

# 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 Skill: Partnership Building

**WRITTEN BY EMILY BAKER  
PRESIDENT 2020-2021**

Social justice must occur at every level of the socioecological model. From individual counseling sessions to community engagement, building authentic partnerships is important to creating sustainable change.

### **Individual Partnerships**

Partnering with clients can include fostering self-advocacy skills and empowerment, elevating the voices of marginalized clients, and assisting clients in navigating oppressive systems. Partnerships require intentionally acknowledging and reducing the power differential experienced in the counseling room. This can include giving the client the agency to direct every session, exploring where the client experiences a sense of agency in their daily life, and providing strategies to increase agency in oppressive systems, including how you can directly assist them. Authentic partnerships require accountability and time. One strategy to develop collaborative and authentic partnerships in the counseling room is to regularly provide clients opportunities to evaluate and provide feedback about their experience with you, counseling approaches, and the agency. Partnerships are built by genuine relationships and clients can benefit by thoroughly exploring their experience of every stage of the partnership-building process.

Continued on Page 2



## IN THIS EDITION

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SKILL - P 1-2**

**UPCOMING EVENTS - P 2**

**MEMBERSHIP SURVEY - P 2**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SPOTLIGHT - P 3**

**BOOK REVIEW - P 4**

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATES - P 4**

**FUNDRAISING - P 4**

### Community Partnerships

You and your agency can practice partnership-oriented social justice by engaging in the community. Identifying community-based partners that support social justice and your agency's expressed values and mission can increase the visibility of mental health services and promote trust in the historically oppressive mental health system. Examples of community partners include medication-assisted treatment clinics, houseless shelters, public health organizations, youth centers, and recreational organizations. Although dual relationships should be monitored and documented if they occur, supporting and pairing with a social justice organization can build the impact of your efforts, create social justice referral and resource network, and promote mutual accountability between agencies/organizations. You or your organization can build community partners by offering to present on social justice efforts, facilitating restorative justice, volunteering time and service to support community activities/events, creating collaborative fundraising initiatives, funding or sponsoring community social justice events, and offering pro bono services.

### Professional Partnerships

Professional partnerships occur at the local, state, and national levels. You and your agency can establish social justice partnerships by researching the organizations that are engaged in advocacy that align with the counseling field. For example, Ohio Counselors for Social Justice is partnered with CSJ university chapters, the OCA Government Relations Committee, and Ohio Justice Foundation. These partnerships build over time and open resources, visibility, and connection despite barriers. Partnering with your local counseling organization, state chapters, or CSJ and taking on support or leadership roles can increase your knowledge and awareness of social justice issues impacting your clients, community, and field. Further, you can communicate professional partnerships and your agency or practice's role within that partnership to build more local connections. This is not a professional partnership used to signal virtues, but rather to signal active involvement and openness to feedback and advocacy from potential partners, the community, and clients. Professional partners can recognize the impact and toll of social justice advocacy and provide necessary mutual support.

**"Individually, we are a drop.  
Together, we are an ocean."  
- Ryunosuke Akutagawa**

## Upcoming Events

**WRITTEN BY EMILY BAKER  
PRESIDENT 2020-2021**

Please keep an eye out for the OCSJ events coming soon!

OCA 2021 Spring Conference – This year, OCSJ will be presenting on two important topics on Thursday and Friday of the annual OCA Spring Conference. Please join us for information and discussion on Preventing and Managing Counselor Burnout During a Pandemic and Considerations for Post-Pandemic Reintegration of Children and Adolescents

OCSJ & SAIGE of Ohio have paired together to offer members a webinar series on working affirmatively with BIPOC trans folk. We will be offering a minimum of 1.5 CEUs and inviting a guest speaker to speak about best practices in serving this population.

Social events and more member involvement. We are actively working to create events, meetings, and/or interest groups to better serve the needs of our members. We want to hear from you – please complete the [Qualtrics link](#) included in this newsletter and look for events to follow!

**Tell us what you'd like to see  
from OCSJ! Please complete  
our Membership Survey!**

**[https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com  
/jfe/form/SV\\_a99yVQscl1XR](https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a99yVQscl1XR)  
[Ay](#)**

# Social Justice Spotlight

**WRITTEN BY SHANICE LOCKHART  
PRESIDENT-ELECT 2020-2021**

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) is a national organization dedicated to undermining white supremacy and working for racial justice. SURJ operates with three core strategies; delegitimizing racist institutions, fighting for a fair economy that refuses to pit communities against each other, and shifting culture in a way that undermines support for white supremacy. Co-Founders Pam McMichael and Carla Wallace have been movement organizers and collaborators for SURJ for over a decade and thanks to their initial efforts, SURJ now has chapters in over 40 States of the USA. Chapters are also located in the District of Columbia and Toronto, Canada. As a national collective, SURJ has impacted the social justice movement on an immense scale.

Currently the only official statewide program is SURJ Ohio which is comprised of several SURJ organizations throughout various regions of the state; SURJ Greater Dayton (Dayton, OH), SURJ Northeast Ohio (Cleveland, OH), Columbus SURJ (Columbus, OH), SURJ SEO (South East Ohio), SURJ Ohio State (The Ohio State University Campus, Columbus, OH), and SURJ Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH). As a unified network, SURJ Ohio believes "All systems of inequity in this country are built on the foundations of white supremacy - with deadly consequences for all of us... in order to live in a just and equitable world, white people must ground all of our social justice activism in a framework of personal work + collective action."

SURJ Ohio has contributed to the social justice movement by collaborating with a voting coalition in Hamilton County, partnering with organizations for their "Redistributing White Wealth" program, and collaborating with organizations to form a "Use of Force Monitoring Group" which monitors over 30 police stations and their use of force incidents. SURJ Ohio can also assist in providing Anti-Racism Education for social justice advocates and for predominantly white institutions/organizations that are interested in keeping their staff and employees informed.

**Interested in taking part in SURJ or collaborating with one of their Ohio chapters? See below for information on how to get connected!**

**SURJ National Website:**

[www.showingupforracialjustice.org](http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org)

**SURJ Greater Dayton:** Dayton, OH

<https://www.facebook.com/SURJGreaterDayton/>

**SURJ Northeast Ohio:** Cleveland, OH

Email: [connect@surjneo.org](mailto:connect@surjneo.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/surjneo/>

**Columbus SURJ:** Columbus, OH

Email: [surjcolumbusoh@gmail.com](mailto:surjcolumbusoh@gmail.com)

**SURJ South Eastern Ohio:**

Email: [surjseo@gmail.com](mailto:surjseo@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1819501354989799/>

**SURJ Ohio State:** The Ohio State University Campus, Columbus, Ohio

Email: [osusurj@gmail.com](mailto:osusurj@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/SURJOHioState>

**SURJ Cincinnati:**

Email: [surjcincinnati@gmail.com](mailto:surjcincinnati@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/surjincincy/>

**Interested in bringing awareness to a social justice initiative, a social justice organization, or a particular advocate for social justice? If so, please send an email with your recommendation to [OhioCSJ@gmail.com](mailto:OhioCSJ@gmail.com) with "Social Justice Spotlight" as the subject. Your recommendation may be featured in our next quarterly newsletter!**

## Book Review: The New Jim Crow

**WRITTEN BY CHRISTINE BANKS-VANALLEN  
NEWSLETTER CHAIR 2020-2021**

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander, is an important read tracing the history and cyclical nature of racial-based oppression in the United States underlying today's system of mass incarceration. Ms. Alexander, a civil rights litigator and legal scholar, argues that mass incarceration of African American men in particular represents an intentional and systemic backlash against the civil rights movement of the 1960's. Following the Reagan-era War on Drugs, prison populations grew from 300,000 to more than 2 million—in addition to the many more individuals under the control of the criminal justice system through probation and parole—with much of the increase attributable to non-violent drug crimes and minimum sentencing laws. Roughly one in four African American men are imprisoned in the United States, and in many American cities, up to three out of every four African American men are expected to serve time in prison over the course of their lives. This mass incarceration of African American men, Ms. Alexander argues, creates a permanent “undercaste” system, whereby African Americans are designated inferior “by law and custom” in a “colorblind” criminal justice system. Although civil rights laws formally protect African Americans from many forms of discrimination, when African Americans are labeled “criminals,” they face legal discrimination in employment, housing, education, public benefits, voting rights, and others. Thus, Ms. Alexander argues, today's system of mass incarceration marks an insidious evolution and continuation of systemic racial oppression dating back to the era of Jim Crow and of slavery.

The themes in the book are salient today, in the wake of the ongoing George Floyd case in Minneapolis, and in light of the recent shooting of Daunte Wright. The themes also speak to legal discrimination in the Covid-19 pandemic; while group living facilities such as nursing homes were some of the first to receive vaccines, group living prison facilities were considered more controversial for early vaccination efforts. The impact of mass incarceration on African American communities is staggering, and marks an important area for ongoing social justice work.

Find [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness here.](#)

**As of April 2021, we have a total of 68 active members within OCSJ! Interested in getting more involved? We would love to have you join. We actively meet several times a year and have been active in creating presentations for conferences and community events.**

## Fundraising

**WRITTEN BY KAITLYN BRUNS  
SECRETARY 2020-2021**

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, 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.

