



DERRICK KISER

MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT, PUBLIC SPEAKER, CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE, NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY LEADER, LIFE COACH

PROFILE

I'm a mental health expert with over 20 years of experience working directly with at-risk individuals in both clinical and community settings. My work has taken me into schools, foster care systems, correctional facilities, and underserved neighborhoods. I'm also an activist, organizer, and community leader, and over the years I've built strong working relationships with local law enforcement and schools, I use these partnerships as a foundation to drive real, lasting change.

I've had the privilege of speaking to thousands of young people in schools and community spaces, raising awareness about mental health, substance use, and gang involvement. I focus not just on education but on direct intervention, connecting youth and families with the resources and support systems they need to thrive. My life's mission is to disrupt the trauma-to-substance use-to-prison-to-homicide-to-suicide pipeline that continues to harm our communities.

I work closely with local governments, social service agencies, and law enforcement on initiatives related to, mental health advocacy, addiction recovery (SUD), building community violence intervention (CVI) ecosystems, and promoting collaborative, community-centered public safety. I also speak publicly to empower and inspire others to become part of the solution.

My approach is grounded in restorative practices, tools that heal relationships, build healthier communities, increase social capital, and reduce crime and antisocial behavior. I work directly with high-risk individuals in schools, social services, prisons, and in the community.

I'm especially committed to serving people in marginalized communities, those from racial and ethnic minority groups, low-income neighborhoods, and individuals living with mental health challenges or disabilities. I aim to bring issues of inequity, social injustice, and racial disparity to the forefront of public health and policy conversations.

My multi-systemic and multicultural community-building approach recognizes that psycho-social development differs across cultures and backgrounds. An interaction can encourage or discourage positive or negative reactions. That's why my methods have been proven effective in engaging, especially those who are typically resistant. My personalized self-help approach focuses on empowering positive life choices to replace self-defeating habits.

CERTIFICATION

CBT Trauma Focused Certified

- UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mindfulness & Collective Healing Certification

- HEARTWELL INSTITUTE

Certified Gang Specialist

- NATIONAL GANG CRIME RESEARCH CENTER

SKILLS

- Business Development
- Detail Oriented
- Lifelong Learning
- Exceptional Leadership
- Excellent Communication

Skills

AWARDS

- 2018 Massachusetts State Senate Citation of Achievement
- 2020 Black Excellence Award Massachusetts Black & Latino Legislative Caucus
- 2021 Black Excellence Award Massachusetts House of Representatives
- 2021 Spirit Award National Gang Crime Research Center
- 2023 Health Equity Award Greater Worcester Community Foundation