

Facilitator's Guide

"Beyond the Beat and the Lyrics -- Understanding the Impact of Stigma and Discrimination on the Mental Health Status of Transition-Aged African American Males"

Suggested Viewing Venues:

- Group meetings or inservice with therapists, outreach specialists or intake staff
- Community development and information meetings
- As a "think piece" to engage youth in discussions about their experiences
- With public information or advertising personnel to raise their awareness about the special risks associated with this population
- With educators or members of faith communities

After film is shown offer an opportunity for reactions. This can be from:

- A panel of youth who want to share their reactions and experiences
- A panel of professionals and community who work with this audience
- Your own viewers or audiences

Discussion Questions. These may be used to stimulate participants to talk about their practices and opinions, and may augment the panel discussion or replace it:

1. What can be done to create and maintain "safer spaces", and to reduce the level of "Dis-Ease" Bennie Crayton referred to?
2. What does the term "micro-aggressions" mean to you?
3. Brainstorm some potential strategies for PEI
4. Are there community-defined practices in _____(community) designed to address the needs of this population? Identify and describe.
5. Do our programs emphasize recovery or the elimination of symptoms?
6. How are patient's views on medication taken into consideration by prescribing professionals?
7. How can we identify those who need mental or behavioral health therapy BEFORE law enforcement intervenes?
8. Black males have one of the highest rates of completed suicides in our society. How do we reach them with crisis intervention and suicide prevention programs?
9. How can programs such as Career Counseling and Workforce Preparation be integrated into existing program services?

Additional Resources:

Film/Video:

- ***Face of Darkness: A Journey to Healing*** by K.T. Nelson and Squeaky Moore <http://www.faceofdarknessdocumentary.com>

Scholarly Articles:

- Matlin, S. L., Molock, S. D., & Tebes, J. K. (2011). Suicidality and depression among African American adolescents: The role of family and peer support and community connectedness. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 81(1), 108–117.
- Spencer, M. B., Fegley, S., Harpalani, V., & Seaton, G. (2004). Understanding Hypermasculinity in Context: A theory-driven analysis of urban adolescent males' coping responses. *Research in Human Development*, 1(4), 229-257.
- Spencer, M. B., Dupree, D., Cunningham, M., Harpalani, V., & Muñoz-Miller, M. (2003). Vulnerability to violence: A contextually-sensitive, developmental perspective on African American adolescents. *Journal of Social Issues*, 59(1), 33-49.
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center. (2013). *Suicide among racial/ethnic populations in the U.S.: Blacks*. Waltham, MA: Education Development Center, Inc.

News and Popular Press:

- Grant, Donald E. (2013) *Black Suicide: When Prayer is not Enough*. August 2013 <http://www.ebony.com/wellness-empowerment/black-suicide-when-prayer-is-not-enough-405 - axzz3D8yKosby>
- Muhammad, Latifah. (2013) *Death be Not Proud: Suicide, Hip-Hop and Black Men in America*, August 1, 2013 <http://hiphopwired.com/2013/08/01/death-be-not-proud-suicide-hip-hop-black-men-in-america-photos>
- Thomas, Chandra (2009) *Suicide Increasing Rapidly among Young Black Males* February 3, 2009 <http://diverseeducation.com/article/12245/>