

## **The New Jersey Inter-Mental Health and Psychological Associations Coalition (IMPAC) Recognizes the 400th Anniversary of the first Africans who arrived in 1619, ushering in the Era of American Slavery**

In 1619, about twenty African captives were brought to Jamestown, Virginia, to be indentured into servitude. Raiding, capturing and selling people were common practices in Europe then. From indentured to enslaved, Africans worked, gave their lives and freedom, to build and develop the United States. In 2019, four hundred years have passed since the first Africans walked the land as chattel. The New Jersey Association of Black Psychologist (NJABPsi), the Latino Mental Health Association (LMHA) and the New Jersey Psychological Association (NJPA), together as IMPAC, recognize the intergenerational and interpersonal trauma caused by the heritage of slavery and by the inequalities that still exists. Together as equals, IMPAC stand in silence, in respect, and in hope for the next 400 years of equality, justice and freedom.

*Through IMPAC, NJABPsi, LMHANJ, and NJPA join together as equal partners to contribute their unique educational acumen, expertise, experience, and perspectives to obtain synergy as a resource to promote equality in mental health care and to zealously advocate for the mental health needs for the diverse population of the state of New Jersey. This will be accomplished by our respective organizations working together to develop initiatives to educate the public, as well as healthcare providers through training, professional presentations and mobilizing resources as needed to provide counseling and psychological services under emergent circumstances.*