

Mental Health

Dionne Hart, MD

Dr. Dionne Hart is a psychiatrist, addiction medicine specialist, and a patient advocate. She trained at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Dr. Hart was the inaugural chair of the American Medical Association's (AMA) Minority Affairs Section. She is the first and only Black woman to serve on the Minnesota Medical Association's Board of Trustees. She is the current National Medical Association Region IV chairperson and Minnesota's state chapter president, immediate past co-President of the Zumbro Valley Medical Association, an Assembly Representative to the American Psychiatric Association (APA), an APA Delegate to the AMA, and the AMA's Representative to the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. She is currently a member of the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine Admissions Committee and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychiatry in the Mayo Clinic Department of Psychiatry and Psychology.

In 2014, Dr. Hart was named Minnesota Psychiatrist of Year. In 2017, Dr. Hart received the National Alliance on Mental Illness Exemplary Psychiatrist Award. In 2022, Minnesota Physician Journal named her one of the 100 most influential healthcare leaders in Minnesota.

Christie Manning, PhD

Dr. Christie Manning (she/her) has been teaching in the Environmental Studies Department at Macalester College in Minnesota since 2008. She has a Bachelor's degree in Human Factors Engineering from Tufts University and a Ph.D. in Cognitive and Biological Psychology from the University of Minnesota. Christie's research focuses on how people respond to the climate crisis, and she is particularly interested in the psychological circumstances that motivate community-level action. Recent co-authored publications include a report from the American Psychological Association and ecoAmerica, *Mental Health and our Changing Climate*, and a 2021 academic textbook, *Psychology for Sustainability*. Christie is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the Society for Environmental, Population, and Conservation Psychology (Division 34 of the APA).

Kristi White, PhD, LP, ABPP

Dr. White is a board certified clinical health psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Minnesota. She earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of South Florida and completed a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship in primary care behavioral health in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota. Prior to joining the University of Minnesota, Dr. White worked as an integrated primary care behavioral health provider at Hennepin Healthcare. Dr. White specializes in health psychology and behavioral medicine with clinical expertise in stress-related and inflammatory diseases, diabetes, obesity, and addressing health inequities. Dr. White's scholarly interest is in the overlap among health psychology, behavioral medicine, and environmental sustainability. In particular, her interests are focused on environmental justice, the stress-reducing and health-promoting effects of restorative natural environments, the role of environmental sustainability in human well-being, the health impacts of climate change, and the symbiotic relationship between humans and the natural environment.

Climate Smart Healthcare

Shanda Demorest

Shanda Demorest, DNP, RN, PHN is the Associate Director for Climate Education and Engagement at Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth, where she supports decarbonization and climate-smart health care delivery throughout the sector. Dr. Demorest earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice in Health Innovation and Leadership from the University of Minnesota, and she holds the LEED Green Associate credential through the U.S. Green Building Council. A cardiovascular nurse with horticultural training by background, Shanda is co-founder of the Nurses Climate Challenge: A national campaign to educate 50,000 health professionals about the health impacts of climate change. Dr. Demorest sits on the Global Climate Change Committee for the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments and is a former Executive Board member of Minnesota-based Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate. She is a co-PI in the development of CHANT: The Climate and Health Tool, which measures health professionals' awareness and engagement with climate change globally. Dr. Demorest serves as an Affiliate Faculty member at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing and has published works on environmental sustainability in health care and the health impacts of climate change in local, state, and national journals.

Dana Slade

Dana A. Slade is the Director of Sustainability Programs for HealthPartners. In this role, Mr. Slade is responsible for managing HealthPartners comprehensive set of sustainability programs. He also is responsible for facilitating the enterprise sustainability steering committee and is a member and co-leader of the organization's green teams and sustainability working groups.

Prior to joining HealthPartners, Mr. Slade worked in the environmental and compliance management field for over 20 years, primarily in the energy sector. He has extensive experience in regulatory negotiations and is very well versed in leading teams to accomplish diverse goals.

Mr. Slade graduated with a Master of Science degree in environmental science from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1992. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in medical microbiology from the University of New Hampshire. He is a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) and is a very active leader in local, regional and national sustainability practitioner groups.

Shane Stennes

Shane Stennes is the Director of Sustainability for the University of Minnesota and leads the University's efforts to improve the sustainability of campus operations, particularly as relates to energy, food service, construction, transportation, water, and waste management systems. He has been particularly instrumental in the University's climate change efforts, working on the development and implementation of a climate action plan that reduced emissions 50% over 12 years, and leading the University's renewable energy procurement strategy. Prior to becoming Director of Sustainability in 2015, Shane had a variety of positions including Chief Administrative Officer for the University's Facilities Management department, Sustainability Coordinator, and Human Resources professional. He has a BA in Political Science and International Relations from the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, and a Master of Human Resources degree from the University of South Carolina.

Micah P. Niermann, MD

Executive Vice President of Clinical Affairs and Medical Director, Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare

Micah Niermann graduated from medical school from the University of Kansas and completed residency in Internal Medicine /Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota. After residency he joined Allina to work as a Med/Peds hospitalist at Abbott Northwestern and Children's

Minnesota for 11 years. During this time, he served in several leadership roles including group lead for the Med/Peds hospitalists and Med/Surg Director at Children's Minneapolis campus.

In 2019 he transitioned to the Chief Medical Officer role at Gillette Children's where he contributes to their strategic direction, collaborates on operational demands, helps lead on quality, safety and wellbeing, and will be working soon on building innovation structure within the organization.

He also contributes as a member of the Medicaid Services Advisory Committee for DHS and as a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Climate Change.

He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and 12-year-old son.

Climate Justice

Samuel H. Leguizamon Grant, PhD

Dr. Samuel Leguizamon Grant serves as Executive Director of Rainbow Research, a multicultural Minneapolis-based non-profit providing actionable, evaluation services that serve organization and community change at both programmatic and policy levels. In this position he is expanding the scope of the organization to include environmental and climate justice and democracy and well-being through wiser collective responsibility for mutual wellbeing. Dr. Grant is also Coop Manager of Embody Deep Democracy, a global network of facilitators working to deepen democracy by tending to difference through conflict resolution.

Dr. Grant has over thirty years of experience utilizing critical participatory action research on the intersectionality of racial, cultural, economic, gender, environmental and geographic justice. He has worked with and through formations from the grassroots level to state government, and from community-based initiatives to those of national and international scope. Dr. Grant previously served as Executive Director of MN350 and led the Environmental Sustainability Program at HECUA. He was also founding president of the Sierra Leone Foundation for New Democracy, which promotes eco-village development in West Africa as a response to climate change in highly impacted regions.

Brooke Cunningham, MD, PhD

Dr. Brooke Cunningham serves as assistant commissioner for the Health Equity Bureau at the Minnesota Department of Health, where she oversees the Center for Health Equity, the Office of American Indian Health, the COVID-19 Health Equity Team, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She also works closely with leaders and staff in MDH's other bureaus to advance health equity in their work.

Dr. Cunningham is a general internist, sociologist, and assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota. Prior to joining MDH, her research focused on developing strategies to reduce racial disparities in health, including addressing the adverse impacts of exposure to racism. She also co-directed the University of Minnesota Medical School's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Thread in medical education. In 2021, she was selected as one of four inaugural recipients of the University of Minnesota's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Award. Cunningham is a primary care provider at the Community-University Health Care Clinic (CUHCC), a federally qualified health clinic in Minneapolis that serves a diverse patient population.

Leah Prussia, DSW, LICSW, SEP

Dr. Leah Prussia is a self-described "tree hugging dirt worshiper." She blends teachings from Anishinaabe Elders, Nature, Somatic Experiencing, and Relational-Cultural Theory to address the biopsychosocial and spiritual aspects of individuals, groups, and communities. Leah's work focuses on fostering mind/body and personal/planetary relationships. She is actively involved with Rights of Nature and is presently working with a collective to secure rights for the St. Louis River Estuary, which holds spiritual and ecological significance to the Anishinaabe and those that consider Duluth home. Her background includes knowledge and practice in mental health services, substance use, trauma, and program administration. Leah is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and sole proprietor of Natural Connections LLC. She is a full-time associate professor in the Master's in Social Work Program at the College of St. Scholastica. Leah serves on the Commission for Diversity, Social, and Economic Justice and the Environmental Justice Committee for the Council on Social Work Education and on the Wildwoods Board in Duluth, MN.

Rev. Dr. Alika P. Galloway, M.Div., D.Min.

Rev. Dr. Alika Galloway is Co-Pastor with her husband Rev. Dr. Ralph Galloway of Liberty Community Church PCUSA. She is Editor of *Living Waters, Living Stories* and nationally known storyteller and movement maker.

Her ongoing work is in the identification and healing of trauma and internalized racism. Pastor Alika was the creative visionary for a community gathering entitled: Healing the Planet – Healing Ourselves! and was appointed to the Governor’s Task Force on Missing and Murdered African American Women. A Bush Fellow, Pastor Alika serves as the CEO of the Northside Healing Space; a safe place to rest, remember, revive, and resist dehumanization as well as a place for the community to heal from racialized trauma. Pastor Alika is also the creative founder of the 21st Century Academy, an initiative to assist K-12 grade children bridge the opportunity gap.

Pastor Alika holds a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta Georgia in Womanist Ethics and World Religions and she received her Doctorate from Virginia Union University.