



**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT NIGHT
THE INTERSECTION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND
MENTAL HEALTH**

Rumi Forum - Maryland is inviting you to a community engagement night with **Howard County Office of Human Rights, Police Department** and **NAMI-Howard Co.** to provide space to discuss the intersection between human rights and mental health while exploring its complexities. This panel of experts and representatives are going to speak on the important components that impact said intersectionality from their perspectives.

DATE & TIME

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

6:30 PM

LOCATION

6470 Dobbin Rd., Suite C, Columbia, MD, 21045

(ATFA/MARTI is across from Columbia MVA)

PROGRAM

6:30 - 7:00 - Meet & Greet and Light Reception

7:00 - 7:45 - Opening Remarks and Panel Discussion

7:45 - 8:15 - Closing Remarks and Q&A

**The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served
Registration is required. Please RSVP by Monday, October 28 via this link:**

RSVP link

<http://bit.ly/humanrights-mentalhealth>



Yolanda F. Sonnier, Esq. is the Administrator of the Howard County Office of Human Rights. She previously served as a partner at Randall & Sonnier LLC. Before becoming the Principal Attorney at Sonnier Legal & Consulting Group, served as a volunteer attorney for the MD Commission on Civil Rights, led the effort to review and revise the diversity plan for the American Bar Association Section of Family Law and created their Diversity Fellowship program. She served as the Chair of the MD State Bar Association's Diversity and Inclusion committee since 2017. She has a J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law.



Todd Givens, Sr. is an investigator with the Howard County Office of Human Rights (OHR) and began his tenure in 2014. Mr. Givens has advocated for cooperation between OHR, employers, and employees to advance equal opportunity in the workplace. He has also carried out OHR's mission of enforcing the equal opportunity laws within Howard County along with advancing the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion. He received a B.A. in Communications from Hampton University, a J.D. from the North Carolina Central School of Law, and is a certified mediator.



Steven J. Gray retired from his career in 2010 after working 35 years in sales and in various management positions, including Plant Manager, in different locations and businesses of building materials manufacturing and contracted services.

After retiring, he became a NAMI Howard County volunteer. Steve joined the NAMI Maryland Public Policy Committee in December 2014 and was elected to its Board of Directors in Jun 2015 becoming Vice President. He served in that role until February 2016 when he became President and serving in that capacity until June 2017. He continued to serve on the Board as Secretary until April 2018.



Genny LaPorte currently serves as the Civilian Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Coordinator & Mental Health Liaison for the Howard County Police Department (HCPD). In her capacity as CIT coordinator, she develops and executes with the HCPD Mental Health Section team members, a forty-hour CIT training for law enforcement officers. In her role as the Civilian Mental Health Liaison, she reviews mental health reports, provides post-crisis response and facilitates connecting citizens and their families to community services and resources.