

# Media Advisory...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## Ford Joins Panel Discussion on Impact of Trauma on Minority Mental Health

**CHICAGO** – State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, will join a panel discussion on the impact of trauma on minority mental health hosted by Hartgrove Hospital on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. via Zoom. July is Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. The press is welcome to join the discussion to ask questions.

The event will be a panel discussion led by community leaders and mental health professionals about how trauma and mental health issues affect minority populations and the actions that need to take place for healing and transformation.

“We have to recognize that we have a problem and a deficit as it relates to mental health support in our communities with high levels of trauma,” says Ford. “Our Black communities have been dealing with all the things poverty creates violence, poor mental and physical health, drug use, and now a sharp increase in suicide. Even before the pandemic, we were already dealing with a violent society suffering from major mental health conditions.” In co-founding the West Side Mental Health Task Force, Ford has asked a group of community leaders and mental health professionals to come together to help identify and implement ways to address the heightened level of trauma and resulting mental illness that people on the West Side are experiencing.

Panelists for this event will include Rwenshaun Miller, accomplished author, motivational speaker, counselor, consultant, philanthropist, and mental health change agent; and Dr. Laurie Harris, Psy.D, primary trauma coordinator and post-doctoral fellow at Hartgrove Behavioral Health System and Chatham Counseling Center. Other notable Chicago authorities in mental health have been invited to attend and contribute.

**WHO:** State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, Rwenshaun Miller, Dr. Laurie Harris, mental health professionals, interested stakeholders

**WHAT:** Discussion on the Impact of Trauma on Minority Mental Health

**WHEN:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020 from 1p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

**WHERE:** Register at: <https://uhsinc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIqc-6qqDspHtL5MC12wlFIUjppSIvEYZMn>

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