in the place named after their father, who was a good friend of mine, too. So thank you to all the Patels and the MedStar family. I want to say a special thank you to Chief Vijay Prabhakar.

Of course, Ambassador Twin Green, Dr. Tariq Butt my good friend and of course, Santhosh Kumar stalwart member of the community. Again, people who are looking out for people, people who are trying to serve people, who are there when people need them to be there for them. So give all of them a big round of applause.

And of course, my very good friend who I don't see this moment, the person with indomitable spirit Danny, K Davis, the congressman of this district and one of my closest friends and allies in Washington DC, he really is. They say, in some ways, he's the conscience of Congress, he stands for those who can't speak for themselves. He stands for the voiceless, he stands for those who don't have hope he stands for those who need. They need a fighter in Washington, and that's what Danny K Davis, does, every day and has done every day of his life. And I am so grateful to be his colleague and friend. Now, what we're talking about today is very serious, folks.

You know, talking about behavioral health issues and mental health Issues, were talking about things that until recently were taboo. We don't talk about these things. You certainly don't talk about it in the culture that I come from the Indian American, the South Asian Community, you don't talk about it in lots of communities. It turns out that something that unfortunately is common to all of us, but that has to

change. The statistics are pretty daunting, 40 percent of Americans report depression or some form of anxiety and mental health issues. During this pandemic, which is only natural given the isolation. That it induced one in four. Children and young adults have had Suicidal Thoughts in the past month, the statistic is frightening.

Fifty percent of doctors and healthcare workers, report, burnout, stress anxiety, and a lack of sleep. Now with regard to that last statistic, if you think about it, and I'm looking at dr. Tariq, but because he deals with these people, every day, one out of every two Physicians reports, these feelings. And guess what folks that affects all of us, not only does it affect them but it affects their patients. Now, think about it when you go to the doctor next time, one of every two people are currently going through a mental health issue, even as he or she is treating you. So that's why we have to deal with this subject, seriously and strongly right now with regard to health care workers and Physicians on the front lines, I happen to be married to one of them Priya. My wife is an anaesthesiologist. The joke is that we both put people to sleep. So please have a little caffeine now if you can but on a more serious note, she was intubating these covid patients from a year ago and she's been doing covid procedures, ever since. And you can imagine what the Stress and Anxiety levels were especially at the beginning when we didn't know what covid really was nor was there personal protective equipment or gear necessary to take care of these people. I remember on the first weekend of the covid pandemic, we had to go to Home Depot to buy a welder's face mask for her because they didn't have enough personal protective equipment in the hospital. So, because of that and because of everything that folks like you have been doing over the last year, I in Congress, have taken it upon our office to basically advocate for you. And in that regard, I'm pleased to announce that as part of the American Rescue plan, I co-

authored the Lorna Breen act. The Lorna Breen Act is incredible legislation that got signed into law by President Biden, which authorizes 100 million dollars for Behavioral Health, Workforce, Education and Training grants along with 100 million dollars in programs to help community-based Child and Adolescent Mental Health programs that is part of a larger package of 1.5 billion dollars in mental health block grants.

This is a big deal because this money will be used to help augment and establish mental health, and wellness programs for the very people who are trying to treat other people with their anxiety, their depression, their burn out, all the mental health issues that they go through. We have to help the helpers.

And you are the helpers and we have to take care of you. So I'm so honored that this particular piece of legislation which I co-authored is now law and so please take advantage of this funding and please contact my office. If you have any questions about how to access the funding that is coming through the American Rescue Act. All that being said. Let me just say one last thing, which is thank you. Thank you for taking on the duties and the obligations and the responsibilities associated with your profession because what you do every day and taking care of people at their lowest points allows the rest of us to do our jobs, but one of those jobs is to take care of you. And so, I am here for you. My office is here for you. We are all here for you and whatever you need. Let me know, and we will jump to attention. So with that, let me close with my favorite saying, which is yesterday's history tomorrow's a mystery. But today is a gift. That's why we call it the present. And so I'm honored and blessed to be with you here for just A few minutes of your precious time, to celebrate you, and your institutions and your profession because America cannot function without you. And we are so much better off, having you among us. So, thank you so much and God bless.

## Congressman Danny K Davis Welcomes Mental Health Agencies CEO's.

You know my mother always told us that flattery is like perfume. Be smelled, not swollen. So let me thank you for your kind words. Let me also welcome all of you to what I consider the most interesting piece of geography in North America where there are no Political subdivision that's a place called the seventh congressional district, which begins at the Lake downtown in the Chicago Loop, comes all the way out to this area to the end of Cook County. We call this the Western suburb-Maywood, Broadview, Hillside, Berkeley, Westchester also goes all the way out to Inglewood in the South. And of course the Gold Coast, is home to 24 outstanding Hospitals, medical schools, and some of the most impressive medical facilities in America. Two of our hospitals, always are included in the top 100 hospitals in the United States of America. Loyola right down the street is one of those. Behavior Health is one of the greatest needs that exist in our society. So to see that you are engaged in the advocacy, greater

awareness, greater understanding, greater funding and greater recognition. I read in the newspapers on my way out about a fellow who had been a former National Football League player, who just shot and killed five people. Now, you wonder what in the world would a star football player who probably made as much money in one season as both people were making a lifetime, doing shooting and killing bad people. We're trying to figure that out, trying to find out because we don't really know. I know that there may have been all kind of different contributing factors different reasons, uncertainty, unhappiness. So as you search for solution I welcome you to join with each other which is what you're doing to try and find answers to some of the most pressing problems that our society is facing. I commend MedStar for giving us the opportunity to be in this facility and I commend them for the tremendous work that they do helping to find the solution that we are seeking. Have a good day. It's a pleasure to be with you and thank you very much.

## Gandhi King Summit Report – Dr Mrs Santosh Kumar, Executive Director, MAFS

The historical Gandhi King Legacy Roundtable Summit was held on February 26th, 2021. The summit was held to commemorate the black history month and Gandhi's 73rd death anniversary. The theme of the Summit was "Challenges of Behavioral Health Crisis During the Covid Pandemic". What better way to commemorate and celebrate the King and Gandhi Legacy by creating awareness of the challenges and to find ways to improve and increase the behavioral health resources in our communities. The main focus of the Summit was how to continue and strengthen the Behavioral Health Community, Advocate for behavioral health providers all across, not only in Chicagoland, but beyond the borders, which we are seeing right now. We found the need to continue and support behavior health

providers and thus, the Citizen Action Alliance of Behavioral Health Chicago was formed. This historical epic event on February 26, is echoing today all across the border across the India, Africa, and Europe. Earlier, we could not talk about mental health and Behavioral Health in our South Asian culture, but now we are starting to talk when the our sportsmen are committing suicide, when celebrities are committing suicide. Now we are ready. We are making a safe environment to talk about this. This is true. It's nothing to be ashamed about it. So this is the time and I congratulate all of you providers and I really want to congratulate our respected Congressman, Danny Davis who's so committed and so passionate for the health of our communities. Thank you.

# MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS SPEAK OUT ...

## Ashley Ice, LCSW, Behavior Health Director, National Youth Advocate Program Inc.

My name is Ashley Ice, I am the behavioral health director of Youth Advocate Program. We are in 10 different states across the Nation or I guess across the US. Currently we are in Pilsen. We just Branch out to DeKalb. We're moving into Peoria. Also touching base with Rockford as well. So we're in the last year, we've really grown, which has been one of our biggest successes, but there's a lot of challenges that come with that. So, being the behavioral health director, one of the things I'm very passionate about and really focus on it. Our agency deals with clients with complex trauma issues. In order to mitigate the effects, we speak from a micro and macro level, I think micro I think there needs to be more education across different communities about how trauma impacts the individual, how it impacts relationships with people how it impacts communities and in turn, how that impacts the larger systemic issues that

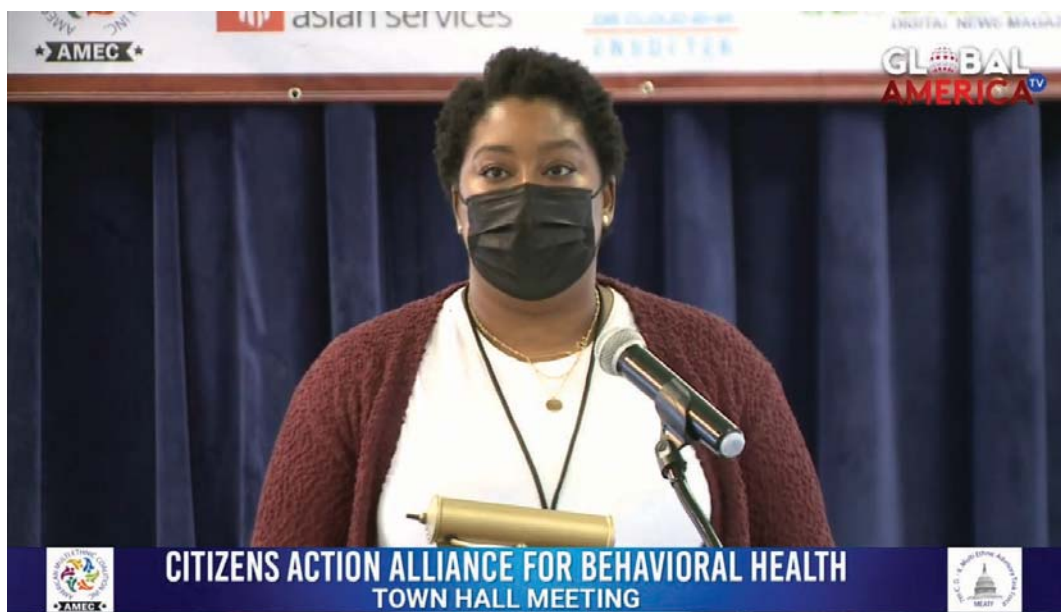


we have here. So I think we need literature that talks about how we are anti-racist. How we are anti-oppressive how we are anti Prejudice. I think we need literature that reaches all of these different systems that we work with so we can be informative and prepared when we are working with such vulnerable populations. So we have issues that we have talked about already with homeless youth, or homeless clients who don't have access to their basic needs but are being punished and marginalized for the things that they need. So we have a really big issue in society right now that we don't understand how complex trauma Works, nor how it impacts our society and how we continue to try and Band-Aid the problems that are at the root. And so I think we need to go to the root and that is where I will say my piece and I will end here. Thank you so much.

## Brandi Jackson

### Director of Integrative Behavioral Health, Howard Brown Health

I'm here representing Howard Brown Health, which is a very large federally qualified Health Center in Chicago. We have nine sites. I think, last time I checked three retail shops and our goal is to see the liberation of the LGBT Community. But we're also a community health center, So we take care of everybody, regardless of their ability to pay. It's been my privilege to join Howard Brown Health in the middle of a pandemic as executive director, of Health and Social Services Division, I was faculty member at Rush Medical Center. I was seeing patients for 2 days a week in Inglewood and I was teaching Health Equity and social justice as an assistant professor. As one of the one percent of black psychiatrist in this country, I can't tell you what it felt like to sit with my black patients and watch them slowly come to understand that the medical machine does to them. There came a point when my notes were backed up and I couldn't keep up. It took everything in me to sit with people, sit with them as they told me stories of neglect as they told me of their fears and their loss. And I came to understand that all the medicine in the world, there is nothing. I could prescribe that would save them. And when they said to me Doc, I don't have hope I understood that at times. I didn't have hope either and in those moments, what got me through, was thinking about the great Healers of our human history. Dr. Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa. I remembered that in 1966, Martin Luther King stood in Chicago at a press conference

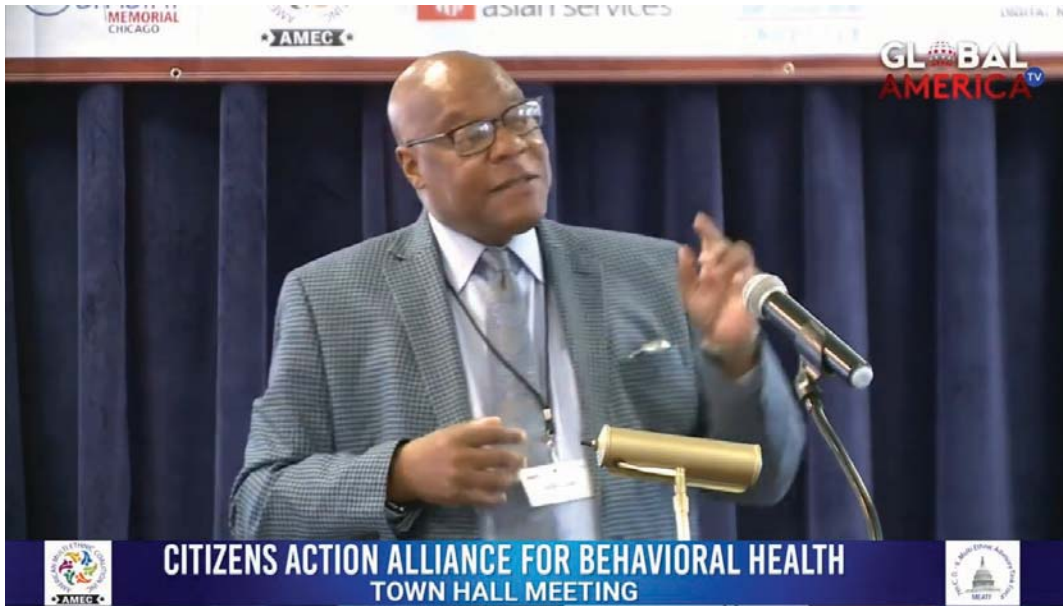


and spoke of the racism and the American Medical system and spoke of it being one of the greatest justices of our time. Those of us who have had the privilege of sitting with souls and listening to them. Also notice there are understand that it is our shadows, which most drive our actions I believe. Now we're at a time in our history, where we have a great decision to make. So many, my very brilliant colleagues have spoken about the health disparities, housing, lack of food, the lack of basic human dignity, there are at the heart of the great mental illness as seen in our country right now. I agree with them. I also think that right now, we can't afford to do anything except tell the truth. And the truth is that the reason people are unwell is because of racism, is because of homophobia is because they are not seen as human beings, is because they are giving pills, then what they need is their souls to be hoped. I believe we have a way out. I also believe our time is running out. It is up to us to help every single person on this Earth. Understand. One thing, if I am free to express my true nature, it is our jobs to remove every single thing that makes that not true. I hope that in the future, we become willing to engage our own souls and ask when we stopped feeling and charge yourself with these Souls. I believe it's the only way up. Thank you.

# Jackie Glass

## Director, Hartgrove Hospital, Chicago

I'm Jackie Glass. Community relations person for both Hargrove Hospital and Garfield Park Hospital. Both of those facilities are psychiatric treatment Hospital settings. Garfield is a 60 bed facility opened up about 10 years ago, serves Children and Adolescent 3 through age 17. They have three specialized program, which are YESS program, Worthy program and Polaris program. Garfield Park also has a PHP partial hospitalization program. Hargrove Hospital's been in business over 50 years. How do I know is that I have been here for 27 years. It's a hundred sixty five beds, we serve all age groups. We also have partial hospitalization and IOP outpatient program for adolescents and adults. Since we have two outpatient programs, 11111, East, 87th Street. We're also doing Telehealth and do we have another program at Oak Park, 101 West Madison also doing telepsychiatry service. So the good thing is we are still in the business. There are issues with the MCOs. Their length of stay has changed dramatically from



three to five days. So it's a very fast turnover. Weekends holidays are still including those three to five days. Problem is if your child is brought into the hospital and the parents may say, I don't want this child anymore. Now the child becomes a DCFS Ward and DCFS wants a safe place for them. So placement is something that is on their radar. So we have a lot of kids in the hospital well over three to five days stay. What happens with that is, we have absorb that bill. Right now, we may have 25 of those kids in Hargrove. It may be 10 to 15 in Garfield Park with each over a hundred days and getting services. And the thing about that is how you keep them from deteriorating because the programs are set up for 14 days of services. I'm proud of services were providing Statewide. We're all over all over Illinois. We have patients coming in from Indiana and some from Wisconsin as well. So that's it for me. Thank you very much congressman.

# Eric Lindstrom

## Director of Programs Asian Human Services

I thank representatives Krishnamoorthi and Congressman Davis for their advocacy towards behavioral health and for being out here to support this event and for hosting. Thank you so much. So certainly there are lot of issues that I think a lot of the providers are facing during these times, so I'll try to echo couple of those that I think, you know, also affect our population. So, I'm with Asian Human Services, We Are a Human Service organization located on the north side of the city. So we serve the Uptown West Ridge and Rogers Park area. We have a wide variety of services including Behavioral Health. So we also offer Workforce Development, Community Health Services. We have a charter school, English as a second language courses and a variety of adult education courses as well. Last year all of us realized that we had to find a new way to deliver service and so quickly that became delivering services virtually via Telehealth. And so, one of the things you need to engage in Telehealth Services is a device in the home and a plan to access the internet serving primarily immigrant Refugee population.



Balancing Act that we all do. But now there's another layer in there to balance and that's putting devices and funding devices to get into the families, dependent hands.

There are numerous studies, that show, that folks who have limited English proficiency are, among the group, they have that widest digital literacy Gap. So, being able to fund those devices and find ways to get devices into families, homes, is more important than ever. We hear from a lot of our clients, particularly some of our older clients that they actually prefer the Telehealth setting, it's more convenient, they don't have to get out of their home for some of our folks that live the Uptown neighborhood. We have experienced that our clients are scared to leave their home because there is lot of violence and derogatory things that are being done towards Asian Americans, of late. So, one of the things that we kind of consider, now, as we look at Grants is The

So we're now faced with, you know, do we hire more staff to serve people? Do we hire to deliver devices to be able to deliver service and just the challenge of finding the balance there. I would also Echo some of the issues that we have with the Medicaid system. All of our clients are low-income, we work with a lot of folks that are undocumented and sort of navigating, the shell game that goes on behind the scenes with coverage being dropped all the different issues that we face with Medicaid. So reducing the administrative burden that providers feel to be able to work under the fee-for-service system is critical. There are some MCOs that have it down. When we know we get paid on time and we have less issues and they have systems that seem to work. There are other MCOs that are still kind of working through their systems to make things better. I hope that's what's happening. So I think those are the biggest issues that we're facing also, you know, we continue to work with undocumented immigrants. There is still lack of funding to help serve those folks and so you know, any funding that can be brought to help them.

You know, not only just identify those clients and kind of bring them out of the Shadows, but to be able to provide the same level of service to someone who is undocumented. As someone who, you know, was born here or gained citizenship are things that are really important. So, thank you so much for the opportunity to talk. Thank you for hosting this event.

# Jae Myung Lee

## Director of Family Wellness and Operations, Hanul Family Alliance

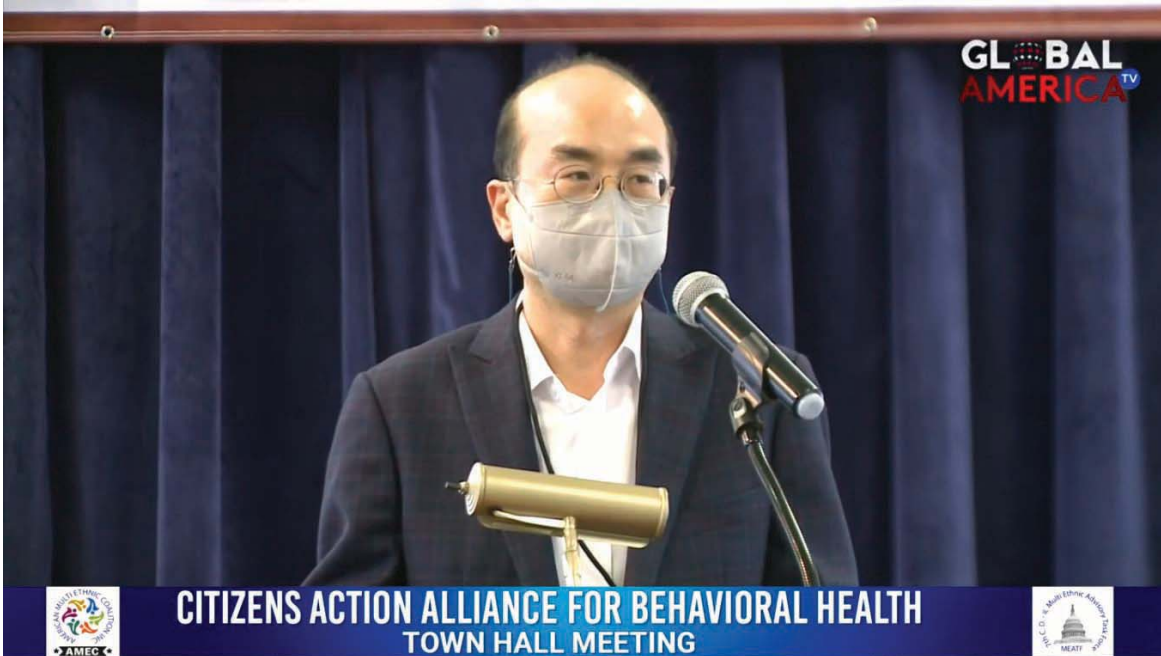
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# Jeff Blythe

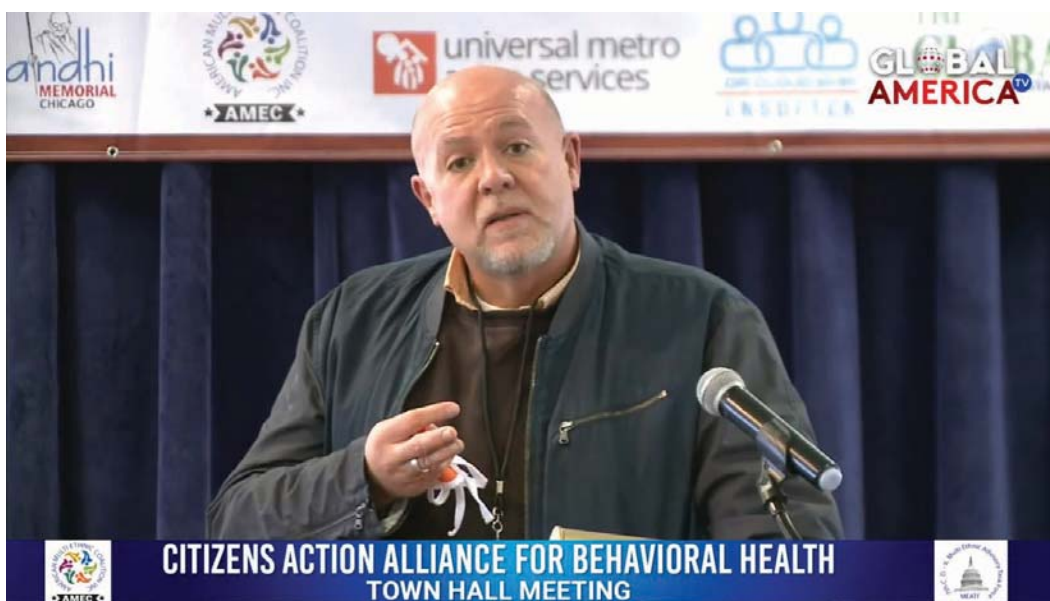
## Vice President, Counseling and Youth Development Services

Hi everybody. I'm from UCAN. I'm with the Youth Services Program, which is our outpatient program. We also provide a full Continuum of Care for Youth. We are a 52-year old organization. So obviously things have changed over the years and we're now, a full-service Social Service Agency that provides youth services with residential foster care, transitional teen services program, as well as teen parent service network for Youth. We also have really focused on our community services, which is where I'm in counseling. Our violence intervention and prevention program which is like how firemen and police run toward danger, the same thing, there are staff in violence prevention program, that do the same thing. We provide support to those youth and those families within that program, as well as outpatient referrals that we get. Our successes in this year have been the transition of Telehealth. So when the pandemic started, we were planning to move toward this but we had to instantly kind of pivot and our staff and our program acted very quickly. In Our IT department has also acted very quickly to support our staff from their homes. So the challenge we face is I think what was said earlier about Medicaid, We are a fee-for-service program offering counseling.

After services the challenge is we devote a lot of time managing the expenses related to Medicaid and private insurance. Because there's a lot of denials, there's a lot of unpaid claims. There's sometimes, you don't know, the reason each MCO has a different numbers for what you have to submit, you have to figure out what it is.

So we devote a lot of time to that, and that's been a success, but it's also a challenge. I think the other challenge is, you know, we are in a lot of schools which has been a change for the pandemic, but for us with school, we're still getting referrals from schools but we've lost a lot of Youth that aren't engaged in schools. So those we used to serve in our programs are doing remote learning. They did not return back to school. So there's these kind of lost youth that we're still trying to engage in a lot of that's we're going to our violence intervention prevention program, is kind of focused on getting those kids back into services, but it's still just that awareness for all of us that there's that kind of lost population with such a high need that just have not engaged with anything during the pandemic.

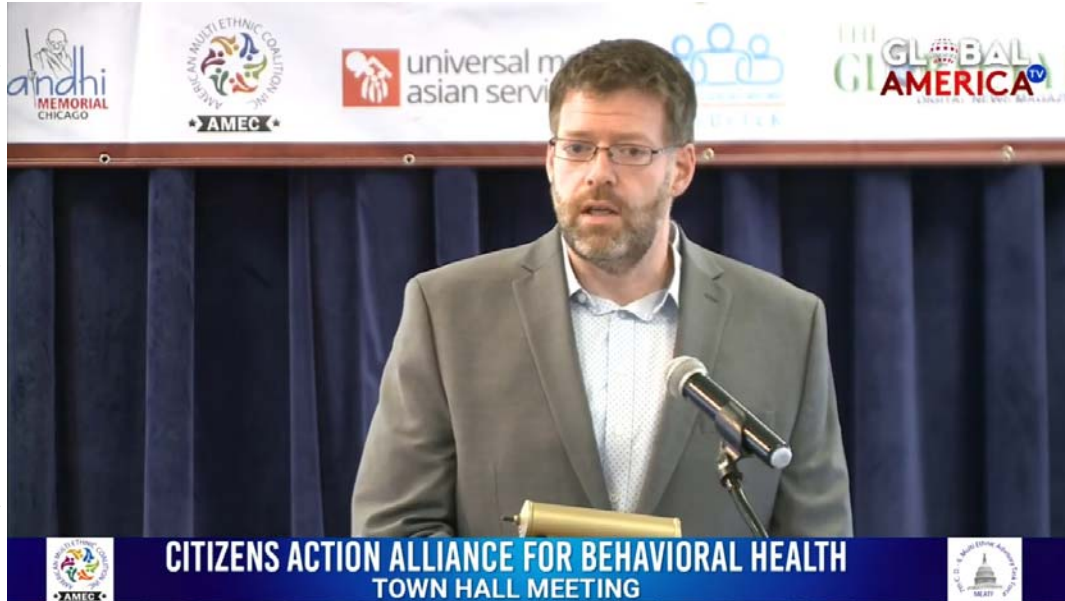
Thank you very much.



## Greg Lee

### Senior Vice President, Pillars Community Health

My name is Greg Lee. I'm the senior vice president of Behavioral Health with Pillars Community Health. I've been there for about six months at this point in time and I also have a unique perspective because I'm coming from the world of managed care. So, spent the last seven or eight years, working in Managed Care, Illinois, and nationally. And somebody mentioned earlier, that managed care doesn't understand providers and I can't underscore that enough being on the ground providing these Services. There is definitely a disconnect. Pillars community health, If you're not familiar with, I thought we were old we're celebrating our hundredth anniversary this year. But from what I've heard from other providers here, we're kind of young compared to some of you. So we've been a variety of different organizations over those hundred years. And in 2018, we pillars formerly just was known as a cmhc merged with Community nursing LaGrange, which is an fqhc. So, we're actually kind of unique in Illinois that we are a fqhc, a cmhc provider. We also do sexual assault domestic violence Services, Dental Services, school-based Behavioral Health, IPS employment services. So we have quite a variety of services and different perspectives, and opportunities. And one of those successes that we've been able to do almost 9,000 different covid tests over the past year for our community. We've also administered about 1900 first doses of the vaccine and many of these have gone out, not only to our staff, but also to our Behavior Health clients, so making sure that they have Priority Access as well. Like others. We've done a really good job. Pivoting to Telehealth. About 80% of our services of Behavioral Health now are done through Telehealth and we're working to move back to in-person as we open up some sites or open up access to more in person. I could go on and on about challenges so I will try to be as succinct as possible. I think building on what Eric you touched upon and I think Carmen. So passionately said about really what the root causes are. I think when we talk about Clinical Services and the different variety of services that are out there and what we can do clinically or about the social determinants of Health, there's lots of great ideas and we're all wonderful providers trying to do the best that we can, the root cause has been in the system right now about fee-for-service under resource Workforce Development. What is managed care versus? What is the State Medicaid system understanding? You know what, what really are those causes when I think of Workforce Development and what's



mentioned having come from managed care? I used to hear all the time. Please don't take our workers, it realizing that the state actually requires managed care to staff at a certain level. So it's kind of counterintuitive and Standing what those root causes are the the ability to reimburse, I think, as a cmhc or anybody, who's a cmhc knows that you essentially are a training ground for future clinicians, you get people who are working towards their license because that's all you can afford to pay for. And when they do achieve that license, they typically move on whether it be to private practice or other types of higher paying jobs. The funding system in general, in terms of fee-for-service is really set up.

Not only are we underfunded for the services, we provide but it's almost impossible to be nimble. So as we go after all of these different contracts, it's great to hear that there's a hundred million dollars coming in for Behavioral Health Services, but I'm really concerned about how much time that will take. How many different grants that will be? Where do we get the resources to be able to build new programs? Does it really impact the communities? So, understanding you know, our ability to be able to respond to that. I think one of the first questions you asked representative Davis about prevention versus a cure. I think, the Medicaid system specifically is set up to treat those who have a mental illness, which is fantastic, those services are needed, but we're not funded, for prevention, Based Services for early identification. Those are things that we have to go out and build on our own. And again, being under Resource as a cmhc that that typically is

Huge issue. I think. Mental health, versus mental illness. We talked about with the pandemic and increase in the need for Behavioral Health Services. Many of those people are not going to present at cmhc's, they're going to present in primary care. They're going to present in EDS. So how are we there to make sure that we're identifying at those points and engaging people before it becomes those people who are at risk of developing mental illness overtime. So I think there is a lot of root cause Concerns that I have whether it's within the state system, or how, its funded, but the ability for Community, Mental Health, to be able to truly react timely, they all go above and beyond with the amount of hours, the lack of resources and get the job done to try to stay up to speed. So, I thank you for putting this together today. I really appreciate hearing from everybody and learning more about your organizations as well. Thank you.

## Erin Brumfield Grima, MS, LCPC, LPHA

### Director of Behavioral Health, Pioneer Center for Human Services

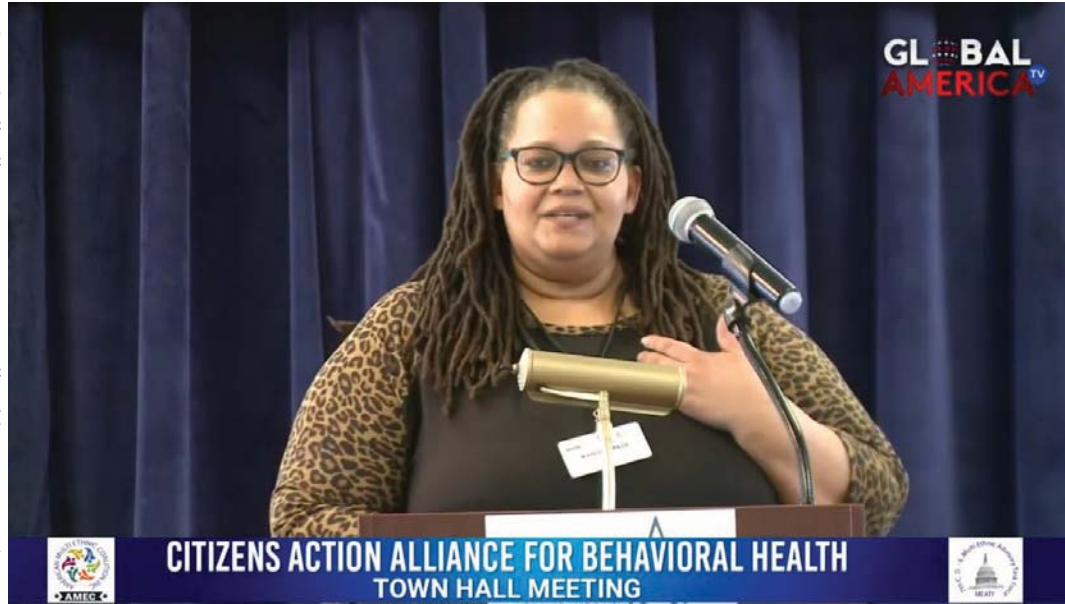
Hello, everyone. Many of my colleagues here today, have talked about the issues that we all experience. Pioneer Center is apparently a youngster in the room as well. We've hit our 63rd year of existence. We serve the community of McHenry County which borders with Wisconsin, and our origin started with the intellectual developmental disability population. Parents who wanted services for their children, began our organization, and we stayed true to that original intent by serving our community and the needs of the parents on a regular basis. As the Director of Behavioral Health, I see the need that exists in all of our communities, the challenges that we all experience and trying to rise to the occasion and meet those needs. With the pandemic, we

made a quick change. We were essential workers and we were depended on to provide essential services. And we were recognized for providing those essential services. We moved forward, we changed our services around to meet the need that was right there in front of us and we did it successfully time and time again. We need to have the security when we make these changes. In times of crisis, our needs and our ongoing sustainability will be a top priority across all funding sources. And so that's my takeaway for today for everybody. And I am just going to end it there. Of course, we all have many other challenges and successes but I think that is a very pertinent point at this time, in this juncture. So thank you all.

# Wanda Parker

## Vice President of Clinical and Therapeutic Services, Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness

Hello everybody. I'm Dr. Wanda Park, VP of clinical and therapeutic services at Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness. We have about 25 sites across the state of Illinois, where we do Primary Care, Psychiatry, Dentistry and care coordination. We are one of the only organization in the state of Illinois where we are a child welfare organization and fqhc. We also have a foster care division and we provide substance abuse services in the clinics as well. So I think that since we've been doing tell aside for many years of success is that we were able to Pivot relatively quick to doing an extended Telehealth services with our therapists and providing Telehealth primary care as well. We've also been very busy doing a lot of Covid testing and administering Covid vaccines. And I've heard some of the folks talk about those social determinants of health. We have to address those, that includes housing, that includes employment opportunities, transportation, really being able to wrap around because someone with mental health or substance



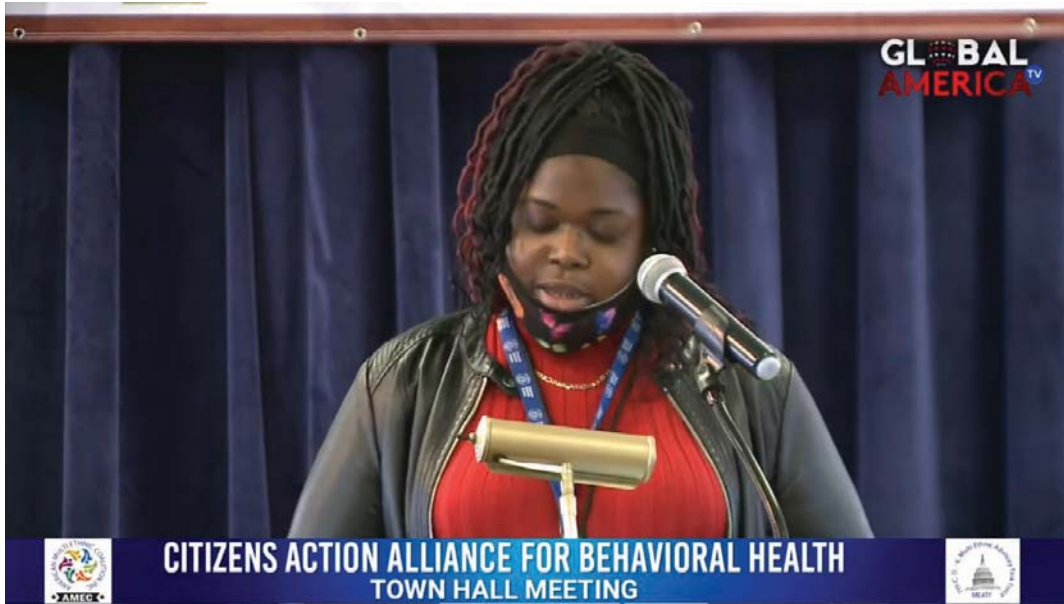
use disorder, can't stabilize without a place to lay their head right and they may not need inpatient hospitalization or residential treatment program. But if they don't have any place to live then how can they go for outpatient services, right? And how will they be able to keep their medication and make sure that they're taking it regularly and get to their visits? So I would say that funding is needed for that. I would say that there needs to be some funding for those that are underserved for technology because I think that we've all realized how important having a smartphone or a tablet is to be able to continue to provide those services. We saw a lot less no-shows for folks that would struggle to be able to get back and forth to their appointments. But now, you know, we still have some technological challenges that are there, so that would be my input.

# Sherifat O. Olowopopo-Hardrick

## Int. Sr. Director of Clinical, Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc.

I am the interim, senior director for Clinical Services with Ada McKinley behavioral health program.

Okay, Ada McKinley has been around for over hundred years. Our behavioral health program has been servicing the south side of Chicago for almost 40 years. We provide outpatient Mental Health Services and Emergency mobile crisis intervention services. And I think Dr. Green said earlier about the mcos, we too have lost staff for the MCO. We are Crisis Intervention model versus interventions in our agency. We need more collaboration with local law enforcement to assist appropriately in Mental Health crisis situations, in addition to officers being able to be trained and being able to recognize a mental health crisis versus a criminal problem. But also recognizing if an individual has a disability, where there's an intellectual deficit he may not understand exactly what's going on or what they're doing. Our program has one psychiatrist and over the years because of budget cuts and a lot of programs in communities that have gone away, we required a lot of clients. And so one of our challenges is Access to culturally sensitive psychiatrist who are comfortable with coming into the community to deliver services, to the clients that we serve. There needs to be



equitable access to Psychiatry within the same systems as those who have private insurance. There also needs to be equal, reimbursement rates for services, whether it is face-to-face service or services delivered via video platform especially under the current circumstances. But covid-19 is presenting new challenges for us related to providing Services. However, they opened the door for us to expand Services utilizing technology. However, we continue to face difficulties in engaging clients in therapy partly due to covid. Our clinicians were going to the schools to deliver services, but right now that has been very difficult. And so we need for schools to recognize that. For Behavioral Health is a part of the school day and to make sure they continue prioritizing. Mental health continues to be a problem due to concerns with stigma. Individuals need to understand that mental health treatment is not just about pain medication but also utilizing behavior modification as well. Also please forgive me, I'm so nervous. We also need more Partnerships with other programs to make sure that our clients have access to additional needed resources outside of just Behavioral Health working with Community. Thank you.

# Dalia GALVAN MORALES

## Director, Community Engagement, Heartland Health Center

My name is Dalia Galvan Morales. I work at Heartland Health Center which is a federally qualified Health Center in the north side of Chicago. We have 18 locations and the far north side and the Northwestern suburbs. And one of the successes that I can speak about right now is the integration of our Primary Care Services with mental health care services. So we have been privileged to partner with organizations, like Trilogy and C4 where they provide the mental health services, and we are right there within their facilities to provide primary care services, and many other services that they might need along with that, because it has been a success. We see the need of furthering those services within the Communities, we see the need to furthering those Services, especially within the Immigrant and Refugee communities. We're currently conducting assessments within our communities to determine what needs are out there. And what we're hearing just like everyone else. There is the need for mental health services within our communities. We don't talk

about Mental Health Services or mental health needs that we have. Substance use is a huge taboo in our communities. Right? When people overdose when people pass away because of substance use, we just say you know they had a heart attack that's it that's the end of it. So I believe that we need as was mentioned earlier. Earlier, we need culturally sensitive providers that can understand that can speak the language and they can connect with these individuals. The other challenge that we have seen a specialty within the undocumented communities, the fear for seeking out the services and asking for help out of fear of the consequences that will happen in the future. When, if they have the opportunity to adjust their immigration status, is this something that is going to show up in the future and prevent them from accessing those services? So those are some of the challenges that we have but we are very glad to be here and to be learning from all of you and we can look forward to continuing to work with you. Thank you.

## Dr Tariq Butt

### President, Chicago Medical Society & CAABH Chairman

Thank you for that generous introduction, Ambassador Twin Green, and honorable Congressman, Danny Davis, you know, I live and work in your District, it does stretch a lot and you always do so many great things because our community health centers, or fqhcs that was done 50 plus years ago and he is the founding member. And we all are sitting here at Howard Brown, or PCC Wellness, or Aunt Martha's.

So, you know, I mean it's a great afternoon for us to get together and I want to do some acknowledgements. I want to thank Dr. Vijay Prabhakar who's really worked hard for all of us to be here. So let's give him a round of applause.

And Neil and Raj, Patel you are really carrying your ancestral values and upbringing, you know, these services are much-needed in our communities. Most of my patients who cannot afford to go anywhere, they come to Medstar and thank you for helping minorities, giving them access to healthcare. So, thank you so much for that.

And today, we are here for a very important and critical cause. As Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi mentioned Behavioral Health and its significance goes back a long way. You know, one of the founding members of America who signed the Constitution of America was Benjamin Rush. Very few people know about him. He was a great doctor. He was the first one to figure out that Behavioral Health is a little bit different than general diseases. People used to just put these folks into isolation and that was the only kind of treatment of available. We have come a long way but we have a long way to go.

As Congressman, Raja Krishnamurthy mentioned about how Healthcare Providers, even physicians at Univ of Chicago, Chicago Medical Society keep doing



surveys and find out burnout and suicidal rates going up among physicians. Congressman, Danny Davis just shared with you about a football star. You know, it wasn't unusual for those stars to have concussions and did not know that they had emotional problems. We see a lot of those things happening. I can give you example, one of my patient came for treatment of hypertension. She was started on one pill cause that's the way you always do. I started adjusting her medication during her Labs trying to figure out what was going on. Everything I did was just normal, there was nothing abnormal to continue her medications for blood pressure. I would ask her, "Do you have any stress? Do you have any anxiety bothering you?" And she will say nothing. Then I sent her to the specialist because emotional problems lead to a lot of things. World Health Organization asks that we should make Behavioral Health as part of the public health policy. We have Congressman Davis in the Congress for us and he really promotes this cause every single day. 1.2 billion dollars is good. That's great. And we must give them a round of applause. I know that Congressman Danny Davis will continue to fight and Raja Krishnamoorthi will continue to fight to bring more money because it's not without resources that will be able to address all these emotional and behavioral challenges and come up with a great Integrated health care, which we need for every patient, where they can go and feel that they are in a trusted setting, where they can share everything with their physician. So I like to conclude by saying, thank you so much for joining these voices. You know, together they will make these Whispers turn into Roars and they'll become more noise and those noises will go to those Congressmen and Senators who do not have good ears, like Congressman Danny Davis and Raja Krishnamoorthi so thank you so much for coming.

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## Dr Mercedes Martinez

Congressman, Danny Davis, pleasure to be here. It's an honor and privilege. Miss Green. Thank you so much. And yes, on behalf of the Hispanic Community, I want to underscore the need, as a Child Adolescent and adult psychiatrist. I see a huge disparity especially in the state operated facilities that I now work at. It took a lot of work and unfortunately put me in a bad position but I requested and I demand

it. Bilingual bicultural because you can have a Spanish nurse, but that does not mean that you can connect with the Spanish speaking population. Nor can you actually describe what these medicines do to them? There's nothing wrong with medication and its proper course, but there has to be a place and a time where Labs come to directly to measure just exactly what those medications are doing. So I applaud the genomic approach which focuses on receptors. So we can find out who is rapid metabolizer, and the slow metabolizer, because the slow metabolizers will have devastating side effects. And I've seen it in the black population. I've seen it in the Hispanic population and the Asian population. And yes, the white population also. There's all kinds of different receptors and they really need to be fished out and having worked with the American Physicians Institute for advanced professional studies, I can say without a shadow of a doubt. Twenty years, I spent time as an examiner working with psychiatrists where the patient would be sitting here, psychiatrist over here and neither one would connect and that happens.

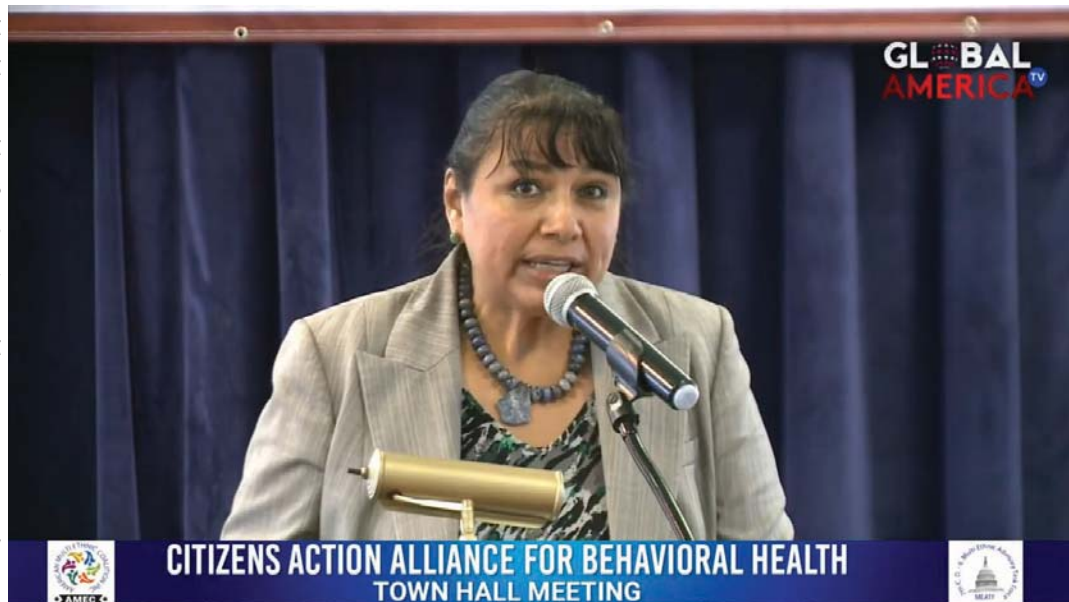
Just with psychiatrist. We are now in a kitchen where there are many cooks, and unfortunately, sometimes it can be a disaster of misunderstanding and miscommunication and Chaos. So I applaud Congressman Danny Davis for being here to hear us out. 15 minutes is not enough time for any psychiatrist to come to any kind of diagnosis for any child, any adolescent, or any family, or any adult for that matter and the tragedies that can happen when they are given

inappropriate medicines are heinous, they wind up with criminal records and suspended from school. There is one Latino young boy, who was disabled ran up to the roof to commit suicide. Because prior to his brother leaving to college, he had been helped with his homework. Well, once he left, because he was so disabled, he couldn't deal with it, and the teacher punished him, put him in the

corner, called him ignorant, and to face the wall when everyone else around him would laugh. The parents on that particular day had gone to a March for immigrants and no idea that their kid was tossed into a hospital and many egregious actions that are occurring in the name of mental health. And I think it's high time that somebody took the reins of the horse and then directed it into the right path. We need to have an accountable report card,

just don't want cookie cutter approach, one dose fits all does not work. Burnt-out Healthcare professionals do not belong in the treatment of families. They need help. They need assistance. Effective communication attentive, and long-term care for undocumented Spanish-speaking people, they need to have the appropriate care in place. Nurses. Bilingual bicultural social workers access to care is eight months. There has to be something done in the meantime. They have promoters who go out and provide education on lifestyle and diet. These people are drinking two litres of coke. Of course you're going to get anxious. They need diet, training, support and effective communication between the parent and the child and the system. So I think I've said my piece. Crisis Intervention.

No parent should ever have to terminate their rights in the state of Illinois in order to put their child in residential care facility, never and it is happening. Thank you guys.





# Rashad K. Saafir

**President/CEO, Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center, Inc.**

Thank you Congressman Davis. Dr. Green great job you are doing moderating. Thank you all for letting me go at this time. Unfortunately, I do have another meeting that I need to get to. I am the president and CEO of the Bobby Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center. We are a comprehensive Community Mental Health center. Okay, some of us when we hear the word Behavioral Health we're not quite sure what we're talking about. Are we talking about mental health? We talking about substance abuse and what have you? And I think that it's important for us to recognize that we all have minds and we all at some point have trouble in our minds.

The World Health Organization, defines mental health, as a sense of well-being that is sufficient for one to participate, productively in their community. And that's the definition that we use in our agency and the work that we do within the Westside Community. The Bobby Wright Center was established as one of the first African-American comprehensive Community Mental Health Centers under the Community, Mental Health Centers, Act of 1963. It came into being in 1973, under the leadership of Dr. Bobby Eugene Wright, who is a friend and colleague of myself and Congressman Davis. So our agency

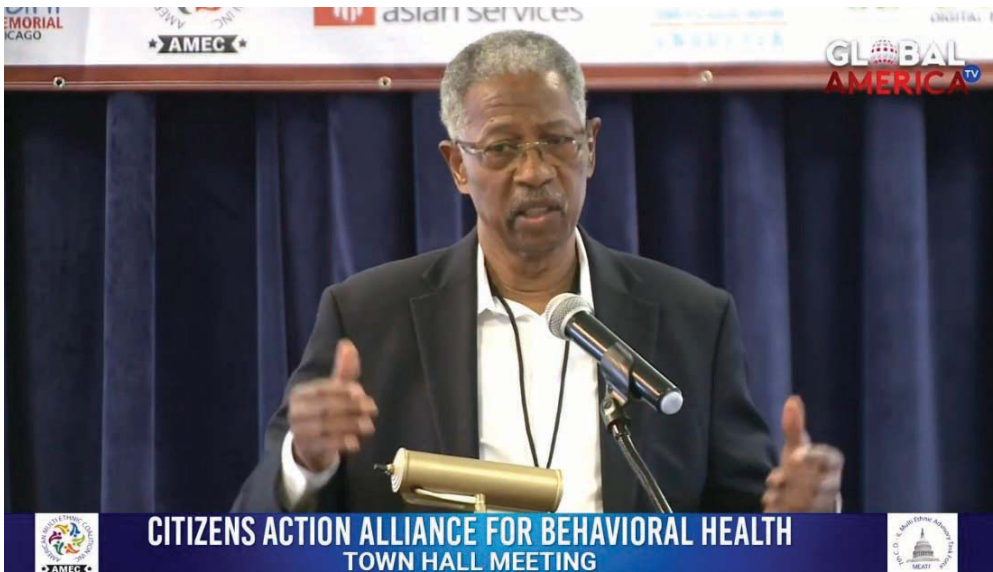
has a comprehensive array of services that were required under the Community, Mental Health Centers, Act of 1963. Unfortunately one of the challenges we face the funding for Community Mental Health changed during the Reagan Administration, so the funding instead of coming directly to Community Mental Health Centers via federal grants, the Funding was shifted to block grants to States and the state governments made the determination as to how that funding would be distributed. And in some cases Community Mental, Health Centers competed with highways and other projects. And then, we have kind of evolved into this space now where we have the intermediary of Managed Care managing the funds that come to community mental health, and most of the Managed Care Organization really don't get it. When it comes to what's happening on the ground, they don't understand the challenges that providers have in dealing with the members that we serve, give you an example. Someone appears at in an emergency room complaining of having auditory hallucinations and hearing voices, upon examination the nurse or the physician. If they're fortunate enough to have a psychiatrist or a social worker in the, ER, they make the determination that this individual doesn't quite meet criteria for inpatient treatment.

It's 11 o'clock at night, individual ends up getting discharged from the emergency department at about 1:30, 2:00 o'clock in the morning. They're given a card saying, go to the Bobby Wright Center on Monday for an appointment. How does that individual get from point A to point B? They are also homeless, so they end up in a homeless shelter, they don't get connected to care. And as a consequence, they continue to cycle through the high end,

high cost services that are available to them in the community. So that's one of the challenges. The other challenge that we face is that many individuals with serious mental illness and substance use disorder end up incarcerated at Cook County, Jail for misdemeanor crimes. Like the number one crime that's committed that results in incarceration is trespassing. Where are they trespassing? They're trespassing at O'Hare Airport because it's accessible and its cold outside. They need a place to stay, they may end up in someone's doorway, they call the police, police arrest them and they end up in Cook County Jail. The other issue that results in incarceration is petty theft. What are they stealing? Mostly food because they don't have food. And so we are arresting people because of the structural racism that has contributed to them being in a situation where they cannot meet their basic needs. Those of you who, you know, went to college, you all took Psychology 101. So you all know about Maslow's hierarchy of needs. I'm not going to give you a lecture on that, but if you don't have housing and you don't have food, you don't have a place to stay. We can integrate all of the systems of care we want, but ultimately we've got to find housing for an individual. It is inhumane for someone to have to live in a shelter sharing a bed with 30 other

people in a room. How do you self-actualize? How do you get to the point that you are feeling good about yourself? According to the World Health, organization's definition. That you have a sense of well-being. When you don't have your own space. And I'm not talking about a luxurious home, I'm talking about having a private room with your own bed where you can store your own belongings and feel secure. This is the state of Community Mental Health. As we face it today, something has to be done about this. We cannot continue to allow people to suffer in the way that we do in the cold. Not knowing where their next meal is coming from. And on top of it, having to deal with voices in your head that tell you to do things that you having difficulty resisting doing.

Come on. This is 2021 we as a as a nation and as people need to come together and put an end to this, we talk about racial inequity. This the new buzzword racial inequity. Okay. We're going to correct racial equity on the West Side by putting money into helping the safety net hospitals, develop a better system of interoperability when it comes to how their EHR communicate with one another. That's not addressing the real problem. The real problem is we have people who don't have a place to live and so we have taken on the challenge at Bobby Wright. So we've established a pre-arrest diversion program, where we are redirecting people from the police department into treatment. We've established Street Outreach programs, where our staff are going out and actually getting people who are using substance into treatment. We've Integrated Primary Care, Pharmacy, so we're just about at the point of having a completely Integrated Health home. I want to leave this group today with the idea that we've got to find a way to fund people's basic needs. Thank you.



CITIZENS ACTION ALLIANCE FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TOWN HALL MEETING

# Vince Grzetich

**Vice President, MEDSTAR Laboratories Inc.**

I'm with MedStar, Laboratories AKA soft Landings. A little bit of my background. I've been here for about a year and a half. I met the Patel Brothers. Neil, and Raj

probably 20 years ago while I was working as the vice president of laboratory for ACL, Laboratories Advocates, lab, they were my Reference Lab or I was there Reference Lab because Labs have to send some work out that they don't do to bigger Labs. I then moved to Wisconsin diagnostic laboratories which is owned by Frederick health care and the Medical College Wisconsin up in Milwaukee and my friends, the patels join me and we moved up to Wisconsin, diagnostic, laboratories along, the way. Neil, and I always joked that one day, we're going to work together. And so, here we are. I moved back to Chicago, where I'm from, and I'm proud to say, I'm working with MedStar Laboratories. So as a testimonial for

MedStar laboratories on, probably a living breathing walking live testimonial, because after 20 years of working with them, I can attest that there are a quality ethical Integrity organization that I'm proud to work for. So, for starters, they might wonder why we're talking here. Why, what's the fit with MedStar? Well, may be some of you don't know, but the major diagnosis tool that Physicians use to check on people with behavioral health issues or any medical issues is the EMR. Your electronic medical record. Did you know that 70 to 80% of the electronic

medical record is made up of Laboratory data. So labs are a critical piece in diagnosing and structuring care for people. So we hope to be able to help you

along the way as you get more funding, to help more people to help develop plans and ways to do that. Now having worked for some of the big companies, I can tell you one of the big advantages we have here at MedStar Soft Landings is our ability to be nimble. We can help you. We can facilitate customized plans that you need and we are local. We live in your community. We are small minority-owned business. So I think we cover the bases and we can be a big help. Soft Landings is affiliate sister lab of MedStar. So we're doing the drug testing through soft Landings, but we are a comprehensive laboratory so we can do everything from blood work to drug testing here. We do EMR. We are

readily available to interface with any electronic medical record system you have out there which will give you the results interfaced at no charge. We have all the Managed Care contracts you'll need and contracted with the Illinois EPA. So we can take care of you in that regard and we're very nimble. So if anybody needs any customized plans to help along the way, we're here to help. Just give us a call. You can call me personally, if you need to, we have a dedicated local sales team, so that's all for me.



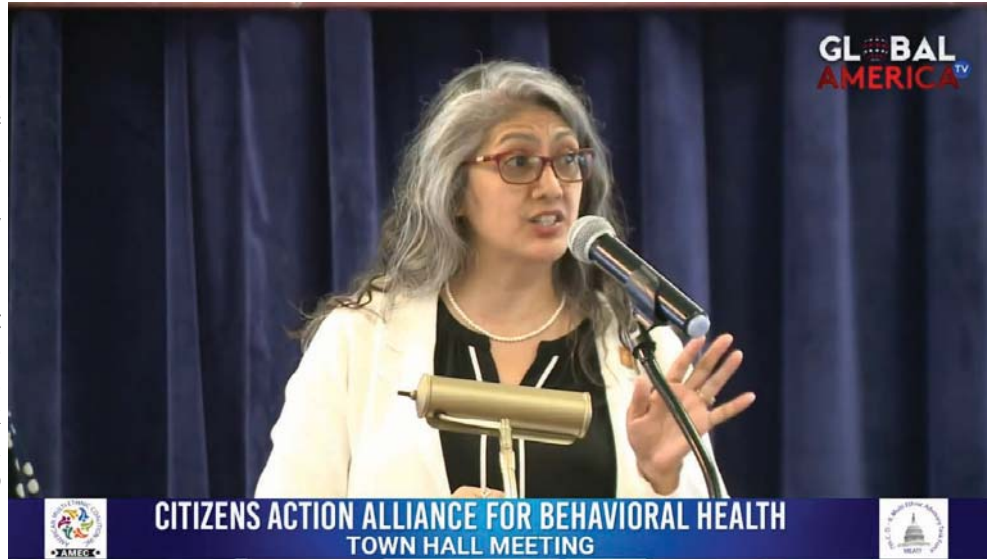
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# M Carmen Gonzalez-DJangi

**Clinical Director, Behavioral Health, Metropolitan Family Services**

Good afternoon everyone. I've been with Metropolitan 26 years. We are a Social Service Agency. We provide Behavioral Health Services. We also provide prevention Community School, programming for Young Fathers, home visiting programs, a variety of other programs throughout the city, we are in DuPage, Evanston, the north Midway, and Southeast, and Palos Heights. And again we provide Behavioral Health Services, mostly out of our Southeast and Palos Heights centers, but we provide Behavioral Health Services throughout all of our offices as well. And we have been in the city of Chicago for over a hundred sixty years.

So as quickly as I can go because I know it's getting late and we're getting a little tired, sitting down. Workforce Development is a big issue. We know that there's a house bill that has passed that includes some of the workforce issues as far as remedies, but that's not going to happen fast enough and I think that's a critical juncture, we're in given a pandemic. I don't know how long it's going to take us to get out of the pandemic with regard to the addition of severity and acuity with behavioral health issues. I think that's something we all need to start thinking about because as soon as we're going back, we're going to see the issues at work at school and these numbers are going to get really skyrocketed for all of us. A big issue is unfortunately that we're being set up in a way where we competing with one another for funds. Our communities are fragmented, our social service is fragmented when our community members are struggling to find locations for Workforce Development. I was trying to figure out how we gonna get this. It's no secret that we're trying to figure out how to not step on each other's toes. And I think that's very unfortunate situation of Social Services, especially in behavioral health. So that's a huge issue for our agency because we are huge. We're pretty huge. Although there's a lot of members here who have even wider areas, but it becomes very touchy for us to be able to serve our communities, be able to be mindful of our colleagues, or also going for the same Grant. How does that work for us? If we're talking about being culturally diverse about knowing the populations, about making sure that if a community has a diverse population that they can access diversity within their community, it's not just one agency that got that pot of money. That's a huge struggle for all of us. On a federal level. I am a LCPC, I don't understand why I won't get paid to see our seniors. We are knocking our seniors out by not giving them services with individuals that have the proper



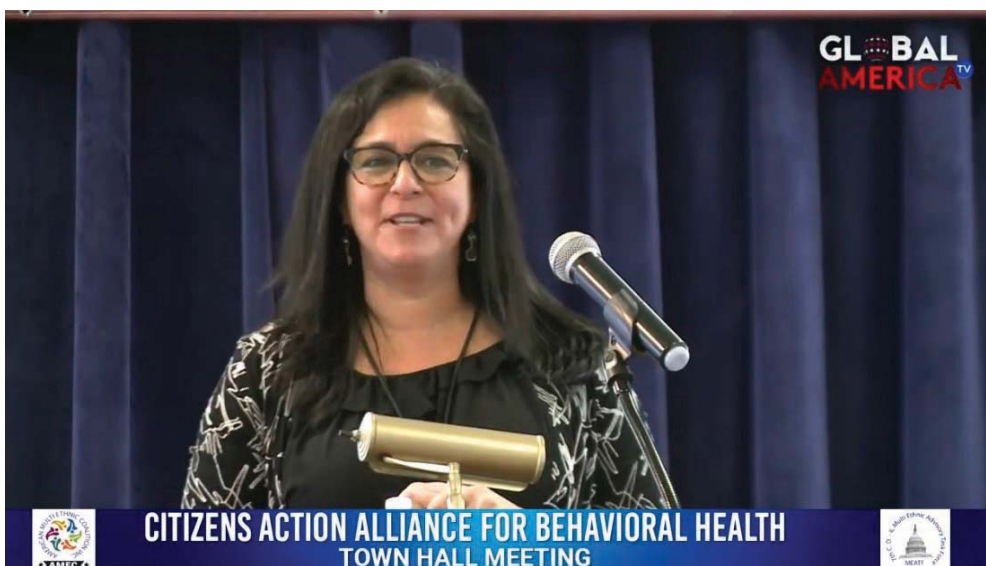
licensing to give them the service. This is an Old Situation. Medicaid pays us equally not equally in healthcare but equally with license. So, those are some of our pain points. And why is it a pain point? Because it goes back to our staffing levels, right? We're all competing for the same funds while competing for the same staff who ever gets reimbursed at the highest rate is able to pay more. And now, the rest of us who don't have the FQHCs don't have the healthcare reimbursement rate are struggling more. I'm up here, representing Community Mental Health Centers, We're supposed to have ACT or supposed to have PSR. We're supposed to have a mobile crisis. We're supposed to have an array of staff, but the reimbursement rates, unfortunately, they're not sustainable, right? And we see many of our partner organizations closing down those services, because it's not sustainable. We've already lost the connection with our clients because again, we're all competing. So that's a real pain point for many of us. I think I am not saying it just for us and then

there's a huge disparity in the amount of paperwork for the purpose of accountability with the key populations. When we have private insured individuals, they don't have to do the ICAN. The state has stopped that. But you know, when you talk about assessments, when you talk about the platforms, when you talk about the reports that takes time away from our clinicians to see community members, and we do understand that accountability is important. We understand its part of a business, right? We need to be responsive to taxpayers for them to know what we're doing with the funds. for us to have outcome measures. But there needs to be a balance, and it never fails that when we have our licensed clinicians leave, they're looking for Private Practice to get away from all the documentation. So if we're not getting reimbursed efficiently and there's a discrepancy between the amount of direct service that my clinician can provide, because they have all this other documentation that they have to do. It keeps going down right? What we can do for the community keeps decreasing. We've had a lot of successes, we're still here. The pandemic, definitely threw us for a loop, but we managed. So I think our biggest concern is how do we get out of the pandemic quickly, right? It's not over. The troubles are going to start. I thank you so much for your time and for inviting us to be a part of this really meaningful dialogue.

# Teresa Garate

**Senior Vice President, Gateway Foundation**

Good afternoon. I'm Dr. Theresa from Gateway Foundation, I see lots of friendly faces. It's nice to see everybody in person and not on zoom, yay. So, I'll be brief, Gateway foundation has been around for 53 years. It's a year younger than me and we do substance use disorder treatment all over the state of Illinois and in seven other states. I'm glad I'm going first because usually substance use comes after mental illness and it's very rare that we start talking about substance use before we start talking about Mental Illness, but obviously about 80% of the people that we see, have a co-occurring, mental illness, and a diagnosis, and what sets us apart a little bit, is that we see people in community and we also see people who are just as involved. So outside of the state of Illinois, we see people who are in the Department of Corrections whether they're in Community Corrections or within a department. We are a non-profit. We've been around. Like I said, 53 years. Most of our community services are here in Illinois. So we have Services all the way from the northern region in Lake Villa all the way down to Carbondale. So, all over the state, so we serve everybody in your District congressman. And when one of the challenges that we saw during the pandemic is that people stopped coming to treatment people were Scared. So on any given day before the pandemic we had about 550 people in our beds across the state of Illinois, which is talked about Illinois right now and in the height of the pandemic. So in March, the number went down to 90. So first of all, obviously, it hit us financially. No income coming in but also, people were dying because they weren't coming to treatment. People were scared. So now we're back up to about 350 but we're still coming up to a shortfall. So one of the things I think that we learned right away, is that while we were all focused on the global pandemic, we forgot about the companion crisis, right? The overdoses, the mental illness, the people suffering, and that number grew so quickly, we had to make sure that we were talking to people and saying we're still open, we've put protocols in place. So we created covid positive



units within three of our locations. We did testing right away we had intake pods. So if you've been to a residential treatment facility for substance use and even if you haven't just kind of imagine, you know, a campus with different building. So we created spaces, we tested everybody. We tested all of our all of our staff. We were joking that, you know, I was like we had money for people. We couldn't find PPE so we were making our own. So some of the same challenges that all of you, I'm sure struggled with. So, with all of those things in place we were quickly able to pivot and continue providing services. And the other thing that we did and which I think is a one of the few nice outcomes of the pandemic is we switched to Telehealth. So for those of you who do not know, telepsychiatry has been around for a long time, but for addiction medicine, it was never paid for, so we were not able to do. We were not able to run groups, we were not able to do any of Telehealth at all, other than one-on-one telepsychiatry. So, this really was a big change and actually, it's resulted in us continuing to expand that. So now we have virtual programming across the state and even in some of our other states where people actually prefer to stay in Virtual Telehealth accessing their groups.

So if you think about Illinois, you know, we're up here but most of the most of the state is Rome, 70% of the state is wrong. Um, and for some people, they couldn't ever make it to one of our facilities. So they came to residential and then when they were stepping down to outpatient, they couldn't drive 60 miles. So now they're able to access treatment from their home and that is growing. So again, some of the challenges, some of the successes, I know I'm probably running out of time, so I'll be very quick. So, two things to remember too is in mental health and we treat people with little hope, there's opportunities for permanent Supportive Housing, but for addiction people with the primary substance use, there's very little funding for Recovery housing. So an area to look at is recovery support and continue Telehealth. Thank you so much for the opportunity to share.

# INDIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS COALITION (IABC) & THE GLOBAL EYE DIGITAL MAGAZINE HONORS TOP 20 CHICAGOLAND WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE



**“I AM NOT WHAT HAPPEND TO ME. I AM WHAT I CHOOSE TO BECOME.”**  
**INSPIRING CALL TO ACTION ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MRS SURABHI KUMAR,**  
**WIFE OF SHRI AMIT KUMAR, INDIA’S CONSUL GENERAL AT CHICAGO.**

Honorable Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Executive Director, IABC, Dr Vijay Prabhakar, Chairman The Global Eye, Dr Rani Yousefzai, Mr Neal Patel distinguished guests. Namaskar, good afternoon. It gives me great pleasure to be here today and I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to all of you on the occasion of the International Women’s Day 2021. I’m humbled to be speaking here today in the presence of such distinguished guests. Yet I speak with a sense of great pride. As I look at all the women who have broken all gender barriers and accomplished so much, cheers to you.

Thank you to the Indian American Business Coalition and its partner organizations for this event to celebrate the achievement and advocating for acceleration of gender parity. Cultures are steadily moving towards gender equality. Stereotypes are constantly being challenged and diverse representation of women is becoming more and more visible across fields.

However, there remains work to be done. This is all just work in progress inclusive mind sets and tangible actions are needed from all and in every phase of life, whether it is at home, whether it is in the schools, whether it is in the workplace. Women are leaders everywhere you look from the CEO who runs a Fortune 500 company to the housewife who raises her children and heads her household. I am an educator and the spouse of a career diplomat. Through my travels, I have juggled to wear several hats, whether it is that of a mother who has ensured that her children settle into the new environments very quickly, whether it is that of a wife who chose to walk not one step behind rather alongside her partner, whether it is that of a homemaker who opened her heart and her home to the outside world giving them a glimpse into modern India or whether it is that of an educator whose passion to have a positive impact and mould young minds has brought great satisfaction and joy. Even as I say these words, I’m forced to acknowledge that the job of juggling several hats it is fraught with anxiety. At its very core juggling comes with the expectation that you do not drop anything. My job as an educator and as an elementary specialist puts me in the unique position to support our young learners and each other in building a world where gender parity is not a desirable, it’s a given. Believe me when I say that gender disparity starts very young. Research has shown that the concept of gender in children forms between the ages of four and

seven. During this early phase children form an understanding of gender norms, identities and unfortunately stereotypes of assertive male and passive females. As the spouse of a career diplomat I bought a significant role in representing my country and in providing a window into the socio-cultural aspects of India and challenging stereotypes about Indians including about Indian women. India is on the move and so our Indian women who are making an integral contribution in that Journey. In my word as the accompanying spouse I have had the opportunity to live in different parts of the world. I would like to take this moment to talk about how as women we are each other’s biggest allies through our moves across the world I managed to forge friendships with women from different backgrounds, different cultures, and different identities. These women have had various points in my life, helped my own growth and helped me grow as a person as an individual. They have been there to lift me up to welcome me into the struggle and to teach me more about the myriad issues that affect women. These issues actually are pretty similar across the world. So I really feel that these are the women’s issues are not linked to a region. These are all global issues. International women day is a chance to celebrate that sisterhood while also renewing our energy and the commitment to keep moving forward. Having said this, I have felt and so have a few of my other friends that there are greater expectations from the wife of a diplomat rather than from the husband of a diplomat. What this expectation entails differs depending upon the cultural aspect of the country. However, regardless of the culture, the male spouse receives more leeway than the wife.

I hope that we are able to achieve gender parity in this aspect too, because we have to

remember that our children are watching. What they see at home, is what they will be taking out into the world. As I speak here today, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the roles that our mothers have played in our lives. I speak from my experience and from those of several of my friends about how our mothers have been a biggest supporters, how they have supported us in all our endeavours, how progressive they have been ensuring that their daughters are not just well educated but well equipped to take on any challenge that life throws at them.

Many of the women in that generation did not work yet it did not deter them from being decision-makers and charting the course forward for their daughters. It is now our turn to give the next generation a foothold as they spread their wings to fly. I would like to end my speech with a thought. I am not what happened to me. I am what I choose to become. Thank you.



Asian Med

**MS. AWILDA GONZALEZ**  
Program Director, Home Care & Adult Day Care  
UMAS, Roselle, IL



services for over 46 years. She held the position of Director of Programs for Asi Inc. for the last 30 years before joining Universal Industries/Universal Metro Asian Family Services/Metropolitan Asian Services, Inc. in August 5, 2013. During her employment with Asi, she was instrumental in developing in-house policies for government and private funded in-homecare programs. During those years she also assisted new ethnic agencies in establishing their homecare programs, aided in training the staff, and provided technical assistance. She served as a committee member of the task force formulated by the Chicago Department on Aging which conducted an ethnic elderly needs assessment. Awilda has been an active board

member of the Coalition of Limited English-Speaking Elderly (CLESE) since its inception 32 years ago. She has been a two time recipient of "The Pillar of Service Award" presented by CLESE. She was also honored with the "Hispanic Leadership Award" presented by the Archdiocese of Chicago. Also received the Leadership Award from Universal Metro Asian Services, Inc in 2019. Awilda also headed the committee of Our Lady of Mercy Domestic Violence Ministry and served as a facilitator for the support group as well as past Leader in facilitating the parents who prepare their children for their Sacraments. She is a proud mother of three children who have blessed her with ten grandchildren

Awilda Gonzalez attended Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL, where she obtained a Certificate in nonprofit Management. A graduate of University of Illinois where she obtained her BA. She has worked in the non-for-profit field for in-homecare

**MS. ALLI DHANARAJ**

Department Leader, Rayton Technologies,  
Rockford, IL



I feel very accomplished professionally, although there is always room to grow. As president of "Cousins for a Cause" the work we do to bring awareness about treatable ocular conditions that lead to permanent blindness if untreated. I believe we can and want to take it global to prevent blindness throughout the world.

**MS. NIRMALA REDDY**

Community Activist, Aurora, IL

I am a volunteer in HSS/SEWA, recently I was part of Covid helpline to help common people who need any kind of help. We received lot of calls for help, provided help on travel tips, students issues like accommodation, groceries, medical prescriptions etc. I was part of Sewa Diwali food drive, we collected food donations and donated to Aurora and Naperville pantries. As Sewa volunteer to facilitate events on family services to help and educate community about the importance of having wills etc. I always stand for truth, fight any injustice in community, fight any fake narratives which damages community, educate and share facts with leaders on any issues. Helping in local election campaign activities, like call campaign, door to door walking, social media, facilitating meeting and greeting with candidate etc



**MS. NEELAM SABOO**

Vibha NFP, Illinois

Neelam Saboo lives in Naperville with her husband and two kids and works as an assistant controller at Prepay Nation. She is the founder of Beautiful Ideas, an Indian Boutique in Naperville. Neelam is an active advocate for women-run small businesses. She enjoys guiding other women in entrepreneurship. Neelam strongly believes that kids are our future. She volunteers at VIBHA, a non-profit that promotes education, as an event coordinator, and

leads fundraising activities. She is a women coordinator lead at Tamil Nadu Foundation's Chicago chapter. She is an active member of Happy Feet women club which promotes women's health through fun, fitness, and friendship



**MS. REGINA TITSWORTH**

Community Activist, Lansing, IL



The oldest of five, she was born December 24, 1964, on the South Side of Chicago where she was raised. After graduating from Fenger High School in 1982 she joined the United States Army where she was stationed in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. In 1984 she married her sweetheart Myron Titsworth and on 9-15-19 they will celebrate 35 years of marriage. They have 4 Children, 1 Son-in-love, 1 Daughter-in-love, and 4 Grandchildren. Their



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youngest son Kevin Love Titsworth, their Guardian Angel, now residing in Heaven since 07-28-15 at the age of 18, passed of Leukemia. She along with her husband and children have been proud Lansing residents since 2-9-96 and were one of the first minority business owners of Lansing. They own My-Gina's Christian Child Care & Community Services, Inc. since March 1996. She is an ordained Elder of Family Christian Center in Munster, Indiana under the Leadership of her Pastors Steve and Meloyde Munsey. She was appointed by Pastor Munsey as a Community Outreach Pastor and installed on June 10, 2018 by her Mentor, Pastor David Bigsby, of In The Upper Room Ministries of

Lansing, Illinois. She is a Community Organizer and Member of South Suburban Action Conference and Gamaliel of Illinois & Iowa since 1996. Pastor Gina is a Juvenile Prison Minister, and is currently the PTA President of Memorial Junior High appointed in (2018). She is currently serving her term as a Human Relations Commissioner of Lansing appointed in (2018). Mrs. Gina has no hidden agenda and is one who loves the Lord, loves everybody, loves the Village of Lansing and Values Family. She prides her motto from President Obama, "IF YOU WANT CHANGE, BE THE CHANGE!" and her saying is "I DARE TO CARE!"

**MS. VASAVI CHAKKA**

Commissioner, Naperville Sister City Commission, Naperville, IL



My name is Vasavi Chakka. I am a resident of Naperville for the past 16 years. I am a community activist, leadership coach, mentor and passionate for public service. I have the tenacity to build strong alliances to benefit the Naperville community and believe in teamwork. I have been in the United States for over 33 years. My interest in serving the Community is part of my DNA, stemming from my family's multi-generational involvement



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in public service. My love for the community is built from my desire to serve a purpose for the greater good, which is inspired by my hero Abraham Lincoln. Currently, my community involvement includes :  
 1. Commissioner on the Naperville Sister Cities Commission  
 2. Board of Directors on SAFECHR (SAFE Coalition for Human Rights)  
 3. Executive Member of U.S. Congressman Danny K Davis's Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force.  
 4. Policy Circle Chair Person: Community Conversations; Policycircle.org  
 5. Board of director on the Indian Community Outreach Organization, Naperville  
 6. Mentor at Everwise, www.geteverwise.com  
 Previously, I have also served on the Boards of The Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce -The

Kids Matter, The CAP Program at 360 Youth Services Organization, Naperville Downtown Rotary Executive Board and The Think Global Arts Foundation. Being a seasoned senior IT management professional, with more than 23 years of experience of working with global organizations such as IBM Watson Research Center, Getronics and Siemens/Atos, I understand the importance of City of Naperville's economy, diversity and inclusion. I am also the Founder -President of Araala Inc., a firm which provides Leadership development, career counseling and Project Management services. My husband Dr. Sudhakar Chakka is a pillar of support to me along with my two children, daughter Siri and son Prahith.

**MS. NICOLE HARVEY**

Chairman, Sankofa Safe Child Initiative Chicago, IL



Nicole L. "Nikki" Harvey is the Director of Constituency Development Program & Operations / Deputy District Director for the U.S. House of Representatives Office Of Congressman Danny K. Davis Illinois 7th Congressional District.

A humble servant of GOD, A exceptional community activist, a compassioned daughter. Nicole L. "Nikki" Harvey a consummate professional with over three decades of experience working within the criminal justice system, social services and federal legislation. Nikki has devoted herself to the elimination of breaking cycles of disparities in. Nikki currently serves over 850,000 constituents where she



serves under the great leadership of Congressman Danny K. Davis. With over three decades of experience working within the Criminal Justice System, Social Services, and Federal Public Policy, Nikki sits, chairs and facilitates on several committees ie: Public Safety / Law Enforcement, Healthcare, Child Welfare, Women Issues and Religions Affairs. Nikki has successfully built unyielding relationships with numerous States, Cities, Communities, Faith & Social Services organizations including but not limited to the State of Illinois. Nicole L. "Nikki" Harvey offers a special out of the box approach with pioneering energies at all levels of government, creating a platform for members of the community to stand together and make the difference. Nikki also authored of the book "A Word

For The Soul". Nikki's a life member of a Greek Organization, Nikki also holds National Advocate Credentialing in Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Nikki also possess several additional degrees both earned and honorary along with multiple additional trainings and certifications. Nikki is looking to harness wisdom, awareness, and seasoned knowledge, partnered with unique experiences and fresh ideas to build healthier, stronger, and safer communities. Nikki's fruit did not fall far away from the tree, raised by great parents, Pastor James W. L. Harvey Jr., a Pastor, Proud Union Worker and Veteran and Alice, a teacher. They both fought and served the community in many capacities, inspiring Nikki to fight for the greater good of the people of her community. NIKKI is an action word.

Asian Media USA

**MS TWIN D. GREEN**

Founder & CEO, The Link and Option Center South Holland, IL



Twin D. Green is an advocate for civic and social justice on behalf of children and families. Ms. Green is the Founder, President and CEO of The Link & Option Center, Inc., and an accredited organization by The Joint Commission. The Link & Option Center, Inc. was a personal experience of Ms. Green whose teenage son struggled to set himself apart from negative forces in the community. The passion she held took on the challenge, which evidenced compassion to safeguard the rites to passage for her son and other youth in the South Suburban Cook County Region. This passion held by Ms. Green for the past 26-years undergirds the Mission of The Link & Option Center, Inc. that is to empower people



with quality prevention and intervention services by coordinating and integrating services among systems of care and community resources. Ms. Green earned her Master of Arts Degree in Inner City Studies Education, while attending Northeastern Illinois University. Ms. Green serves on a number of significant boards and coalitions, all designed to safeguard the lives of youth, adults and families.  
**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS :**  
 Member, IHPA Provider Network Owner – Chair, Clinical Operations Committee  
 Member, Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois  
 Member, Illinois Association of Behavioral Health (IADDA)  
 Member, National Council for Behavioral Health  
 Member, Cook County Health Community Advisory Council

Member, Democratic Women of the South Suburbs  
 Member, League of Women Voters-Chicago  
 Member, South-Southwest Comprehensive Strategic Partnership  
 Member, Southland Human Services Leadership Council  
 Member, Illinois Youth Court Association  
 Member, Illinois Partners for Human Services  
 Member, Department of Children and Family Services LAN 53 - Steering Committee  
 Member, Black Executive Director's Coalition  
 Member, Community Advisory Board Council  
 Member, Order of Eastern Star - Eureka Grand Chapter Naomi #124, Prince Hall Affiliate  
 Member, National Institute for Social Justice  
 Member, Chicago Access Network Television (CAN TV)  
 Member, City Club of Chicago

Asian Media USA

**MS. DONNA THOMPSON**  
CEO, Access Community Care, Chicago, IL



For more than 30 years, Donna Thompson has been on the front lines of patient care delivery.

When Donna first joined Access Community Health Network (ACCESS) as Chief Operating Officer in 1995, she was very familiar with the difficulties that patients faced due to their lack of access to primary and preventive care. Now as ACCESS' CEO since 2004, Donna demonstrates daily how a focused commitment

to high quality community health care can save lives, revitalize communities, and preserve the possibility of a healthy life for hundreds of thousands of patients across the Chicagoland area.

Spearheading growth and quality at ACCESS : Through its mission, ACCESS provides high quality, comprehensive community-based health care in the area's most underserved communities. In her years as CEO, Donna has led ACCESS to become one of the largest federally qualified health center (FQHC) organizations in the country. ACCESS provides an integrative health home for patients in each of its 35 health center locations across the greater Chicago area, including suburban Cook and DuPage counties. Under Donna's leadership, ACCESS has developed a model of health care that helps patients navigate the gap between community-based care and other critical resources from vital hospital services to community support services. ACCESS has been continuously accredited by the Joint Commission since 2000 and received National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) designation for

each of its eligible health centers since 2015. Believing in the value of strong community partnerships, four ACCESS centers are co-located with other organizations, such as the Gary Comer Youth Center and the DuPage County Health Department, to better address resident needs comprehensively.

Donna received her bachelor of science degree from DePaul University in 1986, as well as her master degree of science in nursing administration in 1989. Donna was named a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow in 2003. She received the 2007 Chicago Athena Award for her leadership in developing community health and was recognized as one of Chicago United's 2007 Business Leaders of Color. She is also a co-founder of the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force. In 2008, Donna received the Chicago National Organization for Women's Outstanding Community Leader Award. In 2009, N'Digo magazine named her one of Chicago's most influential women. Donna is a 2010 graduate of the Kellogg School of Management's CEO Perspectives program. She received the National Medical Fellowship Leadership in Healthcare Award in 2015. Donna is a DePaul University Board Trustee and also serves on the Boards of Directors of the DuPage Health Coalition in DuPage County, Il.; the National Public Housing Museum; and Children's Home & Aid Chicago.

**MS. ANICA DUBEY**  
Community Activist, Naperville, IL



Anica is a successful Human Resources professional with over 2 decades of progressive international experience. She is currently working as Chief Human Resource Officer for an IT firm and is resident of Naperville. She has 2 kids, one son who is Wharton graduate and daughter is in 5th grade. Anica is MBA with major in Human Resource Management. An avid entrepreneur who created jobs locally, a community activist, volunteer and supporter, involved in promoting the social cause through local groups. She has been actively engaged in local schools as



Vice President in PTA Board, IPPC representative, Science Fair Chair, Reflections Chair-a national level art program for students from K-12, headroom parent and events Chair. She has been passionate about Stem education and dedicated to the cause of promoting STEM activities in school by organizing Science Fairs and STEM Career Days.

She got recognized for her volunteerism and was awarded volunteer of the month in school district 204 for her intense involvement in school, for stepping up and going above and beyond! Anica has organized and anchored several local events and has been recognized as Social Butterfly, Networking Ninja and public speaker. She is community activist and

executive member of MEATF and AMEC. She is on the advisory board of non-profit organization in India called Marwari Samaj Mahila Samiti which is dedicated and committed for the upliftment of underprivileged women in the community. In the last 5 years she was associated with local organizations and took the initiative to raise Hindi to a higher level by inspiring the next generation. She devoted herself to organizing Hindi Divas and other programs. She gave young children an opportunity to showcase their talent in Hindi by participating in Hindi speeches, cultural dances, poems and short plays. She currently serves on the board of MAFS Hindi Academy.

**MS SHAHIDA KHAN**  
CEO, Studio Elite, Chicago, IL



Involved in Fashion Industry from past 30 plus years. Currently owns and Manages "Studio Elite" in Chicago. Carrying High-end designs from India and Pakistan. Also founder and PResident of an Not For Profit Organization "Suzy's Place" dealing with women empowerment and shelter. Doing educational and training activities for over 7 years.



**MS. KARTIKA DEWI WIDJANTA**  
Jewelry & Fashion Designer  
Chicago, IL



Kartika Widjanta was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia. Her father who was an engineer has dreamed that his generations must have good education so they can live a good life. He sent her daughters to study abroad while they still young. He sent Kartika to New Zealand at the age of 15 and finished her high school. Since on her junior year she showed interest in Fashion. She then pursued her passion in Australia, and her creation got selected to represent school in National competition at Wollongong.

In year 2000, she went to Paris to continue her fashion study, she got the experienced to study and learned



the culture in different places, especially in one of big fashion capital in the world. After she went back to Indonesia and worked for two famous designers: the late Batik Maestro Iwan Tirta who once had a flagship store at New York City, and also prominent fashion designer Biyan Wanaatmadja who also has counter at Bergdorf Goodman New York City. Once again, her designed got selected to an International fashion competition, Concours International Des Jeunes Createurs De Mode. She married to Martino Tangkar and moved to Chicago since then. Martino Who always supporting her career and passion made her to continue her fashion study, and received a Cum Laude Fashion Business degree at Columbia College. She decided to take the opportunity, and never regret the experiences working in the business. She opened a jewelry line in 2015 and followed by clothing

line in 2018. Her collection can be seen at Ladyquaintgallery.com, She had several counters at Chicago North Bridge -Michigan Avenue Shopping Mall, Old Orchard Shopping Mall; and also at Galleries Lafayette Jakarta, Metro Senayan Mall, Metro Puri Mall, and Metro Pondok Indah Mall at Indonesia before Covid-19 pandemic. She also helped her community with her lifetime experience in fashion. Every year since 2011 she organize fashion show for the Indonesian Consulate and Indonesian Trade Promotion Center. She organized Fashion show at Asian American Coalition of Chicago's Conference on Business & Networking and Lunar New Year Celebration 2015, Remarkable Indonesia Fair (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019), and Indonesian Diaspora National Convention 2018 at Navy pier, Chicago.

**MS. VIVIANE NGWA**  
Corporate Vice President &  
Executive Director, Illinois  
National Youth Advocacy  
Program, Matteson, Illinois



Viviane Ngwa is an Illinois licensed Clinical Social Worker with more than 25 years of experience in the human service field in both non-profit and for-profit arenas having led core growth and both new business development in multiple states. As a Corporate Vice President & Executive Director currently, she comes with leadership experience in Diversity Equity and Inclusion in the workplace in alignment with the provision of services to families,



individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and services to youth with juvenile probation involvement. She also has extensive experience in child welfare and behavioral health service structure across many states.

Viviane was a member of the Board of Directors of the Family Focused Treatment Association (FFTA) and past Board President. She was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Council on Accreditation (COA) where she served on the Standards Committee and the Board Development Committee. She has been a COA Peer Reviewer Team Leader and Hague Evaluator for many years leading numerous accreditation site visits across the United States and Canada.

Viviane's international experience in child welfare includes chairing the Social Work Tri-City Exchange between Chicago & Hamburg, Germany & Birmingham, England; co-chairing the Chicago & Durban, South Africa subcommittee. She was also invited by the American Embassy as a subject matter expert to lead planning discussions and presentations on de-institutionalization and community placement options for children and adults with disabilities stepping out of state-run residential facilities in Latvia and Lithuania. Viviane holds a master's degree in Social Work & a Graduate Certificate in Global Policy Studies from the University of Georgia, and a current Ph. D student at Adler University.



**MS. NORA ALVARADO GARCIA**  
Deputy Area Manager ,ITOPS  
Edward Hines VA Hospital, Hines, IL



Nora Alvarado Garcia is the Deputy Area Manager ITOPS (Information and Technology Operations and Services)/EUO (end user operation) at Edward Hines Jr VA Hospital in Hines Illinois. The Hines Area comprises of a 1A complexity VHA Hospital with six Clinical Based Outpatient Clinics, VBA Information Technology Center, NCA Cemetery, three Vet Centers, and three leased sites. She is responsible for supporting 7,090 employee network accounts and 10,920 non-expendable OIT equipment items with an asset value over \$17 million. Have been in this position since November of 2016. From 2015 to 2016 she was a Senior Analyst doing Tier 3 system support for the Midwest ITOPS in the VA. Where she supported over



12 Hospitals with their VM servers. From 2012-2015 was a Senior system Network Analyst at Edward Hines VA Hospital. Where she performed the duties of Network support and Hardware support. Support PC, thin clients, IMAC, physical servers, Network switches, etc. From 1992-2015 she was an IT Specialist for Research at Hines VA Hospital. Performed varies IT hats, from programming systems to collect data for varies studies, Supporting reaches Network, Software/Hardware. Travelled over 14 VA hospital installing and programming the reminder system that she helped write to collect data for a multi-site study called CCSH9 reminder system. From 1990 to 1992 I was an IT Specialist system analysis for Lakeside VA Hospital. She was responsible for supporting varies hospital software packages (Dental, pharmacy, MAS, IFCAP, Nursing, etc.). From 1991-1992 she worked part-time for Olive Harvey

College learn center. Teaching adult education on word processing and data processing. From 1986-1990 she worked at the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) as a computer assistant. Her duties were to help senior staff with all IT support. From 1982-1986 she worked for Health and Human Service as a computer operator. Duties there were to assist in all the IT needs for HHS. While she earned her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with a minor in Managerial accounting. Graduated from DeVry University in February of 1986 with her B.S. Graduated from Jones Commercial H.S. which is now Jones Metropolitan. Nora is an immigrant from Mexico born on August 17, 1965. She came to this country in 1970, at the age of 5. Grew up in neighborhood of the Back of the yards. Have a wonderful husband, mother of 3 and grandma of 2.

**MS. VIDYA JOSHI**  
President, BBM Of North  
America, Naperville, IL



Vidya Joshi is a master at perseverance. She knows her aspirations and takes efficient actions fueled by passionate efforts to ensure she reaches her goals. At the face of any adversity, she takes a deep breath and keeps on fighting for her ambitions. She doesn't believe that the sky's the limit, and she continues to reach above and beyond the horizon. In her personal and professional life, she serves as an epitome of diligence and endurance. Her passion for all arts, public speaking, and even sports is driven by desire to reach her full potential. Her life story and her character motivate others to set their aims and fight for them. Her witty humor, compassion, and dedication to help others attracts all people toward her. She connects with everyone on a personal level and is a source of support for them through their life. In the future, her aim is to continuously make an impact on the people around her



and eventually the world. Dr. Vidya Joshi is a homeopathic doctor and has earned her MBA in Healthcare Administration from USA. She currently manages numerous different clinics and hospitals. In addition to her professional achievements, she has been the head of numerous organizations, such as Maharashtra Mandal of Chicago, and has even founded a Marathi Shala in Chicago. During her term as President, she worked diligently throughout the year to bring forth unique programs to Chicago and increased community participation. Her motto for her term was "harnessing the cultural threads", and though her programs and events geared to involve the youth in the community, she did just that. In addition to her incredible accomplishments in MMC, Dr. Vidya Joshi has established a Marathi Shala in Chicago. Her shala works to ensure children remain in touch with their culture and their roots by learning the language of their heritage. Her Shala has even received accreditation from the State of Illinois, allowing students in her school to utilize their certification in Marathi to receive high school credit. Throughout her life, Dr.

Vidya Joshi has enthusiastically served her community and plans to even further impact those around her in the future. She has been elected as BMM president for 2019 to 2022. As BMM president she will be managing 72 Maharashtra mandals nationwide which has a database of more than 100,000. Through BMM they did fundraising around 18000 dollars to help back stage artists in India. Also they have covid 19 helpline to help the needy. They helped several needy for food, visa, financial, and also mental support. Under the BMM initiative Deepstambh we are not limiting our help to only Covid but extending help in any other foreseen circumstances. e.g Hurricane, Flood situation in North America. During these difficult times, there are many individuals all over North America and abroad who may need assistance. BMM is also connecting with Government Agencies, other social organizations that might be in the best place to resolve any specific issues related to any disaster. They have meber database of more than 10 million all over the USA.

**MS SADAF M KHAN**  
Human Development foundation of North America, Chicago IL



Resourceful and solutions-focused project management professional, with a double Masters in Systems Development and Project Management, offering 15 years of comprehensive technical and functional experience in the IT industry in ERP systems working in different roles on multiple implementations. Offering vast experience in managing and strategic planning of multiple projects simultaneously, while building a lasting rapport with

each client. Innovative engagement manager, involved in various implementations with a variety of technologies (SAP, Microsoft Dynamics, Tableau Development, and other ERP systems) while working across many different industries such as: Retail, Utilities, Chemicals, and in the Government sector. Involved in the creation and preparation of project plans and project documentation based on client requirements and the business objectives of each project. Possesses excellent communication and analytical skills with ability to perform all management tasks with minimal supervision while

ensuring project standards and procedures. Able to work in a fast-paced environment, bridging any knowledge gaps, and effective team player that facilitates any learning gaps to maintain top-performance and project goals. Self-motivated, team player that actively works with the client and c-level executives to increase project and internal company engagement while effectively managing the internal and project team. Dedicated to maximizing client satisfaction by ensuring the project business objectives are met above the client expectations.

**MS. RATNA KAPUR**  
CEO, KS Foundation, Aurora, IL



A Dynamic Women Entrepreneur by profession and philanthropist by passion. She has been a philanthropist for almost 20 years with a genuine heart to make this world a better place by supporting those in need by her ongoing

commitment and passion for serving the community. KS Foundation Inc, a non for profit has provided more than 50,000 meals in the Year 2020 to homeless shelters, food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless people on the streets, and to Frontline caregivers at different Chicagoland hospitals, and

all this was possible due to KS Foundation volunteers, team members, donors, cheerleaders – who support us. Together we can do better and combine all of our distinct aspects; we can create an organization that functions to improve our communities.

**DR RIZWANA MUGHAL**  
Medical Director, Addiction Medicine Clinical Medical Associates, Des Plaines , IL

Dr Rizwana Mughal is an internist/ Addiction Medicine specialist . She has done her training from Rutgers Medical School New Jersey. She has rich history to serve needs of Immigrant women health care needs . She has delivered care in different capacities to most vulnerable populations especially Asian Americans where Addiction is not considered a disease and has been more of a taboo. She is founding Medical Director of Addiction Medicine for soft landing. In her current role as Medical Leader for Clinical Medical Associates and Prism Health Labs. She has dedicated all her efforts to help patients with COVID-19 and link them to much needed resources including vaccination. She has been arranging vaccination campaigns all through out City of Chicago and Cook County. She is Women Health care leader and give care with outstanding dedication and extraordinary compassion.



**DR. ROBYN JACKSON**  
Medical Director-Volunteer To  
Walk In My Shoes, Chicago, IL



Her passion for community service and leadership, commitment to the health enhancement of others and focus on quality performance despite the pandemic is why Dr Jackson is being awarded the top 20 Chicagoland Women of Excellence.

Her passion for community service and leadership, commitment to the health enhancement of others and focus on quality performance despite the pandemic is why Dr Jackson is being awarded the top 20 Chicagoland Women of Excellence.

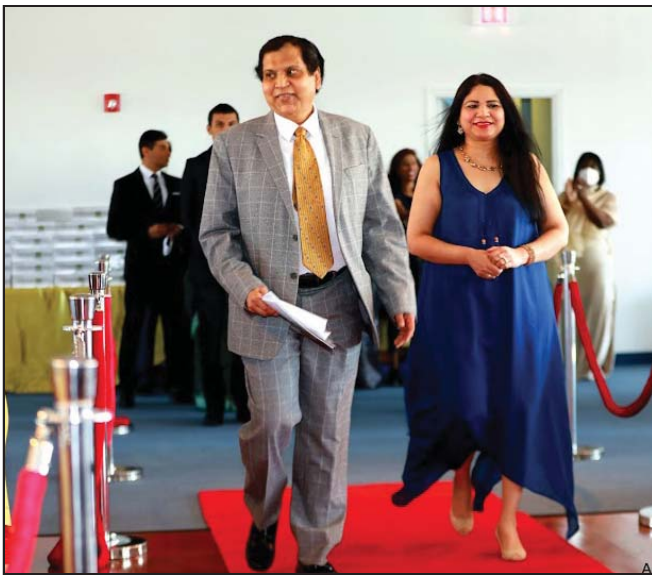
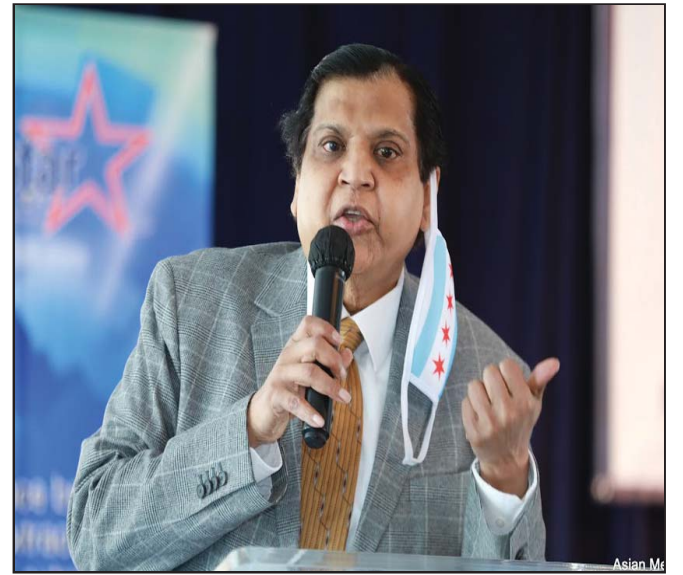
**MS. ANASHA HOLIDAY**  
C.O.O., No Adults Left Behind,  
Chicago. IL



Anasha is responsible for the operation and expansion of NALB educational and resource centers which have redefined the adult literacy experience for hundreds and thousands of Graduates around the world. NALB set the standards for customer service with innovative features like Employment Readiness, Job Placement, Wrap Around Services and one on one personal tutoring to help students get the most out of our second chance program. Anasha Holliday has a passion for service and is actively involved in issues concerning youth and young adults, which includes education, employment readiness and job placement and community social service. Anasha is a community leader and actively participates in several community and outreach services. Through her service, Anasha continues to be committed to making a difference and changing lives for the better.

**Top 20 Chicagoland Women of Excellence**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>1.Ms. Awilda Gonzalez</b><br/>Program Director<br/>Home Care &amp; Adult Day Care<br/>UMAS, Roselle, IL</p> | <p><b>8.Ms. Neelam Saboo</b><br/>Vibha NFP, Illinois</p>   | <p><b>15.Dr. Robyn Jackson</b><br/>Medical Director-Volunteer<br/>To Walk In My Shoes, Chicago, IL</p>                           |
| <p><b>2.Ms. Alii Dhanaraj</b><br/>Department Leader<br/>Rayton Technologies<br/>Rockford, IL</p>                  | <p><b>9.Ms. Donna Thompson</b><br/>CEO, Acss Community Care<br/>Chicago, IL</p>  | <p><b>16.Dr Rizwana Mughal</b><br/>Medical Director, Addiction Medicine<br/>Clinical Medical Associates<br/>Des Plaines , IL</p> |
| <p><b>3.Ms. Regina Titsworth</b><br/>Community Activist, Lansing, IL</p>  | <p><b>10.Ms. Anica Dubey</b><br/>Community Activist, Naperville, IL</p>  | <p><b>17.Ms Shahida Khan</b><br/>CEO, Studio Elite<br/>Chicago, IL</p>   |
| <p><b>4.Ms. Vasavi Chakka</b><br/>Commissioner,<br/>Naperville Sister City Commission,<br/>Naperville, IL</p>     | <p><b>11.Ms. Kartika Dewi Widjanta</b><br/>Jewelry &amp; Fashion Designer<br/>Chicago, IL</p>  | <p><b>18.Ms. Vidya Joshi</b><br/>President, BBM Of North America<br/>Naperville, IL</p>  |
| <p><b>5.Ms. Nicole Harvey</b><br/>Chairman, Sankofa Safe Child Initiative<br/>Chicago, IL</p>                     | <p><b>12.Ms. Ratna Kapur</b><br/>CEO, KS Foundation,<br/>Aurora, IL</p>  | <p><b>19.Ms. Anusha Holiday</b><br/>C.O.O., No Adults Left Behind<br/>Chicago. IL</p>  |
| <p><b>6.Ms. Nirmala Reddy</b><br/>Community Activist, Aurora, IL</p>  | <p><b>13.Ms. Viviane Ngwa</b><br/>Corporate Vice President &amp;<br/>Executive Director, Illinois<br/>National Youth Advocacy Program<br/>Matteson, Illinois</p> | <p><b>20.Ms Sadaf M Khan</b><br/>Human Development foundation of North<br/>America, Chicago IL</p>                               |
| <p><b>7.Ms Twin D. Green</b><br/>Founder &amp; CEO The Link and Option Center<br/>South Holland, IL</p>           | <p><b>14.Ms. Nora Alvarado Garcia</b><br/>Deputy Area Manager, ITOPS<br/>Edward Hines VA Hospital, Hines, IL</p>   | <p><b>CONGRATULATIONS !!!!</b></p>   |





**A Mother's Ode to her First Born's First Day At School:**

Skokie, Illinois  
 Wrote a piece for Arian today  
 Sharing the thoughts with you  
 Why am I confused  
 As a mom I just pulled my emotions together and dropped of my 5 year old to first day of kindergarten.  
 This morning at 5 am my eyes were wide open. I felt sick to my stomach, questioning my self. Is this it ? Is he out of the house? Is he moving to be independent and never need his mommy again? How is he going to Handel thing? What if someone says something to him ? What if the teacher doesn't pay attention and something happens? If he stands up for him self is he going to be blamed ? Is he going to drink his water ? Is he going to eat his snacks? How do I make his snacks better than anyone ? Do I leave a note? He can't read yet . Is he going to find friends ? Is he going to pay attention? What clothes should I put on him? It's hot but what if he wears shorts and falls what will happen? Am I going to feed him something heavy or light? What shoes is he going to wear?  
 Do I spike his hair? Do I give him mouth wash before or after brushing so he can have the freshest breath at school? Do I put my cologne on him? What if he feels like he has to poop? Is he going to be able to put his pants up properly? What if in class kids are going to say something that he doesn't know ? How will he feel ? How will he feel if a kid knows more than him? What is the teacher sets limits that he is not comfortable with? Is he going to be able to share and wait his turn? Is he going to be the smartest? Am I normal to think all these? Did I teach him all I could till now? Did I give him the tools to be able to utilize to his advantage? Is he going to leave me?  
 Yes these were only some of the questions I asked my self this morning.  
 And once he was up , I had to stay happy act and be animated about school. Made his back pack made a sign had breakfast said prayers brushed teeth. Driving to school was the hardest part. I was sweating while the car was on high ac and everyone was freezing. I had to stop to use the bathroom twice before we got to school. I cried and then I knew my loyal sunglasses will hide it all . Here we go we got out of the car .  
 How do I do this ?  
 He let go of my hands and said mama I want to walk by my self to my friend s line  
 Then I realized  
 He is my son, He is the bravest he can be  
 He is the smartest he can be, He will show no fear  
 He will stand his ground, He will do the right thing  
 He will be my son, And then I could breath  
 Mama loves you no matter how old you will be and I will be there for you no matter what I pray and wish you the best in your life always and always.

**Dr. Rani Yousefzai  
 August 25,2021**



**Nightly thoughts**

Well wish things were different it's hard to find anyone that will just take you as you are with all the damages and destructions and life and you still walk with your head up and be the best what ever it is that day it's hard it's hard for a man that says I'm all for women s rights I'm all for equality but in reality if I am broke then I'm lazy or less that what they want if I have money they make a point to put you down and say you only care about money  
 If I'm quiet they will say she is a stuck up bitch if I'm nice they will say she is easy  
 If I don't go out I am antisocial if I go out in a party girl  
 If I don't work I have to depend on some one telling me how to live  
 If I work then it's looked at as a hobby  
 If I am with my kids I'm seen as a mom if I'm alone then I'm obanding my kids  
 If I drive a van I'm a soccer mom if I drive a nice car I'm only showing off  
 If I don't drink I'm an outcast if I drink I'm an alcoholic  
 If I dress as I please I am judged if I dress as others want me to I don't even get a compliment  
 If I talk to men I am flirting if I talk to women I am gossiping  
 If my fiends are rich i am high maintenance if my friends are poor I am at the wrong table  
 If my hair is long I am another woman if my hair is short I am a rebel  
 If I don't put makeup they will look at the one who has makeup if I put makeup they like natural faces  
 If I cry I'm sensitive if I don't cry I'm a heartless bitch  
 If I let me self go I'm not attracted if I take care of my self I am self obsessed  
 If I like to dance shame shame if I don't dance I'm cheating my self  
 If I stand up for my self I am an ass hold on if I let others effect me I am a pushover  
 If I talk about my values they laugh if they talk about their values I have to agree  
 If I run my life on my own I am a single mom if I let someone else does then I loose  
 If I wear flats I don't feel good but if I wear heels everyone has an opinion  
 If I pray loud I'm a crazy woman if I am quite in my faith they say sue has no faith  
 If I want to run with my heart I'm used if I run with my head in stone cold  
 End of the day non of it matters  
 I put my pants one leg at the time  
 I plan my day with my best outcome in heart  
 I am the mom I am the dad I am the wife and I am the husband I am the sister I am the brother I don't have any powers I have visions of my life in 1 year in 5 years in 10 years Right now and till now I have not been able to make another person see it from my perspective I have no powers I am nothing I can't even breath Let his will be done

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## THREE WOMEN CONFERRED HONORARY DOCTORATES: TWIN GREEN, VASAVI CHAKKA AND RANI YOUSEFFZAI.



### Dr SARADA SONTY DELIVERS COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Rhema University, The president Dr. Richardson, Vice Chancellor Dr Vijay Prabhakar, The graduates and august gathering. Once again happy greetings to everyone. My story is a myth story of every woman. Every migrated woman, every migrated mother and the migrated lady. I'm an immigrant here for 48 years. You all look so radiant, so beautiful, so exceptionally sparkling. That's what education does. Education gives us radiance. Thank you all indeed it's truly an honor to be here addressing you. We are here for a sacred purpose on the sacred day.

I congratulate every one of you who made time to come here to celebrate education, leaders, people who inspire and institutions which give education. Rhema University is one of them. Having striving and making exceptional steps forward educating people with the present day situations. University is a place where we learn to use our service. How to use our service to life. So life in turn gives committed service, glory and transcendence to us back.

Educational institution, teachers how to help, how to hold hands, how to move forward, how to shout out our rights help us radically transform into better human beings in the society. It is very difficult to witness dividend right away, but you know what it's there right in front of us to recognize.

For that we need gurus, teachers, mentors, institutions and people who inspire us and walk us through the life and to lead us to make our intelligence go to intellect level for inner transformation. Every one of us have very unique story to tell. Let us all bring them in. We are living in times where we are forced to embrace change of life and life's events and yield to unexpected situations. We all say that everything happens for a reason. Yes, it happens for a reason, we cannot stop them. Coronavirus happened. We cannot stop them. 1.3 billion People of India were told to ring a bell and light a lamp by the Prime Minister some time ago. You must have heard. You must have read in the papers and many other countries followed the same. They rang a bell and they light a lamp. What is the secret behind it? Asking why or question is not a tradition in India because spiritual practices are just to be accepted and practiced. We cannot come to answers or having dialogue for arguments on logical rational explanations product. Because spirituality is for learning through experience. Intellect and intelligence is to learn through understanding. Not everything we

understand not everything we experience. If you want to understand a flower, you pluck every petal and at the end there is no flower to understand. So, as a human we need to transcend from those two stages also, that is what our leaders taught us, that is what King and Gandhi taught us. Look at life. And effects of virus can be prevented by some of the spiritual practices without any side effects. Compared to pharmaceutical experimentations when it comes to social issues, conversations conservative approach received liberal or moderate democratic or republican all carry different values. But now is not the time to fork, or to split into many lines. We need to be together, we need to do everything together for a common purpose, for a common guilt.

Dear friends, educational institutions, Gurus are there striving for us. They are our anchors. Education is the most important anchor that take us forward. Let us honor our teachers, let us honor our gurus, and let us honor our mentors and institutions. They help students find their purpose. They will find their purpose. Every graduate's perspective is very unique and important. It is deeply important for the growth of the individual, single or collective. My presence here might seem a bit strange to you. An immigrant of 48 years of life in the United States of America, a lady with a six-piece material wrapped around and a dot on the forehead. But you know what, I haven't changed. But I have transformed within. The freedom that United States gave me the sense of freedom, sense of understanding, sense of compassion, sense of togetherness, sense of personal rights and collective rights together, that's what United States taught me. And I said, my story is not simple. It is the story of every immigrant woman, every immigrant lady, and every immigrant mother. And my parents taught me abiding traditions, faith and love. That is what our leaders taught us to do. Those are very important factors. I have raised two daughters one works for SpaceX as a scientist, other one is a cognitive neurologist (Pediatrics neurologist). They teach me a lot. Today we had a combined joint family where along with my two daughters I have nurtured nine other family members, who might be related here for better opportunity, better education. It is unquestionable.

All words flow Away. I took bait for 28 years when I visited my father who is 83 at that time who's pursuing a Ph.D. in environmental ecology. He taught me my dear go back to education, find your mentors, find your

teachers, find your institutions, you are in the United States of America.

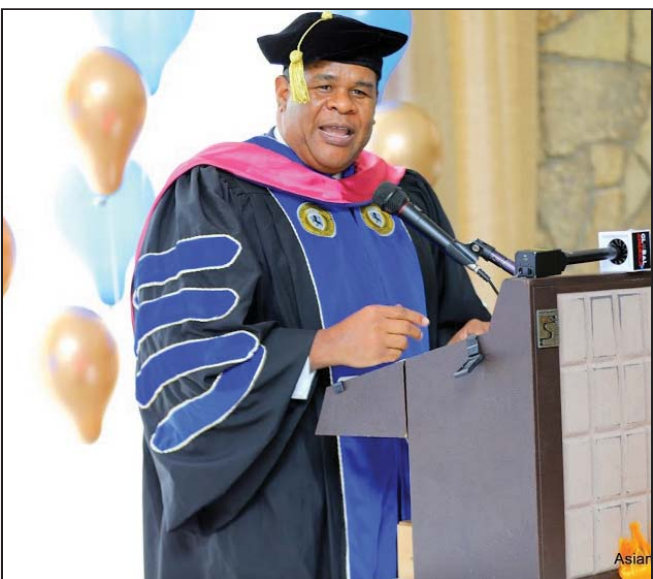
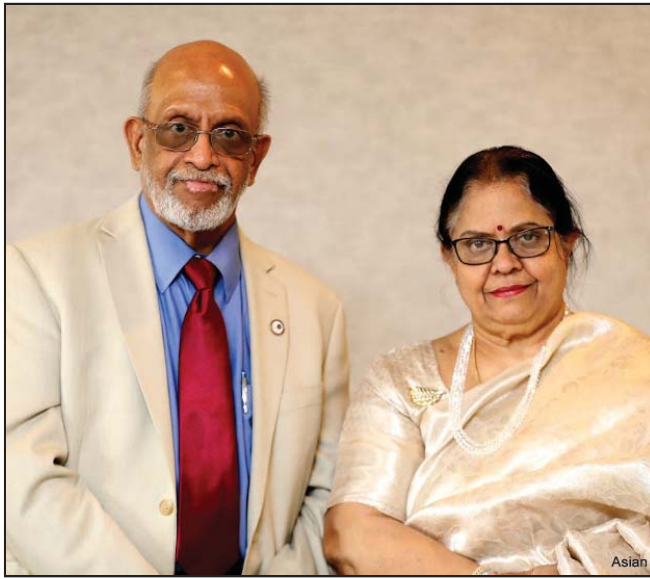
Education is only the anchor that takes you forward. And what it gives his self-identity as a single person, at the same time as a collective and utilize education towards your inner ecosystem. I will tell you one thing, our heart beats 72 times per minute. Five beats for every breath for a full exhalation and full inhalation. And we have 12 to 15 breaths per minute. And five thoughts for each breath. Let's imagine that for each breath, we can have five thoughts that means 28,600 breaths per day and 70,000 thoughts per day. We have that's what science says. How many do we use for our inner transformation? How many of those thoughts that we have out of 70,000, we used for the betterment of our intellect and intelligence to use it for the societal common Good?

We cannot let any wastage happens inside. Most of our thoughts we abbot. How many takes shape at the end of the day? When we go to bed If you think, how many thoughts did I manifest today? Try my own transformation or for the common good of the society. And the teachers, mentors, institutions, educationalists, that's what they do. They teach that for us.

And my dear graduates, you have worked very hard. You have, because I know I empathize after coming here after 28 years of break, I have done a PhD in languages to understand the cognition of my mind.

Our President, India's prime minister, everybody's talking about saving ecology protecting environment. Now we have to do that for our Inner ecology. Unless we protect our inner ecology, protect our inner environment we hear those go green and clean, we need to have that input. Then our education helps us when we hold the anchor education as an anchor, when we go within we would definitely gain that protecting inner ecology, protecting inner environment, protecting inner thought energy. Every thought we get, we manifest for the progress, for the brightness, for the future of not present times but for the next coming Generations.

Ladies and gentlemen, my dear friends and Sir President, Sir Vice-Chancellor, everyone here let us all takes education serious. Education is not external. It is much more internal within. We have to have that green and clean environment inside. We need to protect inner ecology, inner environment for a better tomorrow. I feel so happy, I feel very inspired. I do feel inspired here coming and talking to you all. And all of you let's join hands. We have many leaders. Let us be the leaders for tomorrow. Thank you all.







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## Mallika Sherawat recalls her fight with Emraan Hashmi during Murder: 'It was so childish on my part also, I'm no less'

Actor Mallika Sherawat has spoken about her fights with her co-stars adding that most of them would get into an 'ego tussle' with her. In a new interview, Mallika called her fight with her Murder co-actor Emraan Hashmi, the 'funniest'. Directed by Anurag Basu and produced by Mukesh Bhatt, Murder released in 2004. It featured Mallika Sherawat, Emraan Hashmi, and Ashmit Patel in lead roles. Set in Bangkok, Thailand, the film is based on the 2002 American film Unfaithful. Murder became highly successful at the box office. Murder 2 (2011)

and Murder 3 (2013) were also parts of the film series. During an interview on The Love Laugh Live show, when host Mandira Bedi asked about her fights with her co-actors, Mallika said, "I don't know why, but most of the co-actors would get into an ego tussle with me. They would expect me, the male co-stars like they come on set for me to--if I'm sitting, stand up and say 'good morning, how are you' and fawn over them. It's not my personality, I'm a Haryanvi Jaat, I don't fawn over nobody if I'm forced to. I've

had quite a few skirmishes."She uncalled for and so childish on continued, "The funniest was my part also. I'm no less." Mallika with Emraan Hashmi after or added that though she laughs during Murder. We didn't speak about the fight now, they are no longer in touch. "I lost touch with him and it's really sad because he was a wonderful co-star because he's so friendly and giving. He's a nice boy."Meanwhile, fans will see Mallika next in RK/RKAY, directed by Rajat Kapoor. The film released in the US a while ago but is yet to be seen in India. She will also be seen in Nakaab, a digital series also features Ankita

Chakraborty and Esha Gupta. Mallika Sherawat says a producer once wanted to heat chapatis on her waist for 'hot song'Emraan was seen in the recently released Dybbuk: The Curse is Real along with Nikita Dutta.



## Alia Bhatt fumbles as Karan Johar Asks rapid fire questions, Tanmay Bhat recalls her Prithviraj Chauhan goof-up.

Alia Bhatt was in the hot seat as Karan Johar asked her a bunch of rapid fire questions during a night shoot of Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani. He took to Instagram to share the video. On being asked about the film they were shooting for, Alia fumbled while saying Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani and burst into giggles. "Tongue twister that, right?" Karan asked. His next question was about the whereabouts of 'Rocky' (Ranveer Singh). She goofed up once again as she said that he was shooting before correcting herself: "Rocky is shooting. Working out, sorry." Karan remarked, "These were not trick questions, Alia, that you were really getting so flummoxed by." She, however, replied that she was 'feeling stressed'. "I don't like rapid fires," she said. Alia then shared her takes on the 'song of the season'. She sang a line from Diljit Dosanjh's Lover and when asked to pick a second, chose Raataan Lambiyon from Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani-starrer Shershaah. Her pick for 'film of the season' was Sooryavanshi and



when asked to name a show that she is loving, she said Succession. "Something that you have really, really loved on Instagram that you want everyone to reach out to? What have you watched on Instagram that really moved you?" Karan asked. After thinking for a few seconds, she said, "You winning the Padma Shri." Her answer left him squealing in delight. "Just some night shoot ramblings!!! Next one with Rocky! Watch this space! #rockyaurranikipremkahani @aliaabhatt," Karan captioned his post. "Can't leave you two alone for a second," Ranveer commented, while Alia's mother Soni Razdan and Manish Malhotra dropped heart emojis. "Was waiting for 'Who is the President of India?'" comedian Tanmay Bhat wrote, referring to her infamous 'Prithviraj Chauhan' gaffe on Koffee With Karan in 2012.

## Ranveer Singh's mom poses with his poster after watching Sooryavanshi



Ranveer Singh today, November 10, shared a photo of his mother, Anju Bhavnani. In the photo, she is seen posing in front of Ranveer's Sooryavanshi poster. Anju had gone to watch Akshay Kumar-starrer Sooryavanshi in a theatre. Ranveer is seen in a cameo appearance in the film. He plays the role of police officer Simmba. RANVEER SINGH SHARES PIC OF MOM POSING IN FRONT OF HIS POSTER Ranveer Singh is seen in a cameo appearance in Rohit Shetty's Sooryavanshi. The actor today, November 10, shared a photo of his mother posing in front of his Sooryavanshi poster. He wrote, "Hi Ma!" ALL ABOUT SOORYAVANSHI Sooryavanshi is the fourth film in Rohit Shetty's cop universe that began with Ajay Devgn's Singham in 2011. The latest actioner features cameo appearances by Ranveer Singh and Ajay Devgn.



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