



Racial Justice

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SMRLS

Welcome to the inaugural e-newsletter of Southern Minnesota Regional Services (SMRLS) Racial Justice Committee. We hope you find it very informative.

Welcome to the inaugural e-newsletter from the SMRLS Racial Justice Committee. Our committee met 7 times in 2009 to discuss ideas on how to advance our common goal of eliminating racial discrimination and racial disparities, and achieving justice for clients. This e-newsletter is another step towards that goal. It contains links to items that you may find helpful in your work on this important issue.

Our plan is to issue an e-newsletter from time to time. If you have items of interest you would like to include, please send them to kathie.battlesayles@smrls.org.

SMRLS Racial Justice Committee members: Kathie Battle Sayles, Bea Berg, Martha Castanon, Martha Eaves, Laura Jelinek, Jessie Nicholson, Larry Nicol, Hlee Vang and Jan Werness

Some useful links

- ✦ In January 2009, the [Minnesota Demographer's Office](http://www.demography.state.mn.us/) released two new reports showing current population estimates and projected growth by race/ethnicity for the next 25 years. You can find these reports at: <http://www.demography.state.mn.us/>
- ✦ The [Organizing Apprenticeship Project](http://www.oaproject.org) is a local group that works throughout Minnesota to advance racial, cultural, social and economic justice. They focus on institutional and structural barriers to racial and economic justice. OAP publishes a legislative report card on racial justice and also has a 1-page pocket guide to assessing whether proposed policies support and advance racial and economic equity. For more information: www.oaproject.org
- ✦ [Micro-Inequities Training](http://insighteducationsystems.com) - Human beings have communicated non-verbally for millions of years, but have had language for only 5,000 - 9,000 years. We therefore quickly pick up on body language and non-verbal signals even though we may not be conscious of them. These "micro-messages" are the foundation of human communication. This can explain the common experience of people of color that they feel unwelcome or unsafe when they walk into a room even though there is nothing specific that they can identify. For more information, go to <http://insighteducationsystems.com>

TRIVIA

Did you know that SMRLS' staff and attorneys speak 16 languages, including Amharic, Cebuano, French, German, Hmong, Igbo, Italian, Khmer, Lao, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Swahili, Tagalong and Thai?

Did you know that SMRLS' website has an automatic translation feature? Go to http://www.smrls.org/RTF1.cfm?pagename=Read_in_Other_Languages

Training Opportunities

(if interested in attending training on SMRLS' behalf, you must receive prior approval from your supervisor)

Diversity Minnesota - <http://diversityminnesota.com/>

Diversity Central - <http://www.diversitycentral.com/>