

## "Beyond Race Based Classification-Exploring Sociohistorical Justice and Granular Ethnicity Data Collection Within Healthcare Systems"

presented by

**Ayesha R. Clarke, LMSW, MPH**

Ayesha R. Clarke, LMSW, MPH is a dynamic public health leader, advocate, and equity strategist committed to dismantling structural racism and advancing justice for historically marginalized communities. With a deep-rooted passion for equity and systems change, Ayesha currently serves as the Executive Director of Health Equity Solutions (HES), where she leads statewide efforts to ensure that all Connecticut residents can achieve optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. Under her leadership, HES continues to drive forward equity-centered policies, engage in diverse coalitions, and champion community-driven advocacy. Ayesha brings over a decade of experience at the intersection of public health, education, and policy. Her leadership is grounded in both lived experience and a strong academic foundation, including a candidate for a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree from Harvard University, where she focuses on the social and behavioral impacts of inequities in Black and Brown communities. Ayesha holds a Master's degree in Social Work with a policy practice concentration from the University of Connecticut, a master's degree in public health with a concentration in healthcare institutions from Benedictine University, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics with a business concentration from UConn. This combination equips her with a keen understanding of how economic, social, and health systems intersect—and how to strategically navigate them to create lasting impact. Ayesha's career spans public office, nonprofit leadership, and political organizing. She served as Chairperson of the Hartford Board of Education from 2017 to 2021, where she fought for equitable budgeting, policy reform, and youth-centered change. She is also the Co-Chair of the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health for the State of Connecticut. Beyond her policy work, Ayesha is deeply committed to civic leadership and mentorship. She is a member of The Citadel of Love, the Greater Hartford Branch of the NAACP, and the Hartford Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Farmington Valley Links, Incorporated. She also serves as Board Chairperson for The Children's Museum and a member at large of the National Association of Health Services Executives. As an adjunct professor at the UConn School of Social Work, she helps shape the next generation of change agents. A devoted wife of 18 years and mother of two teenagers, Ayesha finds joy in dancing, traveling, watching movies, and cherishing time with her family and friends.

**9/24/2026 8:00:00 AM**

<https://hartfordhealthcare.zoom.us/j/97364561462>

**Learning Objectives:** *As a result of participating in this Live Activity, participants should be able to:*

- 1. Distinguish race from ethnicity as sociopolitical constructs under the 2024 revised OMB Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 and explain why current categories may obscure meaningful differences within the Black American population.*
- 2. Apply the five-step Sociohistorical Justice framework to identify how lineage and historical context not just present-day race shape a patient's health trajectory, using the Ethnic vs. Naturalized Black American distinction as a worked example.*
- 3. Analyze the five themes and four analytic domains (Knowledge, Attitudes, Practicality, Readiness) that emerged from the HHC focus group findings and categorize sample staff quotes according to the domain(s) they reflect.*

**Accreditation:** In support of improving patient care, Hartford HealthCare is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

**Physicians:** Hartford HealthCare designates this Live Activity for a maximum of **1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

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**Other Learners:** All other learners will receive a Certificate of Participation for **1.25** hours of education. Consult your professional licensing board regarding the applicability and acceptance of certificates of participation for educational activities certified for **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™** from organizations accredited by Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education.

**Financial Disclosures:**

Ayesha R. Clarke, MSW: Nothing to disclose - 10/22/2026

