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IN TIMES OF TURMOIL, RACIAL STRIFE, AND DIVISION: ENVISIONING A NEW WAY FORWARD

We are living in difficult and challenging times. The 'new normal,' i.e., turmoil, intolerance, and polarization have become an inescapable way of life. Never has our work been so vital to the well-being of so many, and to our society as it is now. We, and those we serve, stand amid disruptively turbulent times where tolerance, togetherness, and empathy are at an all-time low; while bigotry, hatred, and division have skyrocketed to an unprecedented and all-time high. The work we do is in desperate need of new and fresh ideas to help transform the human condition. As we become poised to tackle the complex tasks of working with an ever-widening range of diversity, unfortunately racial discord, divisiveness, and disconnection seems to inundate our work. It is imperative that we envision a new way forward.

This keynote address will highlight how each of us must be willing to clarify *who, what, and how* it is we want to be in the lives of those we serve, and to engage in a process of self-interrogation to determine what our respective responsibility is in promoting a new way forward.