

Webinar & Discussion Group Date: January 18, 2022

Exploring the Connection Between Racial Healing and Health

PRESENTER BIOSKETCHES

Amber Johnson, Esq.
Equity, Inclusion and Racial Conciliation Manager
City of Charleston, South Carolina

Amber L. Johnson, Esq. currently serves as the Equity, Inclusion and Racial Conciliation Manager for the City of Charleston. In this role, she leads and supports various initiatives focused on the awareness, understanding and implementation of programs to advance racial equity. Amber partners with stakeholders and community leaders to collaborate in achieving fair and equitable outcomes.

She began this role in July 2019 after serving as a Staff Attorney for South Carolina Legal Services for nearly three years. Prior to that role, Amber served in various legal positions in the Fort Lauderdale, FL area. She was an Associate for SHD Legal Group, a Law Clerk for Del Mar Financial Services (on behalf of Gladstone Law Group) and a Court Program Specialist for Florida's 17th Judicial Circuit.

Motivated by her passion for service, Amber is committed to equity, inclusion and serving the community. She is results-driven and monitors the programs she leads to ensure success and overall improvement for the city. Amber is a strategic thinker who excels in program and organizational planning, and she is focused on achieving goals and implementing change. Amber is known for exhibiting high ethical standards and integrity while striving to exceed expectations.

Aside from work and community engagement, Amber values her family and enjoys spending time with her parents and sister. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Nu Alpha Omega Chapter in Moncks Corner, SC.

Amber is a native of Charleston, SC. She graduated from Academic Magnet High School in 2001 and went on to attend Hampton University in Hampton, VA. Amber graduated in May 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Following her undergraduate studies, she went to law school at Florida A&M University in Orlando, FL. She graduated with her Juris Doctorate in May 2009.





Crystal Robinson Rouse
Director of Collective Action Networks
Tri-County Cradle to Career

Crystal Robinson Rouse is a native of Charleston, South Carolina, one of six children, a proud wife, and a mother of 8 (including bonuses). For the past 18 years, Crystal has been working in different capacities as a facilitator, organizer, child advocate, and parent advocate. Crystal served as the Chair for the Youth and Education Subcommittee of the City of Charleston's Special Commission for Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation.

Her community involvement includes the National A. Philip Randolph Institute Youth L.E.A.D. Program (National Advisor), the A. Philip Randolph Institute of Greater Charleston (APRI-GC)-Secretary, Charleston Continental Society Incorporated- Secretary, the National Council of Negro Women-Bethune Leonard Section (President), the Charleston County Education Association (Vice President), SC AFL-CIO Executive Board Member, member of The South Carolina Education Association (past Human & Civil Rights Committee Chair), and a proud member of the YWCA of Greater Charleston to name a few. Prior to joining the staff at Tri-County Cradle to Career as the Director of Collective Action Networks, Crystal served as a Family & Community Engagement Officer for the Charleston County School District. Prior to Crystal joining the Charleston County School District, she has served many communities across the country (including Puerto Rico), in both formal and informal educational spaces as a youth organizer, an Anti-Racism Trainer, Director of Change Work, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Program Manager for Educational Programs, College Administrator, in various capacities with the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools and Young Advocate Leadership Training, Crystal also worked in a variety of capacities at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina for 7 years. Upon her return to Charleston in 2016, Crystal served at the Department of Social Services as the Child Care Licensing Supervisor for Allendale, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg Counties.

She is a proud graduate of Burke High School, she possesses a Bachelor's in Psychology from Brevard College, a Masters in Adult Education with an emphasis in Community and Higher Education from North Carolina A&T State University, a Master of Education in the area of Early Childhood Education from the University of South Carolina-Columbia, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

One of her most cherished memories was when she had the honor of serving as a co-chair for the Mississippi Freedom Summer 50th Anniversary's Youth Congress in Jackson Mississippi. Crystal enjoys singing, reading, traveling, laughing, any work serving to dismantle racism, playing soccer, and spending time with family and friends.