October 2015 Update

The Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center’s Trauma Recovery Project (TRP) has been awarded a 2015 Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grant to continue work addressing the issue of childhood trauma in North Minneapolis. In response to a Request for Proposal, the workgroups that form the TRP have submitted proposals outlining their commitments for the upcoming year.

Additionally, two new TRP-related projects focused on collecting the voices of youth kicked off this fall. This first, 21st Century Schools will work in partnership with UROC on a Participatory Action Research project with the goal of building capacity of youth to heal themselves and their community. A second project funded by Youthprise is connecting school climate, known as a mediator to academic achievement among youth of color, and emotional well-being and drug/alcohol use among Native youth.

Here’s an update on TRP workgroups and related opportunities:

- The UROC Staff Workgroup which meets bi-monthly to plan and support stakeholder groups, will host “The Art of Hosting/Participatory Leadership” on October 24 and 31. On December 5, the workgroup will host STAR-Lite “Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience.” Future workshops on the subjects of mind, body medicine, conflict styles, and power and adaptation will be held. Registration is required for all trainings.

- The Behavioral Health Practitioners (BHP) Workgroup has monthly meetings, and is currently discussing plans for the year. One of its goals is to collaborate with other workgroups to address many pathways to healing.

- The Culture, Families and Learning Workgroup hosted a Community Listening Circle on October 5 to discuss the expansion of NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center and inform community members of the project’s development and potential impact. The workgroup also hosted “Truth Telling and Community Healing Ceremony: Moving from Race to Culture” on July 22 in the wake of the mass shootings that took place at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina. A follow-up event will take place on November 2. For information, contact Brother Minkara Tezet at the Cultural Wellness Center. The workgroup will continue to host weekly Truth Telling and Community Healing Circles every Monday at UROC.

- The Faith Leaders Workgroup will host a retreat led by Rev. Trina Armstrong with United Theological Seminary titled “Hidden in Plain Sight: Responding to Invisible Wounds of African Americans’ Trauma” on November 6 at UROC.

- The University of Minnesota Researchers Workgroup is in the planning phase for this year’s activities, and will continue to meet every other month.

For more information about TRP workgroups and activities, contact Yvonne Mudoh, UROC community
health coordinator at mudoh004@umn.edu

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