Conditioned Distrust: Dissecting the Effects of Institutional Harm within Black Communities that Led to Medical Distrust

Donovan Cousan
Senior Associate, Prevention
Goals & Objectives

**Goal:** To discuss the medical distrust among the Black communities through assistance from health departments.

**Objectives:**

- To analyze and interpret the dark history of medical experimentation on Black Americans.
- To recognize the pain and suffering of the Black community.
- To provide an open and honest space to identify realistic interventions.
Space Agreements

1. Respect
2. Actively listen
3. Assume the best intentions
4. Ask questions
5. Lean into your discomfort
6. Self care
Stress Relief Activity
Distrust

Where did it all began?
Historical Timeline

Southern discomfort

- 1619
  - Relationship among physicians, planters, and slaves
- Late 1700’s
  - Thomas Jefferson
- Mid 1800’s
  - James Marion Sims
Historical Timeline – cont.

Experimentation of Black bodies

- Early 1900’s
  - The popular display of Black bodies

- 1932
  - What really happened at Tuskegee?

- 1952
  - HeLa cells

- 1961
  - The eugenic control of African American Reproduction
The popular display of Black bodies

- Between 1944-1994
  - Experimental projects

- 1960’s
  - Caged subjects

- 1977
  - Casper Yeagin

- Late 1980’s
  - The children’s crusade
Where are we today?

- Historical trauma/intergenerational trauma
- Lack the trust of the community providers (e.g. health depts, hospitals, doctors)
- Unwillingness to participate in research studies
- Next steps
Panelists

Dr. LaNita Wright
Asst. Professor
Kennesaw State University

Cedric Sturdevant
Co-founder of Mississippi Positive Network [MSPN]

Pam Gachenge
CEO DiscoverU
Discussion
Literature Recommendations

Medical Apartheid
Harriet A. Washington

Killing the Black Body
Dorothy Roberts

Just Medicine
Dayna Bowen Matthew

Medical Bondage
Dierdre Cooper Owens
Contact Info

Donovan Cousan
Senior Associate, Prevention
dcousan@NASTAD.org

linkedIn Donovan Cousan