

Black Psychiatrists' '9 Points' Presented to Board of Trustees in May 1969

1. The immediate establishment and announcement, during the course of these meetings, of a Presidential Task Force of black psychiatrists to determine how the APA can become more relevant to the needs of black psychiatrists and the black community.
2. A significant increase in the number of black APA members on committees, task forces, and other positions of influence, responsibility and decision-making. We further demand the immediate appointment of five black APA Trustees.
3. The APA must move to effect immediate desegregation of all private and public mental health facilities throughout the country. The APA must make written and public statements of this position, and exert continuous pressure on the Secretary of HEW [Health, Education, and Welfare, now Health and Human Services] to deny support and federal funds to segregated (and de facto segregated) facilities.
4. The APA must demand that departments of psychiatry recruit more black residents and faculty, and make residency training more relevant to the needs of black people. In the event that departments of psychiatry fail to comply, the APA must insist that NIMH and other funding agencies withhold funds from those departments.
5. The APA must endorse, and insist upon, the use of black psychiatrists in leadership and planning roles in any and all programs, especially those related to black people.
6. The APA must use its influence to have black psychiatrists summoned and solicited by Congressional Committees, for opinions relative to the validity and passage of any recommendations of the Joint Commission on Mental Health of Children.
7. The APA must encourage NIMH to change its whole stance vis-a-vis the black community to become more relevant to the needs of black people, i.e., hiring practices, funding mechanisms, use of black consultants, program development, etc.
8. In order to help the APA effect its own institutional changes, sufficient office space and staff must be provided to the black psychiatrists of the APA on an immediate basis.
9. The APA must deny or revoke the membership of psychiatrists who refuse to see black (or other minority group) patients, who have segregated offices, or who continue to work in facilities that openly practice racial segregation and discrimination.