

**Addressing Structural Competence in the Clinical Setting:
An Upstream Approach to Delivering Mental Health Services to African Americans**

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Abstract

Many state and local governments have declared racism a public health crisis. This declaration gives mental healthcare providers a platform for action. One action is becoming more structurally competent at the clinical level. Building upon Campinha-Bacote's model of cultural competency, this presentation will allow participants to understand the impact of social structures and how these structures and conditions produce and racialize inequities in behavioral health. This presentation will also provide mental health clinicians with a set of skills and actions on becoming structurally competent—a critical issue in addressing behavioral health inequities among African American clients.