



COOLEY DICKINSON
HEALTH CARE
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL AFFILIATE



Community Dialogues on Race

Cooley Dickinson Health Care and the United Way of Hampshire County are addressing the issue of racism, as well as race-related incidents that continue to occur both locally and nationally, by offering the first in a series of community dialogues on race. The first in the series takes place Nov. 5 and 6.

Community members who live in Hampshire County are invited to attend the first of four sessions.

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 5 and 6, 2016, from 10 am to 4 pm

WHERE: Jandon Center for Community Engagement at Smith College, Wright Hall,
5 Chapin Drive, Northampton

The Community Dialogue is free; lunch will be provided. Attendance is limited to 30 people and participants must attend both days. When registering, people will be asked their name, the organization they represent, if any, and their race/ethnicity. Organizers are asking about race/ethnicity as they have a goal of 50 percent participation from people of color.

TO REGISTER:

Call 888-554-4CDH (4234) by Tuesday, Nov. 1

You will receive confirmation that you have been selected for this first session or that you have been placed on the waiting list for the next session.

About the Facilitators

Kent Alexander has worked as a consultant for NYC-based public school systems, arts groups, and labor unions. After moving to the Pioneer Valley, he was employed for nine years as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Elms College where he also co-taught cultural competency, as well as at local institutions that include Holyoke Health Center and Springfield Technical Community College. Since retiring in 2015, Kent has been an active member of Cooley Dickinson's Patient Family Access Committee (PFAC) as well as a member of CDHC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. He also facilitates "social justice-focused" workshops for various local organizations including Girls' Inc. of Holyoke, HapHousing, Montague Catholic Social Ministry, and Franklin Regional Council of Governments and serves on the advisory board for the local chapter of Standing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).



Jeff Harness has a long history working on public health issues in Western Massachusetts. He has worked with many communities and people and public health topics in the region including health access, substance use prevention, tobacco control, food and physical activity. In his current role, he represents Cooley Dickinson to community health projects in the region.



Understanding the Need

The idea for the dialogues stems from the ongoing work of Cooley Dickinson Health Care's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council, as well as the results and recommendations of the most recent community health needs assessment, which was commissioned by Cooley Dickinson Health Care.

Consistent with its mission of building strong, vibrant, and inclusive communities, the United Way of Hampshire County will serve as a supporting partner in this initiative. The remaining three dialogues will be held in 2017.

Cooley Dickinson Health Care sponsors this ongoing series of Community Dialogues in partnership with United Way of Hampshire County. Special thanks extended to Smith College's Jandon Center for Community Engagement for hosting this first of four planned community dialogues.