



June 15, 2023

Inside Mount Sinai's Voices in Partnership Program

Happy Thursday, Mount Sinai Community –

In April, we spoke with Jesus Robles about Mount Sinai's [Coming Home Program](#), which is part of the [Institute for Advanced Medicine \(IAM\)](#). Following our conversation, Jesus recommended we highlight another IAM program, **Voices in Partnership (VIP)**, which is focused on eliminating health care disparities and increasing access to comprehensive and tailored services for New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS.

According to the American Medical Association, about [40 percent of LGBTQ+ adults in the United States are people of color](#), including 12 percent who identify as Black. Understanding the intersection of race, sexual orientation, and gender identity is critical to understanding these individuals' social and cultural experiences and addressing their needs.

That's where the VIP program comes in.



Gabriel Campoverde, Program Coordinator of Voices in Partnership and Care Coordinator of Mount Sinai’s Comprehensive Health Program and the Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery, explained that, “VIP specializes in the social, mental, and physical health needs among transgender, intersex, gender non-conforming, and non-binary individuals living with HIV, with a focus on Black and Hispanic individuals. We consider all facets of a patient’s life that could be

a barrier to accessing care and work in conjunction with them to accomplish their health goals.”

Part of the mission of VIP is to empower patients—98 percent of whom are people of color—to engage with their own care by promoting self-determination and self-agency. To do so, VIP case managers and patient navigators provide individual, group, and family counseling, in addition to case management and accompaniment services. Additionally, VIP provides enhanced HIV and psychosocial services, such as adherence tools, linkage to primary care, and housing and transportation support, to improve overall health and well-being.

The program, which runs through at least August 2024, is funded through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the non-profit Public Health Solutions.

“We’re deeply committed to promoting equity, providing competent and empathetic care, and creating a safe environment for all of our patients, [especially LGBTQ+ people of color who face worse health and socioeconomic outcomes](#) on top of the greater discriminatory practices that persist in our country,” said Gabriel.

We’re grateful to Gabriel, Max, Lukas, Paola, Nia, Jesus, and all those who are helping create progress toward equity and rooting out racism in health care.

We’re excited to share that we will soon be releasing the inaugural Road Map for Action to Address Racism 2023 Report, outlining the progress we have made as a health system toward becoming an anti-racist health care and learning institution. Keep an eye on your inbox for more!

All the best,

Shawn and Angela

To suggest a topic, highlight a coworker, or provide feedback on the Bulletins, send us an email at RoadMap@mountsinai.org.

Join Us for an Upcoming Event

A Full list of events can be found on Mount Sinai Daily:

More events on [Mount Sinai Daily](#) and [United in Solidarity](#):

- [LGBTQ+ Pride Month Events at Mount Sinai](#)
- [Juneteenth Events at Mount Sinai](#), including tabling at each hospital
- [Juneteenth Events Around NYC](#)

Chats for Change: In the News — Join us on **June 20, at 12 pm** as we deconstruct a current newsworthy topic related to racism and bias. We will use the “What? So What? Now What?” critical reflection model to explore what happened, what we learned from the event or topic, how we can apply this learning to our day-to-day work and learning, and what follow-up is needed. One week prior to the session, we will share a newsworthy topic on [ChangeNow](#). [RSVP on Zoom](#).

Juneteenth Jeopardy — Test your Juneteenth knowledge and join the Black Leaders Advocating for Change and Community (BLACC) Employee Resource Group (ERG) on **Wednesday, June 21, from Noon – 1 pm** for a Juneteenth Jeopardy. Join as a team, an individual, or a spectator! Click [here](#) to register.

Let’s Connect: “Count Down with Shanna Swan, PhD” — On **Thursday, June 22, from Noon – 1 pm**, join Jason Rose, Executive Support Specialist, Digital and Technology Partners and member of the Corporate Services Center (CSC) Diversity Council, for a discussion with Environmental and Reproductive Epidemiologist, Shanna Swan, PhD to discuss reproductive health in terms of the effect environmental racism has on disproportionately impacted neighborhoods with lower socioeconomic status—which often have more residents of color. Register [here](#).

Juneteenth Paint Reflection Night — The BLACC ERG invites you to join a Paint Reflections Night on **Thursday, June 22, from 6 pm – 8 pm!** Enjoy an evening of art and reflection with your colleagues as you recreate an image using the supplies of your choice. Register [here](#).

Let’s Connect – “How Do Mount Sinai Health Care Workers Recognize and Honor Juneteenth In and Out of the Workplace — As part of the ongoing *Let’s Connect* series, we invite you to join us on **Friday, June 23 from Noon – 1 pm** in recognition of Juneteenth for a panel discussion on “How Do Mount Sinai Health Care Workers Recognize and Honor Juneteenth In and Out of the Workplace?” The entire Mount Sinai community is welcome. Register [here](#) to join and connect.

