

Ames Simmons (He/Him)

Policy Director

National Center for Transgender Equality/NCTE Action Fund

asimmons@transequality.org

Office: 202.804.6047

From: Seugling, Carolyn <Carolyn.Seugling@ed.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 5:26 PM

To: Ames Simmons <asimmons@transequality.org>

Cc: Jayne, Mike <William.Jayne@ed.gov>; Eichner, James (CRT) (James.Eichner@usdoj.gov) <James.Eichner@usdoj.gov>; Johnson, Jadine (CRT) <Jadine.Johnson@usdoj.gov>

Subject: Information & Planning Call for May 11 ED-OCR & DOJ-CRT Virtual Convening

Dear Mr. Simmons,

Thank you for accepting the invitation to participate in the virtual convening - **Brown 67 Years Later: Examining Disparities in School Discipline and the Pursuit of Safe and Inclusive Schools**, which is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2021 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 pm ET. The convening will highlight strategies for addressing racial and other disparities in the administration of school discipline. The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Rights Division have invited you as panelists because of your expertise in issues related to school discipline and climate. The event will include three panels as described below.

PANEL ONE:

Perspectives on Disparities in School Discipline – The Problem: Panelists will share their experiences confronting and addressing harmful or discriminatory school disciplinary policies and the impact of these policies on students of color, LGBTQI+ students, and students with disabilities.

- **Katherine Dunn**, Director of Ending the Schoolhouse-to-Jailhouse track, Advancement Project (topic: police free schools)
- **Diane Smith Howard**, Managing Attorney, National Disability Rights Network (topic: students with disabilities)
- **Ames Simmons**, Policy Director, National Center for Transgender Equity/NCTE Action Fund (topic: LGBTQI+ students and others disciplined because of gender identity or nonconformity)
- **Michaele Turnage Young**, Senior Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (topic: discriminatory hair policy)
- **Representative from Asian Americans Advancing Justice-TBD**
- **Student – TBD**
- **Student – TBD**
- **Monique Dixon**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, OCR (Moderator)

PANEL TWO:

Disparities in Student Discipline: What the research says about identifying and addressing the problem: Panelists will discuss their research on the systemic nature of disparities in school discipline. They will provide national data and other information on school climate and safety issues and how federal civil rights laws and community and/or school-based programs may be used to prevent and address these disparities.

- **Dr. Monique Morris**, Author and Social Activist (topic: discipline and criminalization of black girls)
- **Russell Skiba**, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University (topic: racial and disability disparities in school discipline)
- **Olati Johnson**, Jerome B. Sherman Professor of Law, Columbia Law School (topic: preventing and addressing disparities with compliance and enforcement of civil rights laws, such as Title VI)
- **Carolyn Seugling**, Attorney, OCR (Moderator)

PANEL THREE:

Addressing Disparities in Discipline and Promoting Positive School Climate: Lessons from the Field: This panel will feature the school discipline reform and police-free school efforts of Denver advocates and the Denver Public School system, as well as the work of advocates and practitioners who are advancing positive school climates through community and school-based programs, such as social emotional learning and counseling services.

- **Elsa Bañuelos**, Executive Director, Padres & Jóvenes Unidos, Denver, CO (topic: school discipline reform, police free schools)
- **Daniel Kim**, Former Chief of Staff for the Division of Student Equity & Opportunity in Denver Public Schools, Denver, CO (restorative practices) (*confirmation pending)
- **Student** – TBD from Denver Public Schools
- **Dr. Cierra Kaler-Jones**, Director of Storytelling, Communities for Just Schools Fund (social emotional learning student supports)
- **Olivia Carter**, 2021 National School Counselor of the year (trauma-informed practices and work to decrease discipline referrals in her elementary school in Cape Girardeau, MO)
- (b)(6) (*confirmation Pending)
- **Shaheena Simons** – Chief, DOJ Civil Rights Division (Moderator)

We envision the second panel's format to be in a presentation style with questions and answers from the audience at the end. The first and third panels will have a brief introduction by the panel moderator who will lead a facilitated question and answer session (some determined in advance and some from audience participation).

We would like to schedule a planning call for your panel, Panel 1 on Monday, May 3. Are you available from 11-11:30am ET? If not, please let me know if you have other availability on Monday, May 3rd and I will coordinate a convenient time for all panelists of Panel 1 and OCR and DOJ-CRT staff.

We will also like to release the description of the panels and panelists used in this email minus the information in the parentheses (). Please let me know if you have any edits to your name or title. Additionally, if you have a bio you would like us to provide to registrants, please forward to me.

Thank you again for your patience and participation. We look forward to working with you to plan great event.

Carolyn