

ABHW Statement Against Racial Injustice

The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness is profoundly saddened by the recent tragic and senseless death of George Floyd, along with so many others before him, associated with a long history of undeniable racism in our country. We condemn racism in all forms, as it has no place in America or anywhere in the world, and we stand with the African American community against racial injustice.

Daily injustices faced by African Americans can have a profound impact on all aspects of life, including behavioral health. Although anyone can develop a mental health or addiction problem, African Americans sometimes experience more severe forms of mental health conditions due to unmet needs and barriers. Disparities including exclusion from health, educational, social, and economic resources also can contribute to worse health outcomes.

Over the coming months we will be reviewing our advocacy priorities to ensure that we are inclusive in our position. ABHW will be enhancing its policy platform to bring attention to behavioral health and its impact on people of color and promote equal access and quality treatment for everyone. Now is the time to make sure our actions match our words both internally within our association and externally in our advocacy.

As a country we have a long way to go, and ABHW will continue to work to raise awareness and advocate for change.

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[ABHW](#) is the leading health plan association working to improve access and quality of care for mental health and substance use disorders. ABHW's members include national and regional health plans who care for more than 200 million people. Together we work to reduce stigma and advance federal policy on mental health and addiction care. Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, AmeriHealth Caritas, Anthem/Beacon, Centene Corporation, Cigna, Kaiser Permanente, Magellan Health, New Directions Behavioral Health, and Optum.