

Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force January 10th, 2023

About Our Speakers

Lauren Faulds - Program Manager of the Stronger Families

Milwaukee (Public Policy Department at Community Advocates)

Stronger Families Milwaukee Program provides four-five months of voluntary case management for families in hopes to minimize re-entry into Child Protective Services. The Department of Milwaukee Child Protective Services investigates and refers to our program if no safety threat is detected. We then enroll the family and provide connection to resources such as parenting support and youth programming. Many of the families referred are in need of Mental Health services, Housing assistance and financial support. The Engagement Specialists advocate for the families' needs with the help of the Parent and Peer Advocates through our partner agencies (Neu Life and The Parenting Network).

Kisha Shanks

Kisha is a creative, passionate, and outspoken advocate who has spent the last 13 years dedicated to the psycho-social advancement of women, children, and families. As a mother, Infant Mental Health consultant, and small business owner, she fully understands the many intersects and complexities of motherhood and its impact on both maternal and child health outcomes. Kisha is the President and CEO of Yemoja Wellness Group, LLC, a boutique coaching and consulting firm, and she also serves as Policy Director for BCDI-Milwaukee.

Christine Ullstrup, LCSW, CSAC

Christine is the Vice President of Clinical Services at Meta House where she has been employed for 27 years. In her current position, she oversees all of Meta House's clinical programs: Residential, Outpatient and Recovery Housing. She is responsible for the vision, goals, and coordination of services across their continuum of care. She develops policies and procedures, implements grants, and oversees certification and licensing requirements. She also develops and maintains relationships with community resources.

Christine will present on Meta House's unique services. Meta House provides Family Centered and Gender Specific substance use disorder (SUD) treatment for women while working with the entire family unit. The presentation will include an overview of one of their federal grants specifically providing Recovery Housing, Outpatient SUD treatment and in-home services for parents and children.

Bregetta Wilson, MS, LPC-IT, is a positive person, an advocate, community leader, and change agent. She has been working for and with families for over twenty years in Wisconsin. Bregetta's advocacy work includes working with Pew Charitable Trusts and the National Organization Foster Club on Capitol Hill to bring awareness and issues regarding children and families on behalf of Wisconsin. She is a recipient of the Black Excellence Award for her work around Child & Youth Advocacy. Bregetta's current role as a Lived Experience Strategic Advisor with the Department of Children and Families includes working with Lived Experience Partners to elevate their voices and share their experiences to help make change to systems that include programming, policy, and legislation. Through her organization Embrace Improve Empower, LLC, Bregetta supports communities and organizations with mental health, holistic practices, and community engagement efforts. She is a contracted psychotherapist for the Multicultural Trauma and Addiction Treatment Center of Wisconsin, providing mental health services to families in Wisconsin. She is active in her community and serves as the co-chair of the Friends of Rose Park. She is active around social justice efforts and serves on the boards of the YWCA of Southeast Wisconsin, Rubies and Milwaukee Center for Children and Youth; she is an Alum of Forward48 and currently participates in the African American Leadership Program. She graduated from Alverno with a master's degree in Community Psychology and Cardinal Stritch University with a bachelor's in Human Service Management, she resides in Milwaukee with her fiancé, two children, and pet Husky, Binta. Bregetta enjoys working out, dancing, traveling, collecting crystals, practicing holistic aspects of healing, and spending time with family and friends.