

## **Anti-racism Council Resolution**

*Whereas,*

Structural racism victimizes Black individuals, including psychiatric patients, psychiatric staff, families, and communities in Southern California;

*Whereas,*

Aspects of mental health theory and practice continue to perpetuate racist constructs that minimize the negative impact of racism upon the psychological well-being of Black people and labels without evidence Black family structure as psychopathogenic;

*Whereas,*

Black youth in Southern California disproportionately receive mental health services in incarcerated settings compared to private psychiatric units, and that use of medication in these settings often deviates from national standards for its use;

*Whereas,*

Black individuals in Southern California disproportionately face poor access to longitudinal outpatient mental health care.

*Whereas,*

The underrepresentation of Black psychiatrists on staff of private psychiatric hospitals impacts the quality of assessment and care that Blacks receive in such settings;

*Whereas,*

Black psychiatrists in Southern California may be less likely to join APA-affiliated district branches due to the previously unacknowledged evidence of structural racism in the organization;

*Whereas,*

Psychiatrists in training in Southern California training programs have expressed interest and commitment to reshaping public mental health policies that currently enable racism to persist;

*Whereas,*

The Bylaws of the Southern California Psychiatric Society state that the purposes for which the District Branch is organized are: (a) to promote the common professional interests of its members; (b) to improve the treatment, rehabilitation, and care of persons with mental disorders (including mental retardation and substance-related disorders; (c) to advance the standards of all psychiatric services and facilities; (d) to

promote research, professional education in psychiatry and allied fields, and the prevention of psychiatric disabilities; (e) to foster the cooperation of all who are concerned with the medical, psychological, social, and legal aspects of mental health and illness; (f) to make psychiatric knowledge available to practitioners of medicine, to scientists, and to the public; (g) to promote the best interests of patients and those actually or potentially making use of mental health services; and (h) to advocate for its members;

**Be it resolved that:**

The Council of the Southern California Psychiatric Society (SCPS) will support SCPS committee initiatives to counter structural racism that harms Black psychiatrists, patients, and families, focusing on actions that SCPS can take that are directly related to local psychiatric staff, education, services, and mental health policies. These actions include, but are not limited to:

1. A plan to increase the percent of Black psychiatrists comprising SCPS membership by a specified amount within a specified timeframe.
2. An SCPS action paper to APA requesting an APA statement on the fallacies of the Moynihan report and a repudiation of misguided psychotherapeutic theory and practices based upon it.
3. An SCPS statement of concern to the Boards of Supervisors of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties regarding the disproportionate numbers of incarcerated or detained youth of color in juvenile halls and camps, requesting that the Counties publish data on the numbers of children given psychiatric medication by type and diagnosis, and then seek a review by external entity of diagnostic and prescribing practices that vary from national standards.
4. A request to the Joint Commission for a description of its methodology, if any, for determining evidence of structural racism and, if such evidence is obtained, the way in which it is used, if at all, as a component of decisions regarding hospital accreditation.
5. Encourage committees representing different practice models and systems of care to evaluate barriers to quality treatment for minority individuals and suggest possible solutions.
6. Design a collaborative project with residents in training institutions seeking experience in reshaping public mental health policies that currently enable racism to persist.
7. Increase representation by our minority and underrepresented SCPS members within the SCPS Council.