

STCC to Host Discussion on
“Connecting to African-American, Black, and Latino Communities: Faith, Spirituality, and
Natural Support in Recovery”
Public Is Invited

A community discussion on “Connecting to African-American, Black, and Latino Communities: Faith, Spirituality, and Natural Supports in Recovery” will be held at Springfield Technical Community College on Tuesday afternoon, October 27.

The public is invited to attend this free event, which will be held from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the seventh floor conference area of Scibelli Hall at STCC. The panel discussion will focus on challenges faced in recovery from the psychiatric issues faced by African Americans, Blacks, and Latinos.

Invited panelists include Henry East-Trou, Executive Director of the Gándara Mental Health Center; Dora Robinson, Executive Director of the United Way of Pioneer Valley and former director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Center; Reverend Greg Dyson, Senior Pastor of the Church in the Acres, and Coordinator, Project Homeless Connect; Suzette Penna, The Sacred Realm; and John Paul Whiting, Recovery Connection Center.

Elizabeth Sullivan, Western Mass Area Director of the Department of Mental Health, will give the welcome. The moderator for the discussion is Arlene Rodriguez, Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at STCC.

The panel will also discuss factors that help people connect to community supports, such as What helps them stay engaged? What is the role of faith communities and spiritual connections in their lives? How can citizens, peers, families, mental health workers, and faith communities better support them?

Sponsors for the event are the Department of Mental Health/Western Massachusetts Area Board Cultural & Diversity Committee; Springfield Technical Community College; STCC School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; and the STCC Diversity Council.