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BARBER & STYLIST MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES INTERVIEW AND VIDEO/PHOTO OP

UCare and Kente Circle hold Soul Care Collective Summit to support Black mental health in neighborhood beauty/barber shops

The 1st annual Soul Care Collective Summit will equip beauty care professionals with tools, skills, resources and NARCAN® training to create an atmosphere of care in a trusted setting.

- WHAT: The Soul Care Collective is a community-building event for Black Beauty Care Professionals to exchange insights, access resources, and learn practical skills from mental health and chemical health experts. The aim is to better equip them to support both their own needs and those of their clients. Opening remarks from UCare Chief Medical Officer Dr. Tenbit Emiru and Kente Circle CEO Larry Tucker. Includes facilitated discussions, tabletop exercises, community partner resource tables, <u>Naloxone (NARCAN®) training presentation and kit distribution</u> from the Steve Rummler HOPE Network, refreshments and networking. The first 50 barbers and stylists who register receive a \$100 gift care. Sponsored by Soul Care Collective members <u>UCare, Kente Circle, Barbershop and Black Congregation</u> <u>Cooperative</u> and the <u>Cultural Wellness Center</u>.
- **WHY:** Minnesotans' mental health following the pandemic and murder of George Floyd is at a tipping point. The Black community has been impacted even more by historic disparities and inequities – causing general distrust of the health care system. An effective place to start the conversation about mental health and/or chemical dependency – and how to seek help – is in the safe harbor of the barber shop or beauty salon.

The Soul Care Collective is a culturally specific program that empowers barbers and stylists to be mental advocates by spreading awareness, destigmatizing mental illness and addiction, and connecting clients to community resources. It also

provides practical skills and training on how to properly administer NARCAN® to potentially save a life.

- WHERE: Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center 2001 Plymouth Avenue North Minneapolis, MN 55411 FREE registration
 - WHEN: Monday, June 10, 1 4 pm

About UCare

UCare (<u>www.ucare.org</u>) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to 600,000 members in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. UCare partners with health care providers, counties and community organizations to create and deliver innovative Medicare and Medicaid programs, and plans for Minnesotans shopping on MNSure.

About Kente Circle

<u>Kente Circle, LLC (Kente)</u> is a mental health agency specializing in providing individual, couples, family, and group therapy to clientele living in Minneapolis, MN and its surrounding communities. Kente was founded by Larry G. Tucker, LMFT, and J. Phillip Rosier, LMFT, in 2004. It is currently led by Tucker and a clinically diverse staff with professional training in marriage and family therapy, psychology and social work. Their culturally and ethnically diverse staff have over 80 years' combined experience working in social services.



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