



Statement from the staff and board of Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care in response to recent events

June 3, 2020

We are heartbroken. We are grieving. We are angry. We are outraged.

We believe change is needed and is long overdue. We understand that racism persists, and society does not adequately value black lives. We are furious that justice and equity still do not exist. We join the demands for wrongs to be righted, systemic change, and for black lives to finally matter.

We call for accountability and action to end police violence and demand justice. As the Public Health Institute stated: “Black people are three times more likely to be killed by police than white people. This trauma leaves a profound, lasting legacy—not only on individuals, but on families and entire communities: studies link the trauma of violence and racism to higher rates of chronic stress, long-term impacts to mental health, chronic disease, and more.”

Disproportionate seems to be the key word in our world. School-based health centers exist in communities with disproportionately high numbers of poverty and Medicaid coverage. It is no accident that many of these communities are black and brown. We want to be a part of the solution and aim to be good allies as we collectively work toward equity and justice.

We commit to doing our work internally to understand how we have been perpetuating racist structures and actions. We commit to supporting policies that will dismantle racist systems and build equitable ones. We commit to engaging and hearing directly from the people who we care for everyday and responding to their needs. We commit to continuing to grow, learn, and listen, especially when we make mistakes.

School-based health centers are a driver for health and educational equity. It is CASBHC’s vision that health and educational outcomes are no longer predicted by circumstance, including race. We will continue to walk this path in hopes of being allies in this fight.

Please join us. And hold us accountable.

If you’d like to support the efforts to speak out against police brutality and for racial justice, the Internet is full of resources. Here are a few of our favorites:

- [5 Ways to Support Black Americans](#)
- [Support Black-Owned Businesses in Denver](#)
- [75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice](#)
- [Anti-Racism Resources for White People](#)

- Order books from [black-owned bookstores](#), especially Ibram Kendi's *How to Be an Anti-Racist* and Harriet Washington's *Medical Apartheid*

If you have any questions or thoughts, please contact Executive Director, Aubrey Hill, at hill@casbhc.org.