



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Thursday, November 12, 2020**

## **Commission to Host Part II of Mental Health and Addiction Services Virtual Community Forum**

**(Rochester, New York)** —The Commission on Racial and Structural Equity (RASE) will host a second virtual Zoom Community Forum on Mental and Addiction from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 16. The *Real Talk: Mental Health and Addiction Community Discussion Part II* seeks public input on better ways to serve community members with mental illness as well as substance use disorders.

“Mental health and addiction are a critical topic and conversation that is frequently un-addressed,” said Commissioner Dr. Eric Caine. “There are numerous factors contributing to inadequate mental health and substance use care including inaccessibility of services, cultural stigma surrounding mental health and addiction, discrimination and others. We look forward to hearing from as many community member as possible to learn where people feel they are not being served equally or equitably.”

The RASE Mental Health and Addiction working group aims to achieve better access to needed mental health and substance use disorders services when people have no access to the healthcare system. It hopes to re-examine and modify the interpretation of the Monroe County Department of Human Services (DHS) regulations and accelerate approval of harm reduction programming as an indicated intervention for DHS-approved treatment, among other policies and practices.

Those interested in participating in the mental health community forum can join the Zoom by pre-registering at [www.rocrase.com/events](http://www.rocrase.com/events). Spanish language and ASL services will be provided.

A live stream is available on the RASE Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RO-CRASE](http://www.facebook.com/RO-CRASE) for those who simply wish to watch.



*Our City. Our County. United for Change.*

Those without internet access can listen in by calling toll free at 1 (646) 558-8656 using Webinar ID: 989 3655 2593.

The Commission on Racial and Structural Equity (RASE) is an intergovernmental collaboration of the City of Rochester and the County of Monroe. In acknowledgment of national and local calls for systemic and institutional change, RASE was established to review, identify and recommend changes to local laws, policies and practices that will eliminate inequity across our city and county. RASE has nine working groups focused on encouraging community input to inform the recommendations for systemic changes that will support equity in our community.

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