



# Chattanooga News Chronicle

A Progressive Voice in the African American Community

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Complimentary



## Tennessee Department of Health Offering Third Dose of mRNA Vaccine

### CDC Approved Recommendations for Third Dose Booster for Moderately and Severely Immunocompromised Individuals

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The Tennessee Department of Health is acting upon recent guidance from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding an additional dose of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine for moderately

and severely immunocompromised individuals.

On August 13, the CDC accepted ACIP recommendations for an additional dose of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. This includes approval for a third dose

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## Carmen Reese Foster's random encounter leads to social work coalition for minority students



Students, mentors and faculty at the Coalition of Black Social Workers Conference in February 2020.

By Camm Ashford

Chattanooga native Carmen Reese Foster's random encounter with a student in 2017 had unexpected consequences.

It was only a week into her role with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, College of Social Work when a Black student entered her office in tears.

"She had never had a Black instructor before--not in undergrad, not in K-12," recalled Foster, an assistant professor of practice and online field coordinator for Middle and West Tennessee.

The student wasn't upset. She was relieved to find Foster, who at the time was the only Black faculty member on the Nashville campus.

"To know there were Black faculty she could touch, who were tangible, in the social work program was a really big deal for her," Foster explained.

In 2018, Foster and a group of faculty members approached the college's leadership with a proposal: The growing number of Black students in their programs were in classrooms where they did not see many people--either classmates or professors--who looked like them. What if they could do something about it?

Out of that initial discussion emerged the Coalition of Black Social Workers (CBSW), which launched in February 2019. The organization connects Black social work students with professionals of color for the purposes of engaging, connecting and empowering the next generation of Black social workers.

Foster said her parents taught her to celebrate who she is while also pushing for more representation in spaces where there were few other Black leaders.

"If you see a need, you need to fill that gap--that's what my parents always taught me," she said.

Foster grew up in Chattanooga, one of the only Black students in her school and neighborhood. Her dad, a DuPont executive, volunteered in a YMCA program called Black Achievers on weekends. Her mom was a special education teacher and sign language interpreter.

Since its beginning, the CBSW has grown to include nearly 50 students and 150 professional mentors and alumni across UT's three social work campuses (Knoxville, Nashville and online).

Foster has worked with alumni, board members and other Black faculty members in the college to help grow the CBSW's influence across the state. Currently the UT chapter provides support to students at Austin Peay, Belmont, East Tennessee State, Lipscomb, Tennessee State and Union Universities.

In December 2020, the coalition received nonprofit status, and its model of mentorship, networking and support of Black students by professionals who look like them has expanded.

Just last year, the University of Memphis launched its own chapter, and five other public and private universities in Tennessee



Carmen Reese Foster, founder and faculty advisor of the Coalition of Black Social Workers (CBSW).

and Alabama have already asked Foster about starting their own campus chapters.

"To me, it's a real blessing that UT can be a leader in this--that we could say we saw this need and we responded so others could follow in our footsteps," Foster said.

Outside of the mentoring program, the CBSW hosts panels and events throughout the year. The coalition hosts an annual conference, which will take place March 4, 2022, on the college's Nashville campus.

"That's the beauty of the CBSW," said Tyesha Butler, a second-year student in the Master of Science in Social Work program and the incoming CBSW president.

"It's not just one piece. It's mentorship and community. You can sit with people who look like you and talk to them about challenges they've already faced and that you've got coming up. Or you can just rejoice and laugh. All those pieces are equally important."

For more information on the CBSW, contact Foster at (615) 256-1885.

## Rhonda Adams Scott, RN, PhD, Named Market Chief Operating Officer and CHI Memorial Hospital Chattanooga President

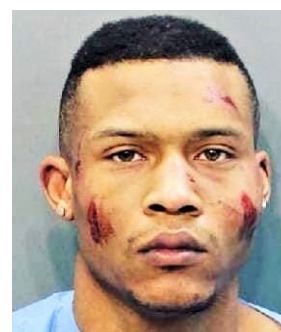
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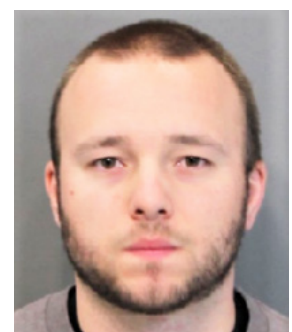
CHI Memorial New COO Rhonda Adams Scott

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## Commissioner Mackey seeks answers from sheriff about detective under investigation



Local rapper Charles Toney Jr., also known as "Interstate Tax," received facial injuries during a December 2018 arrest.



Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond considered putting embattled Detective Blake Kilpatrick (pictured) back on light duty, while the Department of Justice continues to investigate his "excessive force" case.

By Camm Ashford

Hamilton County Commissioner Warren Mackey reignited the "excessive force" debate last Thursday during a community meeting concerning the possible return to "light duty" by Sheriff's Detective Blake Kilpatrick.

Kilpatrick, who is white, has been on paid administrative leave since 2018, while under investigation from the U.S. Department of Justice after a viral video showed him during an arrest punching and

kicking handcuffed local Black rapper Charles Toney Jr., also known as "Interstate Tax."

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