

A Night to Remember: The Coalition of Culturally Competent Providers Hosts Powerful 2nd Annual Gala at The Franklin Institute



On the evening of May 29, 2025, the Coalition of Culturally Competent Providers (CCCP) hosted its 2nd Annual Gala at the historic Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. The event brought together over 250 guests, including behavioral health professionals, nonprofit leaders, advocates, and supporters, for a night of celebration, recognition, and renewed commitment to advancing culturally responsive behavioral health care for communities of color.

This year's Gala was filled with powerful moments that honored the leadership, service, and vision of individuals and organizations shaping the future of our field. The atmosphere was one of both reflection and progress, as attendees gathered in solidarity to celebrate how far we've come- and how much more we can achieve together.

One of the most memorable highlights of the evening was the presentation of CCCP's 2025 Legacy Awards. Dr. Reginald Banks, CEO and Chief Psychologist of Dunbar Community Counseling Services and Chair of the CCCP Board, was honored for more than three decades of service to urban children and families. His leadership is defined by compassion, clinical excellence, and an unwavering commitment to equity.

Following Dr. Banks, the Coalition proudly honored Regan Kelly, MSW, President and CEO of Northeast Treatment Centers, with a second Legacy Award. With more than 35 years of experience in behavioral health and social services, Regan has long served as a mentor, strategist, and ally. Her impact on Philadelphia's behavioral health system is profound, having helped lead citywide reforms that benefit providers and communities alike.

In addition to honoring individual leaders, the Gala also recognized the



broader community ecosystem that supports the individuals we serve. CCCP awarded two community donations of \$1,200 each to organizations whose missions reflect our values and whose work strengthens the social and emotional health of our region. Big Brothers Big Sisters was recognized for its transformative mentorship programs that serve thousands of youth. Their work enriches young lives and strengthens

community bonds, helping children build the confidence and resilience they need to thrive.

The second donation was awarded to Black Girls Love Math, a nonprofit organization founded by educator and advocate Atiyah Harmon, M.S.Ed. The organization is dedicated to instilling confidence in young Black girls through joyful, culturally affirming math education. By creating spaces where Black girls feel seen, supported, and celebrated, Black Girls Love Math is opening doors in STEM while also nurturing self-worth and academic identity.

CCCP Executive Director, Asher Kemp, Jr. shared, *"This Gala represents more than recognition, it's a recommitment to our mission. We are celebrating those who have paved the way while investing in the organizations and youth who will carry this work forward. It's a full-circle moment that speaks to the power of community, legacy, and cultural competence."*



As the evening concluded, the spirit of unity, gratitude, and shared purpose was palpable. The Gala served not only as a celebration and time for connection, but as a powerful reminder of what is possible when people come together with a common mission. The funds raised during the event will support CCCP's ongoing work in provider training, community outreach, and advocacy to build a more equitable behavioral health system for all.

Thank you to our honorees, community partners, sponsors, and guests who made this year's Gala a success. Your commitment and partnership continue to fuel our movement. As we move forward, we do so with renewed energy and a deep belief in the power of culturally competent care to transform lives and strengthen communities.



Photo Gallery

A Legacy of Leadership:

Honoring Dr. Emma Chappell with the Renaming of 700 Market Street



On May 19th, the Coalition of Culturally Competent Providers proudly joined civic leaders, community organizations, and loved ones of the late Dr. Emma Chappell at the ceremonial renaming of the 700 block of Market Street in Philadelphia. The event paid tribute to a trailblazing icon whose leadership transformed the financial landscape, advanced racial and economic justice, and uplifted generations of Black Philadelphians.

Dr. Emma Chappell's influence reached far beyond her title. A West Philadelphia native and graduate of West Philadelphia High School, she began her career in 1959 as a clerk-photographer at Continental Bank. Within two decades, she made history, becoming the first Black and first female Vice President of a commercial bank in Pennsylvania.

A fierce advocate for equity, Dr. Chappell made it her mission to increase access to capital for Black-owned businesses and under-resourced communities. She led Continental's community loan program, providing more than \$30 million in financing to Black-led enterprises, helping to close long-standing financial gaps and empower local economies. In 1992, she founded the United Bank of Philadelphia at 714 Market Street, the city's first Black woman-founded and led bank- an institution that continues today under Black female leadership.

Her legacy also includes her work as a national policy advisor and change-maker. She was a senior advisor to President Bill Clinton and served as national treasurer for Rev. Jesse Jackson's groundbreaking 1984 presidential campaign, which redefined the role of progressive, multiracial coalitions in American politics.



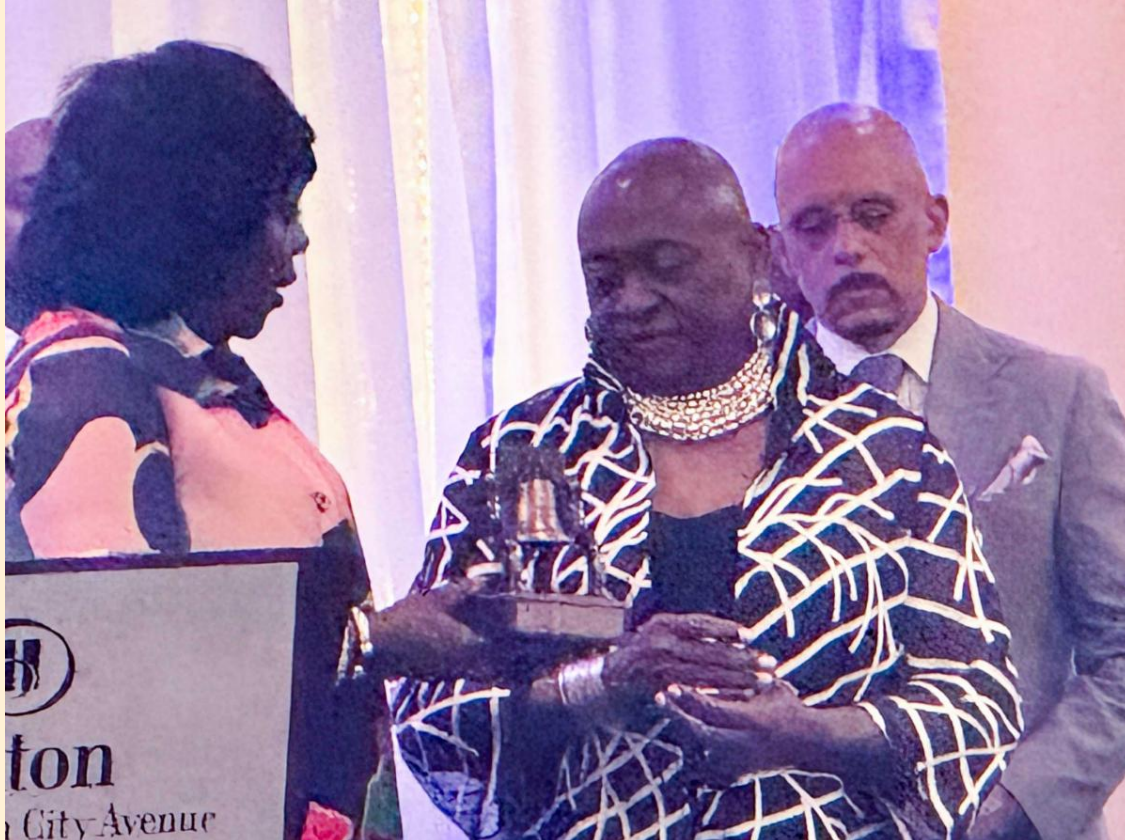
Importantly, Dr. Chappell's advocacy extended into behavioral health. She was a longtime supporter of minority-led behavioral health providers, recognizing that access to funding and culturally responsive care were essential to community wellbeing. Her voice helped elevate the needs of these providers, many of whom were routinely shut out of traditional funding streams, and her advocacy laid the groundwork for greater equity in the human services landscape.

The Coalition was proud to have several members in attendance, including Patricia McKinley and Teresa Williams, co-founders of Aging and Diverse Home Health Care, joining the larger community to honor a leader whose impact continues to reverberate across sectors.

The renaming of the 700 block of Market Street is not just symbolic; it is a permanent reminder of what one visionary woman can accomplish with determination, purpose, and love for her people. Dr. Emma Chappell's legacy lives on, and the Coalition is honored to walk in her footsteps as we continue the work of building equity across systems.

Celebrating Resilience and Leadership:

**Gerri H. Walker Honored at The Behavioral Wellness Center
at Girard's Annual Gala**



The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard hosted its highly anticipated annual fundraising gala titled *Resilience, Rebirth, Rise!* at The Hilton Hotel on City Avenue in Philadelphia on June 13, 2025. This year's event held special significance as it also served as the official retirement celebration for longtime CEO Gerri H. Walker, whose decades of leadership have shaped and strengthened behavioral health services throughout Philadelphia.

The evening brought together a vibrant group of supporters, staff, community leaders, and public officials to celebrate both the mission of the Center and the remarkable legacy of Ms. Walker. Attendees enjoyed dinner, dancing, and engaging activities that reflected the spirit of the theme and the Center's ongoing mission to transform lives by providing access to high-quality, compassionate behavioral health care in surrounding communities.



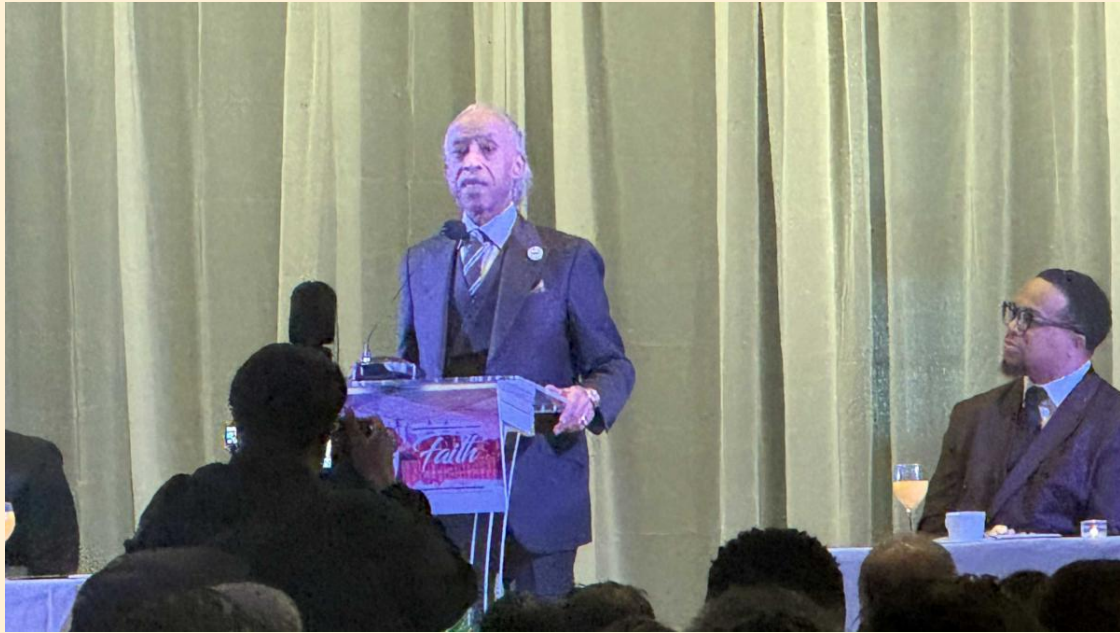
Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker was among the many dignitaries in attendance and received an award from Gerri Walker in appreciation of their shared commitment to public service. In turn, Mayor Parker presented Ms. Walker with the prestigious Philadelphia Liberty Bell Award, honoring her visionary leadership and steadfast dedication to the community. The exchange was a powerful reflection of the deep respect and admiration Ms. Walker has earned throughout her remarkable career.

Members of the Coalition of Culturally Competent Providers were honored to be present in support of Ms. Walker, whose work has had a profound impact on culturally responsive behavioral health services in Philadelphia. Her advocacy for equity, access, and dignity in care has opened doors for countless individuals and helped shape a more inclusive and effective system of care. We celebrate her contributions and look forward to carrying her vision

forward as we continue the work of building a more equitable behavioral health

Faith and Community at the Center:

Coalition Attends Council President Kenyatta Johnson's
Inaugural Prayer Breakfast



**Council President
Kenyatta Johnson**

Welcomes You

The Coalition of Culturally Competent Providers joined faith leaders, elected officials, and community advocates for Council President Kenyatta Johnson's Inaugural Prayer Breakfast at the Crystal Tea Room in Center City Philadelphia on May 16, 2025. The event brought together spiritual leaders across multiple faiths and denominations to uplift shared values of hope, healing, and community responsibility.

Hosted in the heart of the city, the breakfast offered a meaningful opportunity for reflection, unity, and inspiration. Attendees were welcomed with words of encouragement and spiritual insight from a diverse group of local clergy. The highlight of the morning was a keynote address by renowned civil rights activist Reverend Al Sharpton, who reminded attendees of the critical role faith leaders play in shaping justice, advancing equity, and standing with the most vulnerable among us.

Coalition members were proud to be present at the event, underscoring the Coalition's ongoing commitment to partnering with faith-based leaders who serve as trusted anchors in their communities and as first responders to emotional, spiritual, and behavioral health crises.

As behavioral health providers, the Coalition recognizes the importance of spirituality as a vital yet often overlooked social determinant of health. Faith leaders are uniquely positioned to support individuals and families facing mental health challenges and substance use disorders. The breakfast provided an important platform to strengthen partnerships between behavioral health organizations and faith institutions and to explore new ways to collaborate in serving the whole person through a focus on mind, body, and spirit. The Coalition looks forward to continued collaboration with the City and faith-based partners to ensure communities receive the culturally competent, spiritually informed care they deserve.



Honoring Legacy and Promoting Wellness: Coalition Participates in 39th Annual Madam C.J. Walker Awards Luncheon



On Saturday, April 26, 2025, the Coalition of Culturally Competent Providers proudly participated in the 39th Annual Madam C.J. Walker Awards Luncheon hosted by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. - Pennsylvania Chapter. This annual event celebrates the



achievements of extraordinary women and the continued progress toward breaking barriers and improving the lives of Black women and girls across generations.

Held in honor of the legendary



entrepreneur and philanthropist Madam C.J. Walker, the luncheon serves as both a tribute to trailblazers and a rallying point for ongoing advocacy in the areas of leadership, health equity, education, and economic empowerment. This year's program showcased the accomplishments of influential leaders and underscored the importance of continuing the fight for gender and racial equity.

As part of the Coalition's ongoing commitment to culturally competent care, members were present to share vital resources specific to the mental health and wellness needs of Black girls and women. The Coalition provided literature and information aimed at reducing stigma, supporting emotional healing, and promoting access to mental health care that reflects the lived experiences of women of color.

The event created a powerful space to uplift women's voices, acknowledge the challenges faced by Black communities, and strengthen partnerships that center wellness, healing, and empowerment. By participating in this celebration, the Coalition helped elevate mental health as a core component of leadership and equity.

The Coalition of Culturally Competent Providers remains honored to stand with the National Coalition of 100 Black Women in advancing the shared mission of progress, healing, and empowerment for all.

Coalition Joins Latino Behavioral Health Coalition for Kickoff of 2nd International Conference on Mental Health



On a vibrant evening in Philadelphia, the Coalition of Culturally Competent Providers proudly participated in the local kickoff event for the Latino Behavioral Health Coalition's 2nd International Conference on Mental Health, which will take place November 11 through 13, 2025, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The kickoff celebration brought together community leaders, mental health professionals, and advocates to build excitement and unity ahead of this important global convening. The upcoming conference will offer a critical space for dialogue, learning, and collaboration focused on advancing culturally responsive mental health care within Latino communities across borders.

The Coalition was honored to be part of the celebration and recognized the significance of the Latino Behavioral Health Coalition's international focus. As behavioral health challenges grow increasingly complex, the need for culturally specific solutions and cross-cultural partnerships becomes more urgent. This conference represents a vital step in bridging local practice with global impact. The Coalition looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Latino Behavioral Health Coalition and contributing to the global dialogue on mental health through culturally competent and community-rooted solutions.

PECO recognizes Mental Health Month and their continued partnership with CCCP



Summer Wellness and Minority Mental Health Awareness: A Season to Prioritize Access and Equity

A message from the Coalition of Culturally Competent Providers



Summer is often seen as a time for rest, celebration, and connection. However, for many individuals, it can also bring disruption, stress, and disconnection from critical support systems. That is why the Coalition of Culturally Competent Providers is encouraging all members, partners, and community leaders to be intentional about promoting mental health and wellness during the summer months.

July is recognized as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. This important observance is dedicated to elevating the mental health needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Established in honor of Bebe Moore Campbell, this month reminds us that achieving equity in behavioral health requires visibility, advocacy, and culturally responsive care. These principles are especially important in communities that have historically been underserved.

The summer season can intensify mental health challenges. With school-based services paused and daily routines disrupted, individuals experiencing poverty, trauma, or chronic behavioral health conditions may feel increasingly isolated or unstable. The need for accessible, compassionate, and culturally competent care remains just as urgent during this time.

This season presents an opportunity for our network to take action.

We encourage all CCCP member organizations to actively promote their services and ensure that communities know how to access support. Use community events, newsletters, and digital platforms to share information. Strengthen partnerships with summer camps, churches, barbershops, recreation centers, and other trusted community spaces where people gather. Make time to check in with individuals who may be disconnected from care during these months. Share wellness materials that are culturally relevant and reflect the experiences of the people we serve.

Summer should be a time of restoration and connection, not crisis and disconnection. Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is not

only about recognition. It is about progress and a deeper commitment to justice in how we deliver care.

By focusing on access and engagement now, we can prevent future crises and support long-term wellness in the communities we serve.

Let us continue to lead with compassion, cultural humility, and a commitment to equity.

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