



ASSOCIATION
FOR BEHAVIORAL
HEALTHCARE

All Members

ABH Commitment to Act to End Racism

Dear Member,

ABH stands with the victims of injustice and violence. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, as well as the many others whose names we know and do not know. We stand united against racism and hate.

The impact of systemic racism on mental health is well-established and we must do better to acknowledge this and incorporate this knowledge into treatment access and delivery.

A growing body of evidence demonstrates that racial discrimination has significant health impacts. A 2017 Lancet article reported that “[t]he strongest evidence in the scientific literature is for adverse effects [due to racism and interpersonal discrimination] on psychological wellbeing, mental health and associated health practices [including use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs.” In 2019, researchers reporting on Institutes of Medicine findings stated that “...across virtually every type of therapeutic intervention in the U.S, ranging from high technology interventions to the most basic forms of diagnostic and treatment interventions, blacks and other minorities, receive fewer procedures and poorer quality medical care than whites.”

ABH stands in solidarity with those who are working to change the system. We want to turn our emotion into action. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “The time is always right to do what is right”. The time is right for ABH to do the right thing.

ABH's Senior Leadership Committee on Partnering with Underserved Populations will be meeting next week to strengthen our agenda to bring about meaningful change. We will report back to members in the near future.

Sincerely,

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Pronouns: *She, Her, Hers*

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