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*The Campaign for New York Health  
&  
The Health Foundation for Western &  
Central New York present:*

# ***Healthcare Justice Is Racial Justice***

We will explore structural racism in healthcare, policy solutions to healthcare issues plaguing Buffalo and learn from some of New York's foremost healthcare experts. The conference will include networking, community building and advocacy training.

Lunch and refreshments will be served.  
Register today: [nycampaighn.org/Buffalo0316](http://nycampaighn.org/Buffalo0316)

## **Event Sponsors include:**

Health Foundation for Western & Central New York  
New York State Nurses Association  
Planned Parenthood  
Citizen Action of New York  
League of Women Voters New York  
League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara  
League of Women Voters Cattaraugus & Alleghany  
League of Women Voters of Chautauqua  
League of Women Voters Rochester Metro Area  
StateWide Senior Action Council  
Metro Justice  
Melinated Moms  
Harvest House  
Rochester NOW  
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Buffalo & Western New York  
Moms Demand Action Buffalo  
Black Social Workers Alliance at UB



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# Today's Schedule

9:15AM-9:55AM	Registration & Networking			
	<b>Panel</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Panel</b>	<b>Location</b>
10:00AM-10:105AM	Welcome Remarks by Melanie D'Arrigo	Auditorium		
10:05AM-10:35AM	Keynote: Pastor Nicholas	Auditorium		
10:40AM-11:15AM	NYHA 101	Auditorium		
11:20AM-12:05PM	Maternal Health	Auditorium		
12:10PM-12:55PM	NYHA: Getting More for Less	Auditorium	ERA Panel	West Room
12:55PM-1:40PM	Lunch	Central Meeting Room		
1:40-2:10	Afternoon Keynote: Brandy Loveland	Auditorium		
2:15PM-3:00PM	Racial Justice and the Labor Movement	Auditorium	Gun Violence Prevention & Mental Resilience	West Room
3:05PM-3:50PM	Medical Debt & Patient Rights	Auditorium	Community Advocacy	West Room
3:55PM-4:40PM	Landscape for Senior Healthcare	Auditorium	Storytelling Training	West Room
4:40-4:50PM	Closing Remarks	Auditorium		

## Directions:

**Auditorium:** The Auditorium can be accessed directly through the doors on Clinton Street or by entering the Library's main entrance on Washington Street and taking the stairs immediately to the left down to the lower level. The Clinton Street entrance is open only during Auditorium events.

**West Room:** Entering from Central Library's main entrance on Washington Street, the West Room is located just past the Launch Pad MakerSpace, to the right of the Cafe area.

**Central Meeting Room:** Taking the small elevator to the second floor, turn right and go through the double doors in the wood-paneled wall. In that corridor, the Central Meeting Room is the first door on the left.

Taking the larger, accessible elevator to the second floor, exit the Collections Gallery and walk straight through the opposite double doors in the wood-paneled wall. In that corridor, the Central Meeting Room is the first door on the left



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## **Opening Keynote: Pastor George Nicholas**

Pastor George Nicholas, MDiv is the Senior pastor of Lincoln Memorial United

Methodist, Buffalo, NY. He has been recognized by the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist for his work on urban ministries. Pastor Nicholas is an advocate for social justice and community revitalization. He has particular passion for public health, as a result he is a founding member of the African-American Health Equity Task Force which birthed the Buffalo Center for Health Equity where he is the Board Chair and Chief Executive. As a recognition for his work in public health, Pastor Nicholas was awarded with the Benard J. Tyson Health Equity Award in 2022.

Pastor Nicholas serves on multiple Boards and Committees including, HEALTeLINK Board of Directors, Board of Directors of the Bills Foundation, Board of Directors Investigative Post and the Advisory Committee for New York's Master Plan for Aging. Pastor Nicholas holds an undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University and graduate degrees from SUNY at Buffalo and Colgate Rochester Divinity School. Pastor Nicholas is married to Daun Nicholas and they have 5 children Kristin, Desmond, George Jr., Joel and Caleb.

## **Afternoon Keynote: Brandy Loveland, LMSW**

Brandy Loveland, LMSW- An experienced LMSW and social justice advocate, Brandy Loveland is the Chief Innovation and Diversity Officer at Harvest House Buffalo. She has been a proponent of intersectional and holistic equity and economic mobility in Buffalo and has led person-centered program and initiative development implementation in community schools, community centers, workforce development programs, and with for-profit and nonprofit agencies. She has also been an advocate and implementer for person-centered processes that enhance community and employer voice. She was part of the 2020 cohort for the Oishei Fellowship for Leaders of Color and is currently part of the 2024 Institute of Non-Profit Practices' Core Certificate Program cohort. She earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Syracuse University and master's degree from the University at Buffalo.



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## **New York Health Act 101**

**Presenters:** Alice Carli, Metro Justice, Melanie D'Arrigo, CNYH

The New York Health Act is the only bill in the New York State Legislature that guarantees healthcare to every New York resident and full time worker. This presentation will provide an overview of our current healthcare system, introduce attendees to the New York Health Act and discuss the many ways the New York Health Act would put New York on the road to health Equity.

## **Maternal Health**

**Presenters:** Ebony White, Buffalo Health Equity, Shannon Johns, Calming Nature Doula, Darnelle Hillard, Melinated Moms

Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications. This panel will explore health disparities such as structural racism, implicit bias and differences in healthcare quality. We'll hear from practitioners who will provide guidance on self advocacy and examine solutions that tackle the disparities too often leading to preventable death.

## **NYHA: Getting More for Less**

**Presenters:** Judy Esterquest, LWV, Brian Nowak, Mayor of Cheektowaga

Under the New York Health Act, New Yorkers will pay less for healthcare than they pay today, and yet NYH will cover ALL their healthcare – including dental, hearing, vision, behavioral, long-term care, and prescriptions – with no premiums, co-pays, co-insurance, or cost-sharing. How is this possible? Is it too good to be true? This panel will explain the sources of NYH savings, how NYH will be financed, and why you can trust the numbers. Learn how NYS can lead our country to save lives, save money, and increase productivity, while making health access and outcomes more equitable.

## **The ERA, Racial Justice and Healthcare**

**Presenters:** Madeline Donovan, Planned Parenthood, Lori Robinson, LWVBN, Sara Bachraty, Young Feminist Party, Kim Pandina, Rochester NOW

No matter our gender, age, disability status, or cultural background, we all deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. The current NYS Constitution fails to prohibit discrimination against those who have been historically targeted, including people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, immigrants, women and pregnant people – and particularly those marginalized in multiple ways: for example, being both Black and a woman, being gay and Brown, being trans and hispanic and an immigrant, being white and old and in a wheelchair. During this panel, we'll discuss how the NYS ERA will give us stronger legal protections, how it will extend to all New Yorkers the right to be free from discrimination and how it will particularly protect those of us who have faced severe and pervasive injustice.



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## **Racial Justice, the New York Health Act & the Role of Labor in the Movement for Health Justice**

**Panelists:** Margaret Franks, RN, and John Batson, RN, Ana Djordjevic, NYSNA

From coast to US coast, nurses' unions have been leading the charge advocating tirelessly for the dire need for healthcare reform and for guaranteed access to care both at the state level and indeed nation-wide under an expanded and improved, publicly funded Medicare for All program. Nurses believe that healthcare is a right and that everyone should have access to care based on need, not the ability to pay for it, regardless of one's racialized and ethnic background, employment, immigration, or marital status. Nurses with their first-hand experience treating patients at the bedside witness the impact of structural racism and discrimination on patients and communities of color, and through the collective power of their union, they advocate for systemic changes such as removing barriers to care that improve health outcomes for all their patients as well as their own working conditions. As a social justice union, the New York State Nurses Association joins with other unions and health justice organizations, growing the movement and fighting for the passage of the New York Health Act and Medicare For All and a just, fair and equitable healthcare system that centers patient needs and their wellbeing over profits.

## **Gun Violence Prevention and Mental Resilience**

**Presenters:** Dr. Allison Freeman, Moms Demand Action, Brandy Loveland, Harvest House

Gun violence is the leading cause of child death in the US, but doesn't need to be. We will briefly discuss the types of firearm violence children experience and how teaching families safe firearm storage can play a key role in lessening child mortality in the coming years. The panel will discuss the trauma informed healing of communities in the aftermath of gun violence and other sociological factors.

## **Medical Debt, Patients' Rights, and Holding Corporations Accountable**

**Presenters:** Carrie Tracy, Community Service Society of NY, Ursula Rozum, Citizen Action of NY

Buffalo has an unusually high rate of residents with medical debt at 12.8 percent compared to the 6 percent statewide average. And what's more, Roswell Cancer Center has sued over 600 patients since 2019, most of whom would have qualified for financial assistance(!), despite receiving millions of dollars to help patients who cannot afford their bills. Hospitals are legally required to provide financial assistance but many do not, leaving many patients with medical debt who actually have insurance. During this panel, we'll discuss medical debt in New York, who is impacted, and how patients and advocates are organizing to hold hospitals and health insurance companies accountable to We, the Patients.

## **The Health Landscape for Seniors**

**Presenters:** Tiffany Erhardt, StateWide Senior Action Council, Aaron Snyder, StateWide Senior Action Council

Navigating healthcare after turning 65 can be a challenging task. StateWide Senior Action Council will present an overview of the healthcare landscape for seniors. They will examine all facets of healthcare including prescription drug costs, protecting Medicare, and long term care. Through an intersectional lens, presenters will discuss how universal access to healthcare not only streamlines the healthcare, but makes it easier for seniors to spend more time living and less time worrying.

## **Advocacy**

Several advocacy sessions will be held throughout the day including storytelling, self-advocacy, community engagement and calls to action.