



Ohio Counselors for Social Justice

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Greetings from the President!

Emily Baker, President 2020-2021

Happy New Year! In many ways, 2020 was characterized by pain, suffering, and tragedy, all of which disproportionately impacted people of color. It was an exhausting year for so many individuals, families, and communities, and we're unfortunately still in the midst of it. It was also a year of voices, of activism and movement, and of selfless work. We'd like to recognize the people that provided strength, power, and compassion within the tragedies of 2020. OCSJ thanks the healthcare workers that continue to fight the pandemic on all fronts, the activists that led and continue to lead a historic civil rights movement, the attorneys, lawyers, and civil aid workers that provided legal aid amidst the Black Lives Matter protests, the thousands of local, state, regional, and national organizations dedicated to serving the underserved, the teachers, school counselors, and youth-serving organizations creating positive and safe environments for kids to learn and grow online, and every counselor who has held space for people processing the many losses. As an organization, OCSJ promises to honor their work by serving counselors and supporting social justice work across the state. Whether you started your social justice counseling journey in 2020 or strengthened it, we're glad you're here!

OCSJ Response to Capitol Riots

We at OCSJ strongly condemn the actions taken at the US Capitol building on Wednesday, January 6th, 2021. We grieve the loss of lives during this riot, and we honor the pillars of democracy and the importance of following due process in respecting the votes in a historic election. We recognize the role that white supremacy played in this riot, noting the presence of the confederate flag in the Capitol building for the first time in our nation's history. We seek to support counselors as they wrestle with the ongoing impact of the riot, as we strive to continue to create safe space for our clients to grow.

We encourage counselors to consider some of the following actions:

Personal Development:

- OCSJ has created a comprehensive database of resources, including resources discussing race and racial justice. We encourage you to visit our website to view and reflect on these resources.

(Continued on Page 2)



Ohio Counselors for Social Justice

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Dedicate supervision time to processing your own reactions to the riot. Recognize your own identities and contexts and how they impact your lens in and out of the counseling room.
- Share and consult with colleagues. Professional consultation helps us all find support and challenge our implicit biases.

Professional Work:

- Create space for our clients to discuss and process what occurred. Although this event holds political charge, we can check-in with how this event may or may not impact our clients outside of political values, recognizing that this was a historic event for the entire country.
- Empower clients to participate in activism as indicated. Counseling can be a space to identify options that fit the clients' current needs, understand their power and control within the social ecological system, and gain healing through community engagement.
- Broach identity differences as indicated. If you hold a privileged identity, allow clients the space to identify and process their level of comfort in discussing riots of white supremacists with a white-presenting counselor or other privileged identity.
- Attend to your own self-care during times of political unrest. Set clear work boundaries so that one day isn't too much and that you have time to reflect and reset in between clients or tasks.

Within Organizations & Communities:

- Reach out to local and state organizations that are working with the underserved.
- Set up a training or consultation on social justice efforts that can be done within an agency or organization
- Participate in community events....
- Openly discuss the riot and impact on your local community within your organization after setting ground rules about respecting opinions, using evidence-based arguments, and examining implicit biases.

Connecting with Legislators:

- Utilize our online template for communicating your concerns with your legislator.



Ohio Counselors for Social Justice

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Looking to take your advocacy and social justice to the macro-level? Consider writing your representative about some of these ongoing issues:

National & Federal Topics: <https://www.counseling.org/government-affairs/federal-issues>

- Racial Injustice & Police Reform Bills: Voice your support for legislation encouraging greater education and accountability within police departments in addressing racial justice: <https://www.counseling.org/government-affairs/actioncenter>
- Mental Health Access Improvement Act: Bipartisan bill seeking to increase coverage of counseling services under Medicare to increase mental health access: <https://www.counseling.org/government-affairs/federal-issues/medicare-reimbursement>

Statewide Topics:

- Conversion Therapy Bans: In February, House Bill 503: Protecting Youth from Conversion “Therapy” was introduced. Visit Equality Ohio to see how to support this bill: <https://equalityohio.org/legislation/conversion-therapy-house/>
- Criminal Justice Reform: Join ACLU of Ohio in their work to advocate for criminal justice reform, including bail reform: <https://www.ohbailreform.com/>
- The Ohio Fairness Act: Supported by ACLU, Equality Ohio, HRC and TransOhio, Senate Bill 11 would ensure sexual identity and sexual orientation are included in Ohio’s nondiscriminatory laws: <https://equalityohio.org/legislation/ohio-fairness-act/>

Looking for practical ways to engage in legislative advocacy? Don’t miss the recent webinar from Counselors for Social Justice, “The ‘How-To’ of Macro-Level Advocacy” featuring ACA Government Affairs Specialist, Dominique Marsalek:

<https://www.counseling-csj.org/webinar-series.html>

Involved in another state or national issue? Let us know on social media so we can spread the word!



Ohio Counselors for Social Justice

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Membership Update

Questions about membership? Email us at ohiocsj@gmail.com

OCSJ currently has 63 active members who are dedicated to advocacy and social justice in Ohio. We continue to be grateful for our incredible members who continue to work and advocate for our clients. Membership in OCSJ comes with a variety of perks, including the ability to vote for executive board positions and OCSJ Award winners, updates from the board regarding opportunities for social justice advocacy, access to the OCSJ newsletter, the opportunity to run for executive board positions in OCSJ, and much more! Become a member today through <https://www.ohiocounseling.org/application>. Membership in OCSJ costs \$10. All interested OCA members are welcome.

Chapter Shoutout

Emily Baker, President 2020-2021

Members of The Ohio State University’s Chapter of Counselors for Social Justice have been actively fighting injustice over the past several months. As one of the first chapters of CSJ in Ohio, OSU’s Chapter has paired with the university’s chapter of Chi Sigma Iota to fundraise, advocate, and support local, state, and national social justice efforts. The current President of OSU’s CSJ, Katherine ‘Kat’ Thompson, is a second-year clinical master’s student, and works alongside her committee members and classmates, Danielle Culpepper, Jaclyn Musci, and Lauren Mahoney. Together, they have organized a cohort of students dedicated to fighting local social justice issues, including participating in BLM protests in Columbus, Ohio, protesting recent dissolving of African American Studies program at Ohio Wesleyan University, and attending hearings to protest the fracking plans on OSU’s campus. Further, the group raised over \$400 in two days for Black Lives Matter movement, a large feat for a small organization. We are proud of the social justice work of OSU’s CSJ Chapter and excited to see more social justice leaders join the profession! If you know of a CSJ Chapter doing excellent work within their university, region, or across the state, please send us an email at ohiocsj@gmail.com. We’d love to give more student activists a shoutout!



Interested in creating a CSJ Chapter at your university?

Send us an email and we’ll help you get you started in the process!



Ohio Counselors for Social Justice

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Social Justice Spotlight

Shanice Lockhart, President-Elect 2020-2021

Think Make Live Youth is a non-profit organization located in Columbus, OH. The organization’s founder Terry Green was inspired back in March 2015, to transform a twenty-minute class presentation into workshops and programs over the course of several months. Over time those workshops and programs grew into something even greater. In 2017, Think Make Live Youth soared to new heights with innovative programming to provide support to opportunity youth.

The mission of Think Make Live Youth has been to *“provide innovative leadership and civic engagement programs to support opportunity youth”* while the vision of the organization is *“To disrupt social justice statistical barriers for all”*. Think Make Live Youth has done many great works through mentorship, community engagement, leadership development, and other community events. The organization has been featured in various local news outlets for their community outreach, in particular helping youth get summer job placements. Think Make Live Youth primarily serves opportunity youth ages 14-25.

Another great part of Green’s vision worth spotlighting is his development of Think Make Live, LLC which provides social justice consulting for companies and organizations. Now more than ever we see the importance of businesses and organizations understanding how to implement social justice. Terry Green and all the hard workers involved in the success of Think Make Live Youth are doing phenomenal work for the sake of social justice.

To learn more about the organization or ways to donate, sponsor, or volunteer, you can find them at Think Make Live Youth on Facebook or more information on their website:

www.tmlyouth.org



Ohio Counselors for Social Justice

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Social Justice Skills

Tanya Middleton, Ph.D., Past President

Due to our uncertain times with COVID-19 and current climate due to the racial and social justice issues it remains of utmost urgency to continue in efforts to fight towards equity and equality. Despite these conditions, OCSJ stresses for constant action despite the circumstances, below are skills that you perform from home or from a distance:

Using Your Voice on Social Media Platforms

By definition, using your voice or your platform is a powerful and much needed tool that can be effective, especially given our current need to social distance but also continue to advocate for our clients and community. While we may be limited in “active engagement” it is necessary to remain “actively engaged” and this medium correlates with the trending but effective methods of communication to relay messages to the public.

- Identify a need/cause.
- Working in a school setting, or within the community this current pandemic has highlighted disparities within the community. Counselors could act via identifying some of the disparities noted and team with an existing agency/organization to improve.
- Determine a course of action.
 - Record a video or share/upload a message pertaining to a particular issue of concern.
 - Learn about #hashtags and work to tag local organizations, leaders, etc., who will need to hear the message.
 - Continue to upload and share and ask friends/family and contacts to share via their platforms.
 - Take messages to other platforms -- YouTube, TikTok, SnapChat, Twitter, Instagram, etc.



Ohio Counselors for Social Justice

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fundraising for Social Justice

Ohio Counselors for Social Justice is paying homage to the late John Lewis, a former U.S. Representative who spent much of his life getting in “Good Trouble” for the sake of justice.

We are currently selling short sleeve and long sleeve tee-shirts. All profits will be donated to the [Ohio Justice Foundation](http://ohiojusticefoundation.org), a statewide nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that civil legal aid is available to all low-income and underserved Ohioans.

Visit our website at <http://ohiocsj.org> or the <http://teespring.com/stores/ohiocsj> to order a shirt today.



Stay updated with OCSJ

Stay up to date with member meetings, position statements, advocacy efforts, and ways to get involved at our [website](http://ohiocsj.org).

Tell us about what you and/or your organization are doing for social justice! - Use the hashtag #OhioCSJ on Facebook and Twitter posts to get the conversation started and be entered into a drawing for a free OCSJ tee-shirt at the end of AOCC.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter @OhioCSJ

