

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Carl Bell

PERSON

Bell, Carl C.

Alternative Names: Dr. Carl Bell; Dr. Carl Bell

Life Dates: October 28, 1947-August 2, 2019

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Work: Chicago, IL

Occupations: Psychiatrist

Biographical Note

Psychiatrist Dr. Carl Compton Bell was born on October 28, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois, to Pearl Debnam Bell and William Yancey Bell, Jr. Bell grew up in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood and graduated from Hyde Park High School in 1965. He received his B.A. degree in biology from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1967. Bell received his M.D. degree in 1971 from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. He completed his psychiatric residency in 1974 at the Illinois State Psychiatric Institute in Chicago, where he worked with children, adolescents and adults. From 1974 to 1976, Bell served as a Lt. Commander in the United States Navy.

Bell has worked as a psychiatrist at numerous Chicago area institutions including Jackson Park Hospital, Human Correctional and Service Institute, Chatham Avalon Mental Health Center, the Chicago Board of Education, and the Community Mental Health Council. In 1982, Bell became the medical director of the Community Mental Health Council, one of the largest not-for-profit community mental health centers in the U.S. Since 1987, he has been the president and CEO of the Community Mental Health Council. He has been a professor of clinical psychiatry at the University of Illinois School of Medicine and School of Public Health. In addition, Bell hosted radio talk shows on mental health issues on WVON-AM and WJPC-FM in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Bell is a National Institute of Mental Health international researcher and an author of more than 400 books, chapters, and scientific publications addressing issues of children exposed to violence, violence prevention, HIV prevention, isolated sleep paralysis and misdiagnosis of Manic Depressive Illness. He is the editor of Psychiatric Perspectives on Violence: Understanding Causes and Issues in Prevention and Treatment, and author of Getting Rid of Rats: Perspectives of a Black Community Psychiatrist and The Sanity

of Survival: Reflections on Community Mental Health and Wellness.

Bell is the recipient of numerous awards including the E.Y. Williams Distinguished Senior Clinical Scholar Award from the National Medical Association in 1992. He received the American Psychiatric Association President's Commendation on Violence in 1997. Bell was appointed to the Violence Against Women Advisory Council by then U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and was a participant in the White House's Strategy Session on Children, Violence, and Responsibility. He was appointed to the working group for the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health - Culture, Race, and Ethnicity; and to the Planning Board for the Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence. In recognition of his efforts to reduce violence, Bell became the first recipient of the American Psychiatric Foundation's Minority Service Award in 2004.

Bell is a member of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Association of Community Psychiatrists, the National Medical Association, Black Psychiatrists of America, and a former vice-president and editor of the American College of Psychiatrists. He is also a founding member and past board chairman of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

Bell passed away on August 2, 2019.

Related Entries

Hyde Park Academy High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

George Howland Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Charles Kozminski Elementary Community Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Harold Washington College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Olive-Harvey College, City Colleges of Chicago [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Illinois at Chicago [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Meharry Medical College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Jackson Park Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Psychiatric Consultant

Chicago Board of Education [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Psychiatrist

City of Chicago Department of Public Health [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

Psychiatrist

Human Resources Development Institute [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

Psychiatrist

Community Mental Health Council, Inc., [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

Psychiatrist

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

Naval Station Great Lakes [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1974 to ?]

Physician

Black Psychiatrists of America [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]