



# ONYX THERAPY GROUP NEWSLETTER

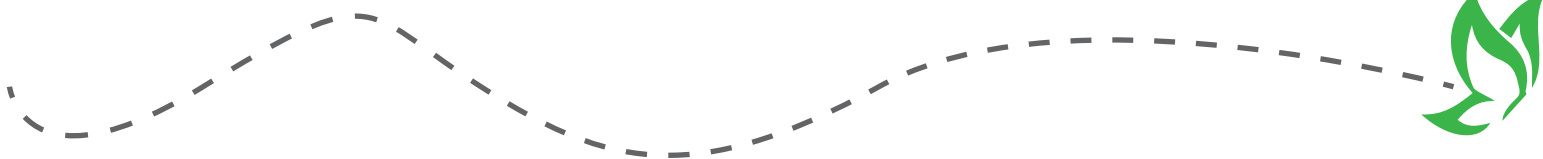
AUGUST 2020

## ONYX PARTNERS WITH KINGSMAN ACADEMY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TO PROVIDE THERAPY TO MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Onyx Therapy Group acquired a contract with Kingsman Academy Public Charter school providing therapy services for the Extended School Year (ESY) for middle and high school-aged students. Kingsman Academy is a tuition-free, open-enrollment school in Washington D.C. serving grades 6-12 whose mission is "to provide an individualized and rigorous education in a supportive environment to prepare scholars for post-secondary success and responsible citizenship". Onyx will continue providing therapy services through the school year.

## ONYX THERAPY GROUP PARTNERS WITH STEEL SMILING TO DISCUSS TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

**JULY 16** - In an effort to support the mission and vision of Steel Smiling, an organization that bridges the gap between the community and mental health, Onyx Therapy Group hosted a trauma-informed care session facilitated by Ms. Desirée Brown that focused on strengthening the roles of their team and community members. Participants were supported by increasing their understanding of what trauma is, how their own personal trauma informs their next steps, and what barriers exist around them. They were provided with tools and resources to best support them as they navigated the mental health landscape within their community. This session allowed participants to acknowledge their trauma through grace, dignity, laughter, and connectedness. Desirée related personal and professional experiences that encouraged participants to be their best selves and continue to seek enlightenment through their mental health journey.





## **ONYX WAS AWARDED A CERTIFICATION FROM THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**JUNE 18** - Onyx Therapy Group was certified under the 8(a) Business Development program as a minority-owned business by the Small Business Administration (SBA). This program is intended to provide a level playing field for small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged people or entities. With this certification, Onyx Therapy Group will be able to compete for federal government contracts to ensure it is able to provide high quality, effective services to government employees and their customers, including local, national, and international community members. As such, the certification within this program will allow Onyx Therapy Group to be more competitive in seeking new partnerships while ensuring mental health and educational services are accessible to those who need it most.

Maegan Marcano, Onyx Therapy Group COO said, "This opportunity will align with the direction that our country is moving in...which is a focus on addressing mental health needs to ensure the balanced welfare for all citizens and their families. As such, Onyx Therapy Group is excited to be part of the movement and to be supported by our federal government."

## **ONYX COLLABORATES WITH THE NATIONAL CHARTER COLLABORATIVE ON THEIR "RADICAL RESTART: A NATIONAL CONVENING FOR CHARTER LEADERS OF COLOR"**

**JULY 24** - As a part of the National Charter Collaborative's (NCC) Radical Restart: A National Convening for Charter Leaders of Color, Onyx organized sessions around how COVID-19 and other current events are impacting the mental health of students and staff. Participants were divided into three groups that focused on early childhood, middle/high school and adult/youth opportunities. In each breakout, leaders were led through guided discussions and strategies to help them build a comprehensive Three-Point Plan to address emerging school mental health needs. This convening was attended by Student Support Teams, Special Education Directors, Student Support Directors, Counselors, Family Engagement Specialists, Social Workers, Deans of Culture and others. The overarching goal was to assist these leaders with identifying what is required to develop whole school trauma support, especially in the context of the current social and political climate.

**[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)**

## ONYX SUMMER BRUNCH SERIES PRESENTS: MIXOLOGY 101 WITH TORRANCE SWAIN

**JULY 26** - Onyx Therapy Group partnered with Torrance Swain @brothertothecocktail to provide participants with guidance on making cocktails. According to Dr. LaNail R. Plummer, “the skill of making drinks is less about consumption and more about the art. It’s about the aesthetic, the consistency, the intentionality, and the taste. When a quality drink is made, one drinks less and enjoys more.” Proceeds go towards mental health funding for those clients impacted by COVID who have financial barriers for counselling fees.



## ONYX'S EDUCATION CONSULTANTS LEAD A PLANNING SESSION FOR HEINZ FELLOWS' TEACHING PROGRAM AS TEACHERS RETURN TO HOME SCHOOLING OR THE CLASSROOMS

**JULY 27** - Onyx Therapy Group's education consultants Miriam Lane, Qiana Wright, and Ayana Malone will lead a planning session for the Heinz Fellows' Teaching Program at the University of Pittsburgh for teachers returning to their schools and classrooms. The focus is on self-care and supporting their students and their own mental health. Onyx is commencing the launch of direct teaching and educational services to community schools, home school cooperatives, and individual families. Offered are general and special education teaching from certified teachers, support in the creation of home school and community school cooperatives, and special education advocacy support. Onyx will also be offering schools and organizations customized workshops and trainings focusing on the tools they can use to support themselves and their staff navigating the “dual pandemics” of COVID-19 and social unrest in America. Topics delivered include: equity, race, bias, mental health, self-care, disability rights, and interpersonal communication and team building. For further information please contact [ayana@onyxtherapygroup.com](mailto:ayana@onyxtherapygroup.com).

People who attended the planning session were thoroughly impressed. Here are a few comments that were received by attendees:

- I liked learning about mental health in this way; usually, these types of training re-traumatize me. This wasn't like that.
- I appreciated this toolkit for my arsenal.
- Onyx is dope, dope.
- I like the emphasis on education and helping us learn within a safe-space.



## FUTURE EVENTS

- > **AUGUST 5, 2020** – Dr. Plummer will present on a panel with Desmond Williams addressing education and mental health.
- > **AUGUST 22, 2020** – Shanelle Clay will present at the University of Southern California's "Social Determinants Community Well-Being" conference.



### ABOUT ONYX THERAPY GROUP

Based in Washington DC, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, Onyx Therapy Group is dedicated to cultivating and strengthening the community through mental health practices. With a focus on direct clinical work, professional development/training, and sourcing, Onyx Therapy Group incorporates the values of integrity, respect, loyalty, community, culture, and excellence. As an organization, Onyx Therapy Group has over 15 years in mental health work and 20 years of education and skill-based practice that has positively impacted individuals, educators, and organizations nationally. Onyx Therapy Group is a Black, Woman, Veteran-owned business that believes in and designs transformative healing.