

Barry University

School of Social Work



Annual Report | 2017

Center for Human Rights and Social Justice

Funded by the Ware Foundation

Our Mission

To foster social and intellectual transformation from oppression through leadership, research, teaching, and informed action that advances fundamental freedoms, justice, and the belief in the resilience of the human spirit.

Five Pillars

- Preventing Sexual Violence
- Creating Inclusive Communities for Individuals with Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities
- Advancing Trauma-Informed Research, Education, and Practice
- Promoting Wellness in Marginalized Communities

Executive Summary

Through education, meaningful community collaboration and advocacy-based research, Barry University's Center for Human Rights and Social Justice (CHRSJ) took action to raise awareness and mobilize positive change associated with our five pillars: combatting human trafficking, preventing sexual violence, creating inclusive communities for individuals with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, advancing trauma-informed research, education, and practice, and promoting wellness in marginalized communities.

Throughout the year, we hosted several key events, including *Spread Love Not Hate*, *Surviving the Holocaust*, *Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience*, and *From Survivors to Supporters*, which stimulated transformational dialogue and mobilized action among students and community partners. We collaborated with local and regional organizations to deliver programs such as *Fostering Success*, *Neighborhood Technical Assistance in Liberty City*, *TransCon*, and *TRACKS Intergroup Dialogues*, which help transform the lives of the most vulnerable members of our community. Faculty fellows engaged in consciousness raising and advocacy-oriented research that yielded dozens of scholarly articles, research reports, and national presentations. We were also proud to support student activism efforts through assistantships, research stipends, and awards.

Finally, we collaborated with local and national organizations to provide targeted education and training aimed at improving efforts to ameliorate all forms of human trafficking, provide LGBTQ+ affirmative practice across the lifespan, and promote trauma-informed practices across systems of care. As a result of community-wide events, published works, community collaborations, and growing media attention during the 2016-2017 academic year, the CHRSJ established itself as a visible and committed presence in the fight for human rights and social justice.



Annual Report Highlights

- A Visible Presence for Social Justice and Human Rights
- Diverse Educational Offerings to the Community
- Community Partnerships to Advance Human Rights and Social Justice
- Student Highlights
- Research and Scholarship
- In The News
- Community Education and Resources
- What's Ahead?

A Visible Presence for Social Justice and Human Rights

The Center for Human Rights and Social Justice office officially opened in Barry University's School of Social Work on September 27, 2016. The new fully functional, safe, and welcoming CHRSJ office visibly signifies our commitment to human rights and social justice and each of our core initiatives.

Dr. Ashley Austin and CHRSJ fellows welcomed key community leaders from across South Florida to the inaugural reception at the Andy Gato Gallery at the university's main campus in Miami. The event honored the CHRSJ's funder, Morgan Soumah, LCSW, executive director of The Ware Foundation.

It also included an overview of the CHRSJ's mission, goals, and an invitation for collaboration among organizations with a shared vision for promoting social justice. Dr. Jill Levenson, the CHRSJ's leading expert in trauma-informed care, provided the keynote address which focused on developing a community-wide commitment to advancing more humane, compassionate, and trauma-informed practices across South Florida.



Diverse Educational Programming

The CHRSJ honored its commitment to providing the community with high-quality, diverse educational and training opportunities to advance critical social justice and human rights issues.



Spread Love, Not Hate Campaign

Pulse: Honoring the Victims and Standing with LGBTQ+ Youth

June 12, 2017, marked the one-year anniversary of Orlando's Pulse tragedy, when 49 individuals were killed and 53 others were injured in a senseless act of hate and violence. This tragedy shed light on the devastating consequences of homophobic and transphobic hate. More importantly, the world's response to this tragedy highlighted our capacity to stand together in unity, offering compassion, love, and support for the LGBTQ+ community. To honor all those who have suffered as a result of homophobic and transphobic violence, oppression and marginalization, the CHRSJ led several initiatives to mark this tragic event.

Making the World More Peaceful for LGBT Individuals: An Interactive Workshop

Dr. Ashley Austin and two student-leaders, Diomaris Bello and Matthew Hogue, engaged Barry University students in awareness building and bias exploration to better understand how everyone

can create more compassionate and inclusive communities. The interactive workshop was part of the university's Peace Month, a celebration of its commitment to foster peace and nonviolence.

Spread Love, Not Hate: Stand with LGBTQ+ Youth Initiative Campaign

In honor of the Pulse nightclub tragedy as well as to support all those who have suffered as a result of homophobic and transphobic violence, oppression, and marginalization, the CHRSJ launched a month-long Spread Love, Not Hate campaign in May 2017. This campaign sought to raise awareness and support for homeless and unstably-housed LGBTQ+ youth in South Florida, as these youth continue to face anti-LGBTQ+ rejection, discrimination, and violence on daily basis.

The Spread Love, Not Hate campaign consisted of:

- Professional development workshops led by local leaders focused on improving social work responsivity to the needs and experiences of LGBTQ+ homeless youth
- Engaging students and faculty in writing notes of affirmation and support that were delivered to LGBTQ+ youth in our community
- A community drive to collect food for street sacks for LGBTQ+ youth who are homeless or unstably-housed

Participants created more than 150 food bags and letters, which were delivered to the youth of Pridelines, a local drop-in center and safe space for LGBTQ+ teens and young adults. The Spread Love, Not Hate campaign culminated in a non-denominational, interactive remembrance at Barry University, presented by the CHRSJ in partnership with Campus Ministry, Pridelines, and the Alliance for GLBTQ Youth.

"It is particularly important at this point in time that Barry's CHRSJ take a visible stand against LGBTQ+ hate and make clear our unwavering support for and affirmation of LGBTQ+ individuals, locally and globally."
- Dr. Ashley Austin

Surviving the Holocaust: An Interview with Helga Melmed

As part of Barry University's Peace Month events in September, the CHRSJ invited Helga Melmed, a Holocaust survivor, to share her story with Heidi Heft LaPorte, an associate professor in the School of Social Work and Melmed's niece. The two discussed trauma, resilience, hope, and human rights. The dialogue was more than an appeal for the world to remember those who perished, but a plea to ensure that horrific crimes associated with incremental hate against any group based on religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other reason, never be repeated. Numerous students, faculty, and community members attended the event, which enhanced the understanding of this history and its implications for contemporary social justice and human rights.

PRIDE Week

The CHRSJ hosted the second annual PRIDE week on the Barry University campus in October 2016. We presented fun and educational events to create a safer and more inclusive campus community for sexual- and gender-diverse students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Dr. Ashley Austin collaborated with Barry University PRIDE group students to host a series of events:

- A mentorship and networking event for students that included insight and guidance from local and national LGBTQ community members and allies
- Daily tabling in the R. Kirk Landon Student Union to raise awareness and support for LGBTQ issues on campus and to offer LGBTQ-specific knowledge and information
- An LGBTQ arts event focused on expressing identity, pride, and community via visual and other forms of art
- LGBTQ PRIDE happy hour to celebrate and honor sexual and gender diversity on campus

Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience

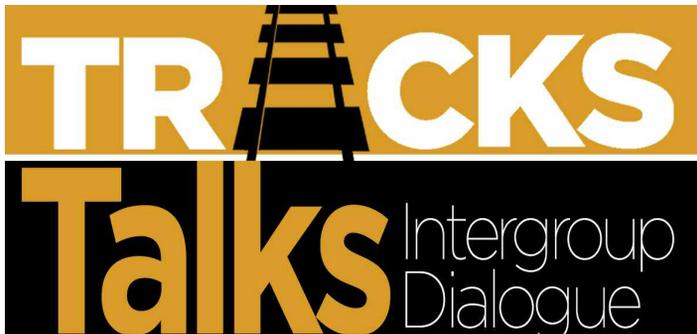
The CHRSJ continues its diligent efforts to ensure that transgender issues are highlighted on campus and in the local community. The Fourth Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience event was hosted on November 18, 2016, by Dr. Ashley Austin and a team of transgender youth and community leaders. This event brings together the transgender community and allies to honor the many lives lost each year to anti-transgender violence, as well as the strength and courage of transgender community members. Dr. Austin received external funding from The Miami Foundation's LGBT Community Fund, a first for this event. The CHRSJ used these funds to bring in national transgender activist Lourdes Ashley Hunter from the Transgender Women of Color Collective in Washington, DC. Hunter is nationally known for advocating on behalf of transgender women of color, focusing on the intersections of violence and marginalization related to both gender minority and racial minority identities.

Women's March

Representatives from Barry University's School of Social Work and the CHRSJ attended the Women's March in Washington, DC, and Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, on January 21, 2017. At the Palm Beach Gardens event, Dr. Eva Nowakowski, associate professor of social work, engaged students in visible advocacy efforts in support of critical human rights issues, such as women's rights,



Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience



TRACKS Series

LGBTQ+ rights, immigrant rights, and key social justice issues including affordable health care, freedom from sexual violence, and accountability and justice for police brutality.

TRACKS Project Intergroup Dialogues

The TRACKS series continues to engage students, staff, and faculty in critical dialogue and discussion each semester. TRACKS, a program developed out of the University of Michigan to promote prejudice awareness and reduction, uses an intergroup dialogue method in a closed-group setting to promote awareness and healing. The TRACKS model provides a safe and in-depth facilitated discussion on a range of issues related to privilege and oppression. Trained facilitators help participants discuss their perspectives on complex cultural and societal issues. This year, more than 40 participants engaged in dialogues focused on political affiliation, sexual orientation, immigration, religion, race, and gender.

TRACKS is rooted in the belief that attitudes can only be shared and transformed when honest, nonjudgmental exchange takes place. TRACKS promotes continuous education, information, and communication through these sessions. Individuals who commit to a series commit to attending all three sessions of the series. At the end of the series, a certificate of participation is awarded. Participation in a TRACKS series is required to be certified as a TRACKS trainer.

Annual College Brides Walk

The CHRSJ helped sponsor the annual College Brides Walk, hosted each February on the Barry University campus and coordinated by Dr. Laura Finley, associate professor of sociology. Hundreds of faculty, staff, and community partners marched 3 miles from Barry University in Miami Shores to Johnson & Wales University in North Miami to bring awareness to domestic and dating violence. The event also included a range of educational workshops, on topics such as sex trafficking and dating violence, to foster open dialogue and empowerment.

Innovative Clinical Approaches to Support Survivors of Sexual Trauma Conference

On March 14, 2017, the School of Social Work and the CHRSJ hosted a professional conference, "Innovative Clinical Approaches to Support Survivors of Sexual Trauma." This event underscores our commitment to advance trauma-informed education, research, and practice for vulnerable populations, and brought together students, faculty, alumni and community practitioners across a variety of disciplines.

The conference included workshops presented by experts in the field of trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, restorative justice, narrative approaches to healing, canines as co-therapists, mindfulness and therapeutic practice, eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy (EMDR), military sexual trauma, and the biopsychosocial model of disease and suffering.

We were honored to host Dr. Pat Ogden as our keynote speaker. Ogden is the founder of the Sensorimotor Psychotherapy Institute, which is internationally recognized for specializing in somatic-cognitive approaches for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and attachment disturbances. She has authored several articles and books, including "Trauma and the Body: A Sensorimotor Approach to Psychotherapy" and "Sensorimotor Psychotherapy: Interventions for Trauma and Attachment." During the morning workshop, Ogden engaged participants in a phenomenal learning experience titled "A Psychology



TransCon

of Action: The Role of the Body in Trauma Treatment.” We were also privileged to have Shandra Woworuntu support our commitment to combatting human trafficking through her powerful and compelling plenary speech. Woworuntu is a survivor of human trafficking and is the founder of the Mentari Human Trafficking Survivor Empowerment Program. She is also a powerful international advocate, activist, motivational speaker, and lobbyist.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Activities

Each April, the CHRSJ aims to raise awareness on campus about sexual violence. This year, CHRSJ fellow Dr. Jill Levenson collaborated with associate professor of sociology Dr. Laura Finley to educate the community about the national epidemic of campus sexual assault.

For social work students, Finley hosted the panel discussion and Q&A “From Survivors to Supporters,” which focused on raising awareness about sexual assault, current challenges to the system, and the power of advocacy, agency, and visibility. Levenson hosted a campus-wide screening of the powerful and disturbing film “The Hunting Ground,” followed by deliberative dialogue. This eye-opening film documents the ubiquity of sexual assault on college campuses as well as the dearth of socially just, trauma-informed responses for

sexual assault victims. The discussion focused on factors contributing to the appalling treatment of victims by powerful institutions, as well as targets for student and community advocacy.

TransCon

For the third consecutive year, the Aqua Foundation partnered with the CHRSJ to bring the TransCon conference for transgender children, teens, adults, their family members, and loved ones to Barry University. Dr. Ashley Austin, a volunteer member of the TransCon planning committee, worked with team members to bring innovative and transgender-affirming programming to the South Florida transgender community in March 2017. Austin co-facilitated an experiential therapeutic workshop focused on healing the invisible wounds of transphobia. Barry alumna Noemi Marquez, from Counseling Connect, facilitated therapeutic activities for transgender children and their siblings. Other workshops focused on navigating trans-specific legal issues and health care, as well as community building and advocacy. Throughout the two-day event, more than 200 attendees visited the Barry campus to gain resources and share in community. There were many new and returning attendees who reported benefiting greatly from the experience.

Trauma and Suffering: Faith-Based Approaches and Interventions Conference

On May 12, 2017, the School of Social Work, CHRSJ, and the Departments of Theology and Campus Ministry co-hosted a conference on the impact of trauma and suffering on families and communities in Florida. This conference addressed the impact of trauma and suffering in the context of urban poverty, violence experienced in the home and community, and grief and loss on the family.

The conference had three main purposes:

- Bring together social service providers with faith-based leaders and theologians to gain a better understanding of our concepts of trauma and suffering from our professional disciplines
- Establish a link between our efforts to address the problems and issues experienced by at-risk children, youth, and families
- Discuss intervention strategies and approaches that we can use to strengthen and empower these families and communities

The conference recognized that ministers, church-based faith leaders, and social workers in faith-based social service agencies regularly encounter individuals and families who are repeatedly exposed to trauma. These families, especially families of color, are often more likely to seek comfort and support from a faith-based representative or organization before seeking traditional mental health services. Also, these individuals and families most often live in areas with few options for help and assistance, other than their community church or community-based social service agencies.

Special guest speakers included Dr. Brian Sims, a senior medical advisor for the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors and a consultant for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. During his session, he spoke about the risk faced by individuals and families exposed to repeated traumatic events and the impact of prolonged suffering on the mind, body, and spirit.

Panel discussions addressed the implications of treating communities dealing with multiple levels of trauma and suffering, and the implications of addressing trauma and suffering on faith-based leaders, churches, and social service agencies. The conference also highlighted clinically- and theologically-informed intervention approaches that faith-based leaders and service providers can use to address these issues in their congregations and agencies.



Trauma and Suffering: Faith-Based Approaches and Interventions Conference

Community Partnerships to Advance Human Rights and Social Justice

Consistent with the CHRJS's mission to mobilize social justice-oriented change through meaningful community collaboration, the 2016-2017 year was marked by the creation and strengthening of several key collaborative partnerships.



Barry University and Florida Department of Children and Families Train Former Foster Youth for the Workforce

The Barry University School of Social Work and CHRJS partnered with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) to launch a two-week program designed to give former foster youth and independent-living teens ages 18 and older the training they need to adequately prepare for the workforce.

The Fostering Success: Summer Training Program, an immersion experience hosted on Barry's main campus in Miami Shores, took place June 17–30. Twelve former foster youth gained training and exposure to developmental and professional job skills. This training was specifically structured to quickly build long-term work habits and confidence – from the fundamental skills of professionalism, presenting content, and stress management to the more subtle and sophisticated skills of taking initiative and leading a group.

Through this experience, participants identified and connected with a mentor, used the learned skills for group presentations, and received a certificate of completion.

“The goal of the program was to help these youth develop the habits, attitudes, and skills needed to get and keep a job, become self-sufficient and economically stable, and reach personal success,” said Dr. Jennifer Williams, the School of Social Work's undergraduate director and project coordinator.

The trainings covered several topics, including human resources, professionalism, leadership, financial literacy, conflict resolution, stress management, mindfulness, self-awareness and self-care, cultural diversity, public speaking, relationship building in and out of the workplace, resume writing, interview preparedness, and understanding emerging technology.

DCF chose Barry as a partner because the School of Social Work houses one of six clinical social work graduate programs in the country and is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. It is one of the few social work programs in the country whose curriculum provides a trauma-informed, resiliency-based framework – knowledge DCF believes is vital when working with the Fostering Success participants. Barry is also able to provide competent, ethical, and professional social workers to deliver the trainings.

Professor Samba Zaoui Presents at the 1 Human Trafficking Coalition Summit

In January 2017, CHRJS fellow and social work instructor Samba Zaoui, LCSW, LMSW, CCTP, presented her workshop, “Best Practices: Understanding the Direct Relationship Childhood

and Sexual Abuse has with Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Sex Trafficking,” at the 1 Human Trafficking Coalition Southeast Florida Consortium Summit. Zaoui is an expert in human trafficking, specializing in trauma-informed practice with survivors of sexual trauma and commercial sexual exploitation. During the 2016-2017 year, she was a training consultant to 1HTC, an organization committed to enhancing existing efforts to address human trafficking in southeast Florida through capacity building and collaboration.

Dr. Ashley Austin Discusses Transgender Issues in South Florida

The CHRSJ collaborated with Our Fund and The Miami Foundation to host three panel presentations on transgender issues in South Florida. The presentations took place in Fort Lauderdale, Miami, and on Barry University’s campus. Dr. Ashley Austin, from the CHRSJ, is an internationally recognized expert in transgender affirmative practice. She participated in an engaging and transformative panel discussion featuring transgender activists Mara Keisling, president and executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, and Masen Davis of the Gill Foundation. Mona Pittenger, philanthropist and member of Our Fund’s board of directors, served as moderator.

The discussion focused on deepening the understanding of transgender needs and experiences across the lifespan and exploring existing social, legal, political, and cultural barriers to well-being. Panelists also identified action steps for creating a more transgender inclusive and affirming community. The events served to elevate the visibility of transgender-focused activism within South Florida at a time when the human rights of transgender people are being increasingly threatened.

Improving Access to Transgender Affirmative Mental Health Services

Dr. Ashley Austin volunteered her time and grant writing skills to partner organization Arianna’s Center to help secure funding to support the delivery of transgender affirmative clinical care to low-income

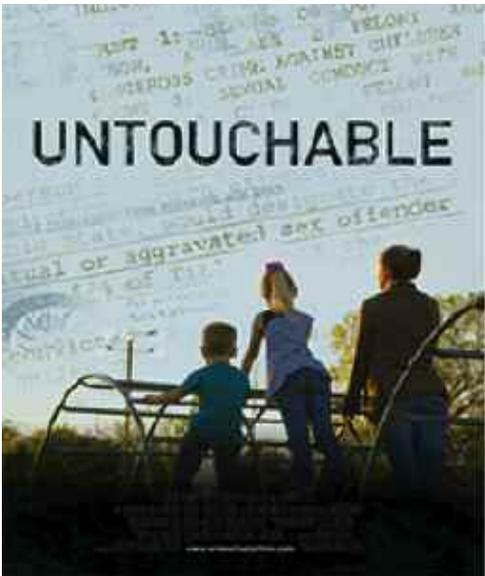
transgender individuals. Arianna’s Center, led by activist Arianna Lint, is South Florida’s only transgender-led outreach, advocacy, and care coordination organization. With Austin’s support, Lint submitted and was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Our Fund Foundation to support Project Thrive at Arianna’s Center. Project Thrive is a transgender affirmative clinical program focused on providing transgender-specific mental health services including gender assessments, clinical letter writing to facilitate medical transition-related care, and outpatient mental health services to transgender youth and adults in the South Florida community. The partnership between the CHRSJ, Our Fund, and Arianna’s Center represents an important step toward bringing trans inclusive and affirming services to South Florida.

Humane Approaches to Sexual Violence Prevention

The Broward County Reentry Coalition Sex Offender Housing Subcommittee and the CHRSJ presented the screening of the provocative documentary “Untouchable.” CHRSJ fellow Dr. Jill Levenson was featured as an expert in the film. The documentary, directed by David Feige, chronicles the crusade of the most powerful lobbyist in Florida who, after discovering that his daughter has been sexually abused, harnesses his extraordinary political power to pass the toughest sex offender laws in the nation.



Our Fund Foundation Supports Project Thrive



Film Screening and Discussion

“Untouchable” illustrates the effects of these laws on lives of many of the 800,000 people impacted by them. The film interweaves intimate portraits of men and women who have been branded sex offenders with the heartbreaking stories of those who have suffered sexual abuse. It is a film that pushes viewers toward an uncomfortable place, requiring them to walk in the shoes of those who have survived sexual abuse but to still bear witness to the experiences of those we revile. The panel of experts further explored the complex issue of human rights and social justice for all.

Levenson brought invaluable research and clinically-informed insights to the discussion. She has published over 100 articles about sex offender management policy and treatment interventions, and engages in clinical practice with perpetrators of sexual violence, as well as victims, survivors, and families impacted by sexual abuse.

ACCOPE: Advanced Clinical Community Practice and Education

In fall 2016, the community partnership between the CHRSJ and Miami Children’s Initiative was formalized through a series of strategic planning sessions facilitated by Stephen Ferrante, LCSW, of Group Victory Consulting. As a result, a strategic plan to guide this partnership was created.

The following spring, Dr. Tisa McGhee, the CHRSJ fellow leading these efforts, worked collaboratively to develop and launch an innovative field placement site in Liberty City.

Through the new ACCOPE program, student interns will provide individual, family, group, and community services to children enrolled at Charles R. Drew K-8 Center in Liberty City. Another key component of ACCOPE will include engagement in organizational and community change to promote trauma-informed practices at all levels. As part of their advanced practice, students and interested Liberty City community partners will receive specialized training from CHRSJ fellows that will support the delivery of trauma-informed, developmentally, and culturally relevant services to clients and the community.

Student Highlights

The importance of supporting and mentoring the future generation of social justice minded activists, scholars, and social service and mental health providers is paramount in the CHRSJ.

This year the CHRSJ boasted amazing students with an array of diverse talents and a shared devotion to advancing social justice and protecting human rights among vulnerable populations.



Thanks to the CHRSJ's Student Research Fund, Master of Social Work student **Romel Santiago** traveled to Olten, Switzerland, to participate in the Transgressing Boundaries and the Intersection of Sexualities in

Social Work Conference hosted by the Sexuality and Social Work Interest Group in August 2016. At this international social work conference, Santiago facilitated an innovative workshop, "What About Us: Understanding and Engaging Non-Gay Identified Men Who Have Sex with Men." Santiago's research aims to create more inclusive HIV prevention and research contexts for individuals who fall outside mainstream service delivery arenas.



As a graduate assistant, **Elizabeth Ringler-Jayanthan** worked with instructor Sambra Zaoui to support her efforts to combat human trafficking. Ringler-Jayanthan, who earned her MSW degree in December 2016,

had provided direct services to survivors of human trafficking for the past several years. Under Zaoui's mentorship, she developed a more robust and clinically informed research and practice approach for engaging survivors of trafficking. Ringler-Jayanthan co-presented with Zaoui at the 2016 Council on Social Work Education conference on "Human Trafficking Identification, Assessment and Treatment" and wrote an article, "A Social Worker's Call to Action to Stand against Human Trafficking."



In an effort to promote awareness of and sensitivity to transgender-specific issues among social workers, **Laurel Dettman** published an article on socialworker.com about working

with her first transgender client. Before pursuing her MSW at Barry, Dettman graduated from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, with a bachelor's degree in international studies. She earned her MSW in December 2016. During her time at Barry, she interned at Nicklaus Children's Hospital and at a private practice called Counsel and Connect Inc. She is committed to working affirmatively with children, LGBTQ people of all ages, and victims of human trafficking.

Center for Human Rights
and Social Justice

Student Advocate Award

Winners
Announced

Student Advocate Award

Each year the CHRSJ will recognize one or two students who have demonstrated outstanding social justice leadership or advocacy in a marginalized local or global community. Students will receive an award and \$250. In June 2017, we presented the first two awards to Joel Breneman, who earned his MSW in May 2017, and Francesca Gerard, a graduate counseling student in Barry University's School of Education.

As a volunteer with the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, **Joel Breneman** tirelessly advocates to remove the state's civil rights ban imposed on citizens with prior felony convictions. He has been an important voice for rights restoration in Florida, initiating community-based projects with a hope to transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of Floridians.

Francesca Gerard is a staunch advocate for the Haitian-American community, working to create more informed and competent mental health care for Haitian-Americans in South Florida. She is dedicated to removing barriers to care and improving culturally informed care for Haitians.

The efforts of these two students to promote social justice and wellness in marginalized communities across Florida epitomize the values and commitments of the CHRSJ. We are incredibly grateful for their dedication and commitment to social justice and human rights.

Research and Scholarship

CHRSJ fellows engaged in multiple projects and disseminated research and scholarship through a broad range of local, regional, and national outlets. Products included workshops, trainings, and presentations, peer-reviewed publications in national and international journals, works in scholarly books, national reports, as well as media attention, project evaluations, and reports to boards. All projects are directly linked to key CHRSJ initiatives and are aimed at enhancing knowledge, understanding, and eventual action at multiple levels to promote the human rights of targeted populations and a more socially just and compassionate world.

ASHLEY AUSTIN, PhD, LCSW

Publications

Austin, A., Craig, S. L., & Alessi, E. J. (2017). Affirmative Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Adults. Special Issue: *Clinical Issues and Affirmative Treatment with Transgender Clients*, *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 40, 141-156.

Craig, S. L. **Austin, A.** Rashidi, M. R. & Adams, M. (2017). Fighting for survival: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning students in religious colleges and universities, *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, 29 (1), 1-24, DOI: 10.1080/10538720.2016.1260512

Austin, A. & Goodman, R. (2016). The impact of social connectedness and internalized transphobic stigma on self-esteem among transgender and gender nonconforming adults. *Journal of Homosexuality*, doi/full/10.1080/00918369.2016.1236587

National Reports/Guidelines

Austin, A., Craig, S. L., Alessi, E. J., Wagaman, M. A., Pacey, M. S., Dziengel, L., & Balestrery, J. E. (2016). Guidelines for transgender and gender nonconforming (TGNC) affirmative education: Enhancing the climate for TGNC students, staff and faculty in social work education. Alexandria, VA: *Council on Social Work Education*.

Craig, S. L., Alessi, E. J., Fisher-Borne, M., Dentato, M. P., **Austin, A.**, Pacey, M., Wagaman, A., Arguello, T., Lewis, T., Balestrery, J. E., & Van Der Horn, R. (2016). Guidelines

for affirmative social work education: Enhancing the climate for LGBTQ students, staff, and faculty in social work education. Alexandria, VA: *Council on Social Work Education*.

Presentations

Craig, S. L. & **Austin, A.** LGBTQ+ Affirmative Interventions for Youth. Presented at *Time to Thrive, Human Rights Campaign's Annual Conference*, Washington, DC, April 28-30, 2017.

Austin, A., Davis, M. & Keisling, M. Pittenger, M. (moderator). *Understanding Transgender Identities Panel Discussion*, Fort Lauderdale, Miami Shores, and Barry University, April 4-5, 2017.

Austin, A. & Collazo, A. *Healing through Expression: Mask Making and Narrative Experiential Workshop*. TransCon, Miami, FL, March 5, 2017

Austin, A., Alessi, E. A., Craig, S. L., & Goldbach, J. *Engaging in Clinically and Developmentally Informed Research with Sexual and Gender Minority Youth*. Roundtable presented at the 21st Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), New Orleans, LA, January 11-15, 2017.

Craig, S. L. & **Austin, A.** *Promoting Healthy Coping Skills Among Sexual and Gender Minority Youth: A Pilot Affirmative Cognitive-Behavioral Group Intervention*. Presented at the 21st Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) in New Orleans, LA, January 11-15, 2017.

Austin, A. & Craig, S. L. *Victimization of transgender individuals by police and within the criminal justice system: A call to action for social workers. CSWE Connect Session: Criminal Justice Reform: Anti-oppressive Policy & Advocacy in Social Work Education.* Presented at the Council on Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA, Nov 3-6, 2016.

Austin, A. Promoting equity and social justice through affirmative social work practice with gender diverse children. *Nonbinary Gender Identity across the Life Course: Educating for a Just Practice.* Presented at the Council on Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA, Nov 3-6, 2016

Capriotti, M., **Austin, A.**, Burnias, M., Flentje, A. Heck, N., Pachankis, J. E., & Pantalone, D. *Integrating sexual and gender minority-affirmative approaches into evidence-based practice.* Panel Presented at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies 50th Annual Convention, New York, NY, October 27-30, 2016.

Austin, A., Craig, S. L., & Lint, A. *Preventing risk and promoting hope: Transgender affirmative cognitive behavior therapy.* Presented at the United States Conference on AIDS, Hollywood, FL Sept 15-18.

Funded Trainings

Austin, A. LGBTQ+ Affirmative Care Community Competency Training. Orlando, FL, February 27-March 1, 2017

DR. JILL LEVENSON, PhD

Publications

Levenson, J. S., Willis, G. M., & Vicencio, C. P. (2017). *Obstacles to Help-Seeking for Sexual Offenders: Implications for Prevention of Sexual Abuse. Journal of child sexual abuse, 26(2)*, 99-120. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2016.1276116

Levenson, J. S. (2017). *Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice.* Social Work. doi:10.1093/sw/swx001

Walfield, S. M., **Levenson, J. S.**, Cubellis, M. A., Harris, A. J., & Lobanov-Rostovsky, C. (2017). *Law Enforcement Views on Sex Offender Compliance with Registration Mandates.* American Journal of Criminal Justice, 1-26. doi:10.1007/s12103-017-9386-6

Stinson, J., Quinn, M., & **Levenson, J. S.** (2016). *The impact of trauma on the onset of mental health symptoms, aggression, and criminal behavior in an inpatient psychiatric sample.* Child Abuse & Neglect (61) 13-22. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2016.09.005

Levenson, J. S. & Ackerman, A.R. (2016). *The relationship between sex offender height and pedophilic interest.* Deviant Behavior. http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2016.1254986

Levenson, J. S. (2016). *Hidden Challenges: Sex offenders legislated into homelessness.* Journal of Social Work. DOI: 1468017316654811

Harris, A. J., **Levenson, J. S.**, Lobanov-Rostovsky, C., & Walfield, S. M. (2016). *Law Enforcement Perspectives on Sex Offender Registration & Notification: Effectiveness, Challenges, and Policy Priorities.* Criminal Justice Policy Review. DOI: 10.1177/0887403416651671.

Levenson, J. S., & Vicencio, C. P. (2016). Residence Restrictions. In E. Jeglic & C. Caulkins (Eds.), *Sexual Violence: Evidence Based Policy and Prevention.* Springer.

Levenson, Jill & Ackerman, Alissa (July 19, 2016). *Stanford rape case: Maybe we're having the wrong conversation?* Psychology Today (guest blog). https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-guest-room/201607/the-stanford-rape-case

Presentations

Levenson, J.S. (2017). *Trauma Informed Practice for School Social Workers.* Broward County School Social Work Association, 3/10/17.

Levenson, J.S. (2017). *Trauma Informed Practice in Clinical & Forensic Settings*. Massachusetts ATSA, 4/5/17.

Levenson, J.S. (2016). *Trauma Informed Practice in Clinical & Forensic Settings*. Michigan ATSA, 12/1/16.

Levenson, J.S., Willis, G., & Prescott, D. (2016). *Trauma Informed Care with Sex Offenders*. (Pre-conference workshop) 35th Annual Treatment & Research Conference of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Orlando, FL 11/2/16

Levenson, J.S. (2016). *Advancing Social Justice and Human Rights through a Trauma Informed Approach*. (Keynote) Barry University Human Rights & Social Justice Center opening, Miami, FL, 9/27/16.

Levenson, J.S. (2016). *Trauma Informed Practice in Clinical & Forensic Settings*, Oregon ATSA, 9/16/16.

Levenson, J.S. (2016). *Trauma Informed Practice in Juvenile Justice Settings*. Florida Network of Family Services, St. Augustine, FL 8/11/16.

Levenson, J.S. (2016). *Trauma Informed Practice in Clinical & Forensic Settings*. Idaho ATSA, 7/28/16.

Media

Erickson, P. (July 29, 2016). *Baylor boosting counseling staff amid sexual assault scandal*. Waco Tribune.

Featured expert in *"Untouchable"* (2016), a documentary film directed by David Feige, [New Documentary Director Award, Tribeca Film Festival] 2016.

EVA NOWAKOWSKI, PhD, LCSW, MPH

Presentations

Nowakowski-Sims, E. (2017). Group exercise as an adjunct treatment for trauma. Paper to be presented at 18th IAPESGW International Congress to be held from 17-21 May, 2017 in Miami, Florida

Nowakowski-Sims, E. (2017). *Developing a Trauma-Informed Intervention for Child-to-Parent Violence: A Participatory Focus Group Study*. Paper submitted at 63rd Annual Program Meeting for Council for Social Work Education, Dallas, TX.

LaPorte, H. & **Nowakowski-Sims, E.** (2017). Creating assignments that encourage doctoral student publications: Faculty collaboration for student elaboration. Paper submitted at 63rd Annual Program Meeting for Council for Social Work Education, Dallas, TX.

Nowakowski-Sims, E. (2017). *Predictive Analytics, Machine Learning and Child Welfare Risk Assessment: A Case Study*. Poster submitted at Society for Social Work and Research 22st Annual Conference, Washington DC.

Nowakowski-Sims, E. (2017). *Developing a Trauma-Informed Intervention for Child-to-Parent Violence: A Participatory Focus Group Study*. Paper submitted at Society for Social Work and Research 22st Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Nowakowski-Sims, E. & Osby, O. (2016). Building and Sustaining a Culture of Assessment. Paper presented at 62nd Annual Program Meeting for Council for Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.

MITCHELL ROSENWALD, PhD, LCSW

Publications

Landsman, M. & **Rosenwald, M.** (in press). Building research capacity in supportive housing partnerships. Improving the use and usefulness of research in child welfare. *Child Welfare*.

Rosenwald, M. (in press). Group work practice with LGBTQ persons. In G.P. Mallon, (Ed.). *Social work practice with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people*. (3rd ed.). New York: Routledge.

Presentations

Rosenwald, M. (February 2017). Panelist. *Crimes of hate: The mental psychosis behind hate crimes in the United States of America*. The Broward County Crime Commission's Building Bridges Mental Health Conference Series, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Rosenwald, M. (March 2017) *'Angels in disguise': Preliminary focus group findings of child welfare-involved families in a federal supportive housing demonstration*. Poster presentation at the 30th Annual Research and Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health, Tampa, FL.

Rosenwald, M. (March 2017). *'Angels in disguise': Preliminary focus group findings of child welfare-involved families in a federal supportive housing demonstration*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Child Welfare League of America Conference, Washington, DC.

SAMBRA ZAQUI, LCSW, LMSW

Publications

Zaoui, S. (in press). Preparing the next generation of social workers to competently address domestic minor sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. *Gender, Sexuality and Peace Education: Issues and Perspectives in Higher Education*.

Zaoui, S. (2016). *The Lighthouse Effect: A therapeutic conversation about childhood sexual abuse and its relationship to commercial sexual exploitation/sex trafficking*. Crime and Punishment in America: An Encyclopedia of Trends and Controversies in the Justice System.

Presentations

Zaoui, S. (2017). *Innovative Clinical Approaches to Support Survivors of Sexual Trauma*. Miami Shores, Florida. Barry University, 3/2017.

Zaoui, S. (2017). *Understanding Domestic Violence through a Trauma Informed Lens*. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. NASW Broward Chapter, 3/2017.

Zaoui, S. *Holistic Overview of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and its Direct Relationship to Childhood Sexual Abuse: Journey Together with Best Practices*. 1HTC SE Regional Consortium Summit on Anti-Trafficking. Davie, Florida, 1/24/17.

Zaoui, S. (2016). *Equipping Mentors to work with Survivors of Sex Trafficking and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*. Coral Gables, Florida. The Life of Freedom Center, 11/2016.

Zaoui, S. (2016). *Developing Awareness on the Impact Commercial Sexual Exploitation has on the Most Disenfranchised Individuals and Communities*, and *What We Can Do to Stand Against It*. Miami Shores, Florida. Inclusive Community Conference, 10/2016.

In the News

The CHRSJ received media attention on several occasions this year in response to our visible and steadfast commitment to creating safer and more inclusive communities for LGBTQ populations locally and globally.

In October 2016, the CHRSJ was showcased during NBC6 College Week coverage focused on LGBTQ inclusion on the Barry campus.

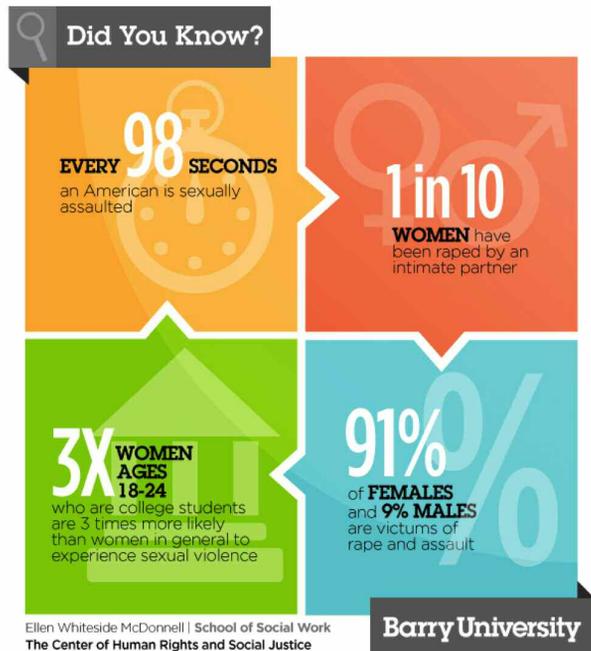
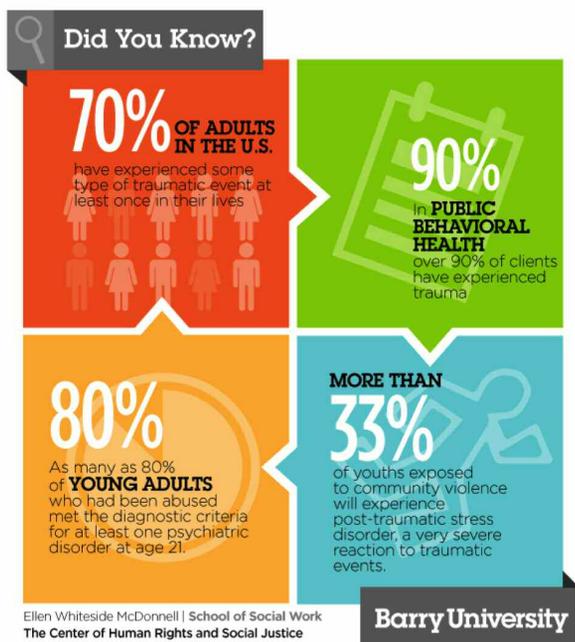
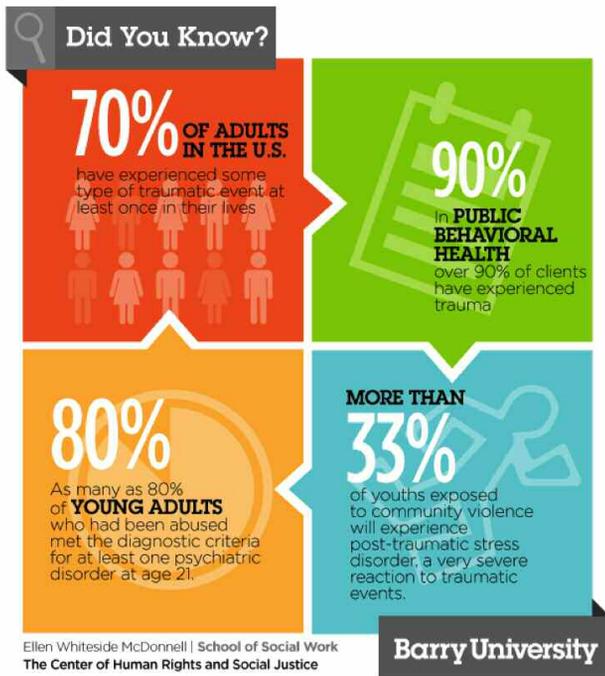
Our annual Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience event, which included prominent transgender activist, Lourdes Ashley Hunter, was featured in the *Miami Herald*.

Both the *Miami Herald* and the *Gay South Florida News* highlighted our Spread Love, Not Hate campaign in their articles focused on the anniversary of the Orlando Pulse nightclub tragedy.

Community Education and Resources

Infographics

The CHR SJ created several original infographics to help raise awareness and educate the public about critical issues pertaining to its five main pillars.



Trauma-Informed Care Training and Consultation

Our trauma-informed care (TIC) specialists have been trained by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and are certified in clinical traumatology. The CHRSJ offers training, consultation, and technical assistance to our partners in the community. In order to promote this community resource, we created a training brochure which we sent to all of our service agencies and partners announcing this new initiative.

Center for Human Rights and Social Justice Trauma-Informed Care Training and Consultation



The Center for Human Rights and Social Justice (CHRSJ) is committed to advancing trauma-informed research, education, and practice. In addition to our trauma-informed social work curriculum, we provide interdisciplinary training and consultation to a diverse array of local, regional, and national agencies, institutions, and organizations.

Trauma-Informed Care Training Specialists

All of our TIC specialists have been trained by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and are certified in clinical traumatology. The CHRSJ offers training, consultation, technical assistance, and program evaluation to our partners in the community. We hope to help transform our service delivery system to become more trauma-informed and to bring the concepts of TIC alive on the front lines with the people we serve.

We subscribe to SAMHSA's concept of a trauma-informed approach, which states: "A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed:

- *Realizes* the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery;

- *Recognizes* the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system;
- *Responds* by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and
- *Seeks* to actively resist re-traumatization.

A trauma-informed approach can be implemented in any type of service setting or organization and is distinct from trauma-specific interventions or treatments that are designed specifically to address the consequences of trauma and to facilitate healing."

Trauma-Informed Care Training and Technical Assistance Services

We offer an array of collaborative education, training, and technical assistance services, including Organizational Assessment, Trauma-Informed Care Trainings (single or multi-day), Technical Assistance with Implementation, and Follow-Up Coaching and Program Evaluation.

Trauma-Informed Organizational Assessment
We meet with key agency personnel and stakeholders as identified by the agency in order to co-conduct an organizational assessment and environment scan to:

- Assess the current level of engagement in TIC practice
- Identify immediate TIC training needs
- Develop strategies for long-term commitment to delivering trauma-informed services at the individual and organizational levels

Trauma-Informed Care Training

We develop and deliver TIC trainings that are:

- Tailored to meet the individual needs of your organization and the specific client populations being served
- Responsive to the existing level of trauma knowledge and expertise of agency personnel
- Attentive to micro, mezzo, and macro level training needs
- Able to evaluate outcomes

Follow-Up TIC Coaching and Implementation

We meet with key agency personnel and stakeholders as identified by the agency in order to:

- Collaboratively assess the organization's fidelity associated with implementing newly learned trauma-informed skills, strategies, and approaches
- Develop strategies to enhance and/or maintain fidelity
- Identify possible areas for future trauma-informed training and development

We offer TIC consultation and training services across a wide range of problems, populations, and agency settings.

Levels of Service

- Introductory general TIC training (half day)
- Half day or full day specifically tailored to agency
- Customized Multi-Day Program with or without consultation, technical assistance, and evaluation components
 - TIC program evaluation can be added to all training packages or provided as a standalone service

For More Information

To learn more about how we can assist your organization or to schedule a training, please email Dr. Ashely Austin at aaustin@barry.edu.



Ellen Whiteside
McDonnell School
of Social Work

Barry University



Center for Human Rights
and Social Justice

**Trauma-Informed
Care Training
and Consultation**

During the 2016-2017 year, the CHRSJ team provided multiple trainings to the community in order to enhance provider competence and service delivery:

- Professor Sambra Zaoui and CHRSJ partner Stephen Ferrante provided trauma-informed human trafficking consultation, training, and capacity building services to 1HTC.
- Dr. Jill Levenson provided trauma-informed care trainings in St. Augustine, Florida, in fall 2016 and to Broward County Public School Social Workers in March 2017.
- Dr. Maria Teahan provided the following trauma-informed care workshops at the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Division of Social Work Services Training in January 2017:
 - “Building a Trauma-Informed School Environment Sensitive to Grieving Children and Adolescents”
 - “A Healing Journey: Incorporating a Trauma-Informed Response to Grief and Loss in Children and Adolescents”
- Dr. Ashley Austin provided three daylong LGBTQ+ affirmative and trauma-informed trainings to providers working with survivors of the PULSE tragedy in Orlando, Florida, in February 2017. The trainings were funded through the Central Florida Foundation’s Better Together Fund.

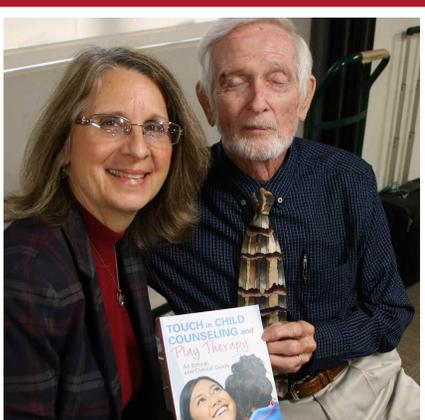
What’s Ahead?

We eagerly look forward to another year of demonstrating our passion and commitment to advancing the Center’s core initiatives. In 2017-2018, our team will have a particular focus on strengthening our Advanced Clinical Community Practice and Education program in Liberty City. We are committed to collaborating with the community to bring trauma-informed programming, training, and community-based change to Charles R. Drew K-8 Center and the surrounding community in order to enhance the lives of Liberty City’s citizens.

In addition we aim to expand our trauma-informed care training and consultation services in several noteworthy ways. In response to community needs, we will host an introductory TIC training for all community partners on the Barry University campus in the spring. We also plan to introduce online TIC training components (e.g., webinars, human trafficking certificate program).

We are also in the process of developing a pilot training program to meet the needs of Palm Beach County Public Schools, an initiative led by Drs. Eva Nowakowski and Sarah Ingram-Herring. CHRSJ fellows are actively seeking funding to support the delivery of TIC training, consulting, and evaluation services to organizations serving at-risk children and families. Finally, our fast-growing TRACKS Intergroup Dialogues will continue to engage students and faculty in meaningful and in-depth discussion about issues related to privilege and oppression.

A Year in Review



The Team



Ashley Austin, PhD
Associate Professor and
Distinguished Scholar

Carolina Rios, MS
Program Coordinator

Yvonne Alonso
Administrative Assistant

Faculty Affiliates



Jill Levenson, PhD
Professor

Tisa McGhee, PhD
Associate Professor

Samba Zaoul, LCSW, LMSW
Instructor

Olga Osby, PhD
Professor and Associate
Director of Grants and
Program Development

**Mitchell Rosenwald, PhD,
LCSW**
Professor and Interim
Doctoral Program Director



**Eva Nowakowski, PhD,
LCSW, MPH**
Associate Professor

**Edmon Tucker, JD, MSW,
PhD, LCSW**
Assistant Professor



Barry University

School of Social Work | **Center for Human Rights and Social Justice**

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