



National Commission on
Correctional Health Care

News Release
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Contact: Barbara Granner
773-880-1460
barbaragranner@ncchc.org

Eminent Psychiatrist and Anti-Violence Activist Carl Bell Honored With NCCHC's Award of Merit

Chicago – In recognition of his distinguished service to the field of mental health and its intersection with correctional health care, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care has honored Carl C. Bell, MD, CCHP, with the 2018 Bernard P. Harrison Award of Merit.

NCCHC's highest honor, the Award of Merit is presented to an individual or group that has demonstrated excellence and service that has advanced the correctional health care field, either through an individual project or a history of service. The award is named after NCCHC's cofounder and first president, Bernard P. Harrison.

The awards committee commended Dr. Bell for his long and illustrious career as a psychiatrist, a violence-prevention crusader and one of the nation's preeminent experts on the impact of violence on children in disadvantaged communities – as well as his long history of leadership with NCCHC. The award was presented during the National Conference on Correctional Health Care in Las Vegas.

Dr. Bell's involvement with NCCHC dates back to the organization's beginnings. He was a founding board member and served for 33 years as the National Medical Association liaison, providing unique expertise on the relationship between poverty, violence, mental health, race and incarceration.

"Dr. Bell's important achievements have significantly contributed to the field of correctional health care," said James Pavletich, MHA, CAE, CCHP, NCCHC's chief executive officer. "We applaud his trailblazing work in correctional mental health as well as his unwavering activism and community involvement over several decades."

In a career spanning nearly 50 years, Dr. Bell has authored more than 500 articles, chapters and books, including textbook chapters on correctional psychology. He has consulted for numerous departments of corrections, universities, and local, state and federal government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Institute of Mental Health and the U.S. Surgeon General. He has lectured all over the world and been interviewed by numerous news outlets.

In 1987, Dr. Bell founded the Community Mental Health Council on Chicago's South Side, one of the largest community mental health clinics in the country. For 25 years it provided comprehensive services to thousands of mostly low-income patients. He is now a staff psychiatrist at Jackson Park Hospital Family Medical Center and clinical professor emeritus at the

University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine. His recent research focuses on prevalence of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in low-income communities.

Dr. Bell is a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, and recipient of several prestigious APA awards: the Solomon Carter Fuller Award, honoring “a black citizen who pioneered an area which has significantly benefited the quality of life for black people”; the Agnes Purcell McGavin Award for Prevention in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; the APA Special Presidential Commendation in recognition of this outstanding advocacy for mental illness prevention and for person-centered mental health wellness and recovery, and its Distinguished Service Award.

He earned his MD from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, one of the nation’s oldest and largest historically black academic health science centers.

For more information about NCCHC’s 2018 awards, visit <http://www.ncchc.org/award-winners>.

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Note: Photographs are available on request.

About the National Commission on Correctional Health Care

NCCHC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization working to improve the quality of care in our nation’s jails, prisons, and juvenile detention and confinement facilities. NCCHC establishes standards for health services in correctional facilities, operates a voluntary accreditation program for institutions that meet these standards, produces and disseminates resource publications, offers a quality review program, conducts educational trainings and conferences, and offers a certification program for correctional health professionals. NCCHC is supported by the major national organizations representing the fields of health, mental health, law and corrections. Each of these organizations has named a liaison to the NCCHC board of directors.

NCCHC Supporting Organizations: Academy of Correctional Health Professionals, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of PAs, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Bar Association, American College of Correctional Physicians, American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Healthcare Executives, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American College of Preventive Medicine, American Correctional Health Services Association, American Counseling Association, American Dental Association, American Health Information Management Association, American Jail Association, American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American Osteopathic Association, American Pharmacists Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, American Public Health Association, American Society of Addiction Medicine, International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology, National Association of Counties, National Association of Social Workers, National Medical Association, National Partnership for Juvenile Services, National Sheriffs' Association, Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine