



Coalition for Immigrant Mental Health

**COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT MENTAL HEALTH  
2020 CONVENING SERIES**

***January 22, 2021***

***Race, Ethnicity and Mental Health: Embracing and Supporting  
Diversity in Undocumented Immigrant and Refugee  
Communities***

**This convening will focus on the experiences and perspectives of Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latinx, and African undocumented, Immigrant and refugee communities.**

## Agenda

- 9:50am-10am**      **Join the waiting room and greet each other**
- 10:00am-10:05am:**      **Welcome: Ané Maríñez-Lora, PhD.**  
Research Assistant Professor  
University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration  
Chair, Coalition Convening Planning Workgroup
- 10:05am – 11: 30am**      **Panel Discussion**
- Nancy Asirifi-Otchere**  
Executive Director  
United African Organization
- Cynthia Lubin Langtiw**  
Professor  
Chicago School of Professional Psychology
- Omaris Z. Zamora**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Latino & Caribbean Studies  
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- LaSaia Wade**  
Executive Director  
Brave Space Alliance
- Moderators**  
**Kongit Girma, MAT**  
Coalition Member
- Oliver Camacho, MS**  
Coalition Member
- 11:35 am-12:00pm**      ***Experience the Wellness of Your Being***  
Mindfulness Activity  
**Hanna Kebbede**  
Founder and President of The Desta Kebbede Foundation, Inc.
- On your own:**      **Please complete Convening evaluations through REDCAP**  
Follow-up email with virtual swag bag and link



## A LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIAL GUESTS

**Nancy Asirifi-Otchere** is the United African Organization (UAO)'s executive director. Nancy, a native of Ghana, holds an MBA from the University of Southern Denmark, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Management from the University of Ghana, and is a Department of Justice (DOJ)-accredited immigration representative. After ten years of organizing in the community, Nancy has deep knowledge and understanding of the Black immigrant community of Illinois.

**Cynthia Lubin Langtiw** is a Haitian American licensed clinical psychologist and Full Professor of clinical psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Langtiw is also a volunteer psychologist and clinical supervisor with The Marjorie Kovler Center for Survivors of Torture/University of Illinois Counseling Center. Her clinical work reflects a strong systemic/community sensibility that integrates a relational cultural perspective. Dr. Langtiw's clinical and research interests include spirituality/religion, diversity, multicultural competence, supporting unhoused/vulnerable/marginalized youth, migration/immigration/asylee mental health and (Haitian/American) identity development.

**Omaris Z. Zamora** is an Assistant Professor of Afro-Latinx Studies at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. She is jointly appointed in the Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies as well as in the Africana Studies Department. Zamora is a transnational Black Dominican Studies scholar and spoken-word poet. Her research interests include: theorizing AfroLatinidad in the context of race, gender, sexuality through Afro-diasporic approaches. Her current book project tentatively titled, *Cigüapa Unbound: AfroLatina Feminist Epistemologies of Tranceformation* examines the narratives of transnational Black Dominican women writers, artists, and cultural creators. Her work has been published in academic journals such as *Post45*, *Latinx Talk*, *Label Me Latina/o*, among others and has been featured on NPR's *Alt.Latino* podcast, as well as ABC 7's *Windy City Live*, and has led workshops for Univisión.

**LaSaia Wade** is the founder and Executive Director of Brave Space Alliance. LaSaia is an open Afro-Puerto Rican indigenous Trans Woman, founder of TNTJ Tennessee Trans Journey Project, and member of Chicago Trans Gender-Nonconforming Collective and the Trans Liberation

Collective, and Director of Brave Space Alliance. Recently, she was honored at the Chicago LGBTQA Black History Recognitions ceremony and is the first Trans woman in Illinois history to be celebrated in Women's History month for the work she's doing, not limited to community organizing.

LaSaia graduated in 2012 with a Masters of Business Administration degree in Business Management from Murfreesboro Tennessee State University, has 10+ years of experience in organizing and advocacy work with black, indigenous, trans, and gender-nonconforming people around the world. Her role in organizing ranges between and beyond as a central organizer for the Trans Liberation Collective Chicago, the largest march for trans rights in Midwestern history and being a leader in Midwest Ballroom The International Legendary House of Prodigy.

**Hanna Kabbede** is the founder and President of The Desta Kebede Foundation, Inc. ([dkfi.org](http://dkfi.org)) – its mission is to transmute pain to power with TAASTTA formerly known as trauma awareness and support through the Arts. TAASTTA was renamed Transform, Align and Soar through the Arts. The name was changed because TAASTTA was never about pathology as it was about transmuting pain to power and uplifting souls through creative expressions. Hanna writes inspirational blogs, and podcasts to provide educational resources for creative expressions. She is committed to help awaken, transform and uplift those who participate in the TAASTTA program. She hosted TAASTTA talk radio at Fairfax Public Access. Recordings of her programs are available on the TAASTTA website at [taastta.org](http://taastta.org). Prior to the pandemic Hanna organized TAASTTA live workshops in partnership with community organizations and nonprofits and offered resources and tools to women and youth in Arlington and Alexandria, VA. You can follow the TAASTTA Facebook page at [facebook.com/taastta.org](https://facebook.com/taastta.org)

