



CHAD DION LASSITER, MSW

SERVANT LEADER - ADVOCATE - CHANGE AGENT

EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHY

Chad Dion Lassiter is a respected executive leader, professor, and national expert in the field of American Race Relations. and has worked on race, peace, and poverty-related issues nationally and internationally. He is well known for his strategic organizational leadership, and innovative approach to human rights issues. He is called upon frequently by media outlets and government entities to provide commentary on race relations, and social justice issues, and explore potential solutions. Lassiter has been recognized and awarded at the federal, state, and local levels. for his transformative work and dedication to the profession of social work.



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Location
Philadelphia, PA 19126

EXPERTISE

AMERICAN RACE RELATIONS

SOCIAL JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

CLINICAL RESEARCH

MEDIA RELATIONS

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

MENTORSHIP

PUBLIC POLICY

TRAINING AND LECTURING

PUBLIC SPEAKING

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

EDUCATION

MAY 2001



MASTER'S OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia, PA

MAY 1995



BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK
JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY
Charlotte, North Carolina

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MAY 2018 | **PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

PRESENT | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Leader of the Commonwealth agency responsible for administering the provisions of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and the Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act.
- Implement Commission policies and administrative guidelines, recommendations, and procedures across four PHRC Regional Offices including 12 directors, and 80 staffers in conjunction with 11 PHRC appointed Commissioners by the PA Governor
- Directs the development of the budget for compliance and submission to the PA Budget Office.
- Enhanced agency operational efficiencies resulting in a 44% annual budget increase (9 to 13 million) and nearly 30% staff increase.
- Increased visibility across the 67 counties in Pennsylvania through development of innovative outreach, education, training and engagement activities.
- Resolved backlog of more than 3,000 open human rights cases contributing to the restoration of the PHRC's reputation and public trust.

MAY 2003 | **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

PRESENT | PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER OF BLACK MEN AT PENN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, INC.

- Co-founded The Black Men at Penn School of Social Work, Inc. A first of its kind agency created to be a conduit between the African American community and the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice.
- Develop and lead the implementation of programs aimed at recruiting African American males to the profession of social work.
- Influence and shape policy at the University of Penn and in the field of social work related to issues of race and racism.
- Provide workshops for urban and suburban schools on racial socialization, conflict resolution, and anti-racism mentoring.
- Elevate the unique experiences of black men through capacity-building efforts and mobilization of civil rights and grassroots community groups on a local, national, and international level, to foster racial healing.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SEPT 2011 | AMERICAN RED CROSS OF SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

MAY 2018 | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RED CROSS HOUSE / DISASTER RECOVERY

- Lead and developed all aspects of disaster casework and the operation of a 26-unit transitional facility for clients affected by disaster with an operating budget of \$1.5 million dollars.
- Assessed disaster scope and long-term needs of clients by administering the Client Casework program in conformity with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter Guidelines and those of the National Red Cross.
- Provided strategic leadership on disaster relief and recovery efforts for significant events (i. e. Hurricane Sandy, et.al).
- Represented the American Red Cross and Red Cross House to all outside agencies at local and national levels. Enhanced both public and private partnerships with notable businesses including Comcast and Blue Cross.
- Established Red Cross diversity council, provided diversity workshops for volunteers, and increased workforce diversity.
- Developed and implemented innovative programs to enhance the support available to children and families including mental and spiritual health services, the first-ever disaster law clinic, and a utility store for program residents.

SEPT 2008 | WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY, PA

MAY 2018 | PROFESSOR- SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

- Instructor and Lecturer on Racism, Diversity, Race and Gender as an adjunct professor for the Undergraduate School of Social Work., where courses explore the complexities of racism in America: the construction of racial and ethnic categories, and takes an interdisciplinary approach and integrates findings from history, political science, sociology, and social work.
- Mentor and develop students to execute planned social change and gain the knowledge and skills for ethical professional practice to maximize the recognition of worth and dignity in individuals and increase institutional respect for diverse cultural realities.

SEPT 2006 | UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

JUNE 2011 | ADJUNCT PROFESSOR- GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY AND PRACTICE

- Instructor for courses on American Racism, Social Work Practice and Social Change, Race and Gender.
- Courses explore the complexities of racism in America: the construction of racial and ethnic categories, the impact of racism and discrimination on individuals and social institutions, and the influence of ideology and oppressive policies and practices on social welfare systems and their clients.
- Explored forms and patterns of social and economic injustice based on race and ethnicity that impact American social systems at individual and, particularly, institutional levels. Ensured students learned how they may function as competent practitioners with populations who experience unjust practices.

AUG 2003 | THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

MAY 2011 | BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONIST/RESEARCHER

- Implemented the Intensive Lifestyle Intervention (ILSI) for the TODAY (Treatment Options for Diabetes in Adolescents and Youth) study, a national multiple-site clinical trial funded by the National Institutes of Health.
- Worked with youth with type 2 diabetes toward achieving study- specific weight loss behavior change goals in a step-wise fashion using standardized strategies.

JAN 2007 | OPERATION UNDERSTANDING, PHILADELPHIA PA

JUNE 2008 | GROUP LEADER

- Implemented the identity and leadership development of a group of sixteen African American and Jewish high school students during a year-long program. Educates students about the past oppression of their respective groups through slavery, racism, the Holocaust and anti-Semitism.
- Built a foundation of knowledge regarding African and African- American culture, Jewish and Jewish-American culture, and the history of African-American and Jewish relations in a comprehensive manner for students. Provided and developed group lessons while in Dakar, Senegal and Israel for racial identity deliverer.

1998 | UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

2003 | HEALTH EDUCATOR

W.E.B. DUBOIS RESEARCH FELLOW

1996 | CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF

1998 | PHILADELPHIA

SOCIAL WORKER

1995

1996

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF

PHILADELPHIA

SCHOOL-BASED LEAD THERAPIST

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2023 PRESENT	PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON ADVANCING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY, EXCELLENCE, AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR BLACK AMERICANS
2015 PRESENT	ST. CHRISTOPHER HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF GOVERNER'S
2015 PRESENT	CITY OF PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH -ENGAGING MALES OF COLOR INITIATIVE- COMMITTEE MEMBER
2011 PRESENT	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS (NASW) MEMBER
2009 PRESENT	NAACP MEMBER
2007 PRESENT	UNITED WAY OF SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER
1999 PRESENT	YMCA YOUTH BASKETBALL COACH VOLUNTEER
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2020	BIDEN/HARRIS COALITION TEAM MEMBER
2016-18	GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA - MEMBER
2012-16	MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES MEMBER
2011-16	BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA MEMBER
2008-16	BBOARD OF TRUSTEES PHILADELPHIA PRISON SYSTEM MEMBER
2007-14	SHAPING AMERICA'S YOUTH (SAY) PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBER
2007	MAYOR-ELECT MICHAEL NUTTER RE-ENTRY AND PRISON TRANSITION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
2007	NUTTER FOR MAYOR CRIME AND SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER
2007	OPERATION UNDERSTANDING MEMBER
2007- 09	DEAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL/UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY AND PRACTICE- MEMBER
2004- 10	FAMILY (FOSTERING ADOPTING AND MENTORING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF YOUTH) INC. CO-DIRECTOR
2003- 11	BOARD OF DIRECTORS/UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY AND PRACTICE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2002	SONNY HILL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT BASKETBALL LEAGUE, INC. VOLUNTEER
1994- 95	HOSPITAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA ANTI-VIOLENCE TASK FORCE MEMBER

AWARDS AND HONORS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS- PA CHAPTER "SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR" (10/2021)

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY AND PRACTICE ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE (11/2019)

PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE "MOST INFLUENTIAL AFRICAN AMERICANS" ANNUAL RECOGNITION FROM 2010-2022 (12 YEARS)

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON AFRICAN CARIBBEAN IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS "ECHOES OF AFRICA AWARD" (8/2014)

SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC. "BLACK ROSE AWARD" (2/2011)

EMERALD VISION "COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AWARD" (11/2010)

PHILADELPHIA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS "COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD" (9/2010)

"DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY EDUCATION AWARD" HONORING DR. JUDITH RODIN BY THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, (1/2008)

"THE 75 GREATEST LIVING PHILADELPHIANS" BY THE PHILADELPHIA EAGLES, DUNKIN DONUTS (9/2007)

TRIBUNE 2005 PHILADELPHIA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL AFRICAN AMERICANS "PEOPLE TO WATCH UNDER 40AWARD" (2/2005)

"WHO'S WHO AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS 17TH EDITION" BY THE GALE GROUP (5/2004)

"MEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD" BY AMERICAN CITIES FOUNDATION AND UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN CHAKA FATTAH (5/2003)

"AMERICA'S BLACK YOUNG LEADERS OF THE FUTURE UNDER 30 AWARD" BY EBONY MAGAZINE (2/2003)

SPOTLIGHTED AS "ONE OF US" BY THE PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS (2/2003)

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM NOMINEE (1/2002)

"A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH AWARD" OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA (5/2001)

TEACHING

ADJUNCT LECTURER, WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
FALL 2008-2018 ,TEACHING AREA: RACE RELATIONS

VISITING LECTURER, ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY
FALL 2008 TEACHING AREA: SOCIAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN

VISITING LECTURER, ALVERNIA COLLEGE
SPRING 2008 TEACHING AREA: WELFARE POLITICS

VISITING LECTURER, ALVERNIA COLLEGE, FALL 2007
TEACHING AREA: SOCIOLOGY OF MEN AND WOMAN

ADJUNCT LECTURER, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY AND PRACTICE
FALL 2006-2011 TEACHING AREA: AMERICAN RACISM AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE, GENDER AND RACE

PUBLICATIONS

STEVENSON, H. DAVIS, G. & LASSITER, C. - CO-AUTHORED A CHAPTER ENTITLED "EMOTIONS IN MOTION": TEACHING EMOTIONAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH BASKETBALL. PLAYING WITH ANGER: TEACHING COPING SKILLS TO AFRICAN AMERICAN BOYS THROUGH ATHLETICS AND CULTURE. EDITED BY HOWARD C. STEVENSON, JR. JANUARY 2004.

STEVENSON, H., HASSAN, N., LASSITER, C. & DAVIS, G. CO-AUTHORED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "PLAAY: PREVENTING LONG- TERM ANGER AND AGGRESSION IN YOUTH." PUBLISHED IN A MONOGRAPH ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH AND FITNESS CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION IN AUGUST 2001.

ARTICLES

[HTTPS://WWW.PHILLYTRIB.COM/NEWS/NORTH-PHILLY-NATIVE-I-M-UP-TO-THE-TASK-OF-CREATING-TOLERANCE/ARTICLE_BOBCACCB-B5FB-590C-A769-944A70433B7F.HTML](https://www.phillytrib.com/news/north-philly-native-i-m-up-to-the-task-of-creating-tolerance/article_bobcaccb-b5fb-590c-a769-944a70433b7f.html)

[HTTPS://GENEROCITY.ORG/PHILLY/2018/06/19/CHAD-DION-LASSITER-PENNSYLVANIA-HUMAN-RELATIONS-COMMISSION-DISCRIMINATION/](https://generocity.org/philly/2018/06/19/chad-dion-lassiter-pennsylvania-human-relations-commission-discrimination/)

[HTTPS://ALDIANEWS.COM/ARTICLES/POLITICS/PENNSYLVANIA-HUMAN-RELATIONS-COMMISSION-CAPTURES-OLD-GLORY-UNDER-NEW-LEADERSHIP](https://aldianews.com/articles/politics/pennsylvania-human-relations-commission-captures-old-glory-under-new-leadership)

[HTTPS://PENNTODAY.UPENN.EDU/NEWS/TIMES-AND-LIFE-WEB-DU-BOIS-PENN](https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/times-and-life-web-du-bois-penn)

[HTTPS://WWW.POST-GAZETTE.COM/NEWS/STATE/2018/07/05/NEW-PA-HUMAN-RELATIONS-COMMISSION-LEADER-CHAD-DION-LASSITER-SAYS-HE-IS-UP-TO-TACKLING-DISCRIMINATION-AND-IMPROVING-AGENCY/STORIES/201807050028](https://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2018/07/05/new-pa-human-relations-commission-leader-chad-dion-lassiter-says-he-is-up-to-tackling-discrimination-and-improving-agency/stories/201807050028)

[HTTPS://WWW.SP2.UPENN.EDU/SP2-ALUM-NAMED-EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR-PENNSYLVANIA-HUMAN-RELATIONS-COMMISSION/](https://www.sp2.upenn.edu/sp2-alum-named-executive-director-pennsylvania-human-relations-commission/)

[HTTPS://WWW.BIZJOURNALS.COM/PHILADELPHIA/PRINT-EDITION/2013/11/08/AMERICA-HAS-LOST-ITS-WAY-IF-WE-ARE.HTML](https://www.bizjournals.com/philadelphia/print-edition/2013/11/08/america-has-lost-its-way-if-we-are.html)

[HTTPS://PENNTODAY.UPENN.EDU/2010-10-14/INTERVIEWS/QA-CHAD-DION-LASSITER](https://penntoday.upenn.edu/2010-10-14/interviews/qa-chad-dion-lassiter)

[HTTPS://WWW.PHILLYMAG.COM/NEWS/2019/03/14/MEEK-MILL-SOCIAL-JUSTICE-REFORM/](https://www.phillymag.com/news/2019/03/14/meeek-mill-social-justice-reform/)

[HTTPS://WWW.POST-GAZETTE.COM/NEWS/STATE/2018/07/05/NEW-PA-HUMAN-RELATIONS-COMMISSION-LEADER-CHAD-DION-LASSITER-SAYS-HE-IS-UP-TO-TACKLING-DISCRIMINATION-AND-IMPROVING-AGENCY/STORIES/201807050028](https://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2018/07/05/new-pa-human-relations-commission-leader-chad-dion-lassiter-says-he-is-up-to-tackling-discrimination-and-improving-agency/stories/201807050028)

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[HTTPS://WWW.LEHIGHVALLEYLIVE.COM/OPINION/2020/06/H-OW-DO-WE-RENEW-OUR-NATIONS-FAILING-HUMAN-RIGHTS-COMMITMENT-THREE-IDEAS-OPINION.HTML](https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/opinion/2020/06/h-ow-do-we-renew-our-nations-failing-human-rights-commitment-three-ideas-opinion.html)

[HTTPS://WWW.PENNLIVE.COM/OPINION/2020/08/BLACK-CHILDREN-ARE-SUFFERING-FROM-TRAUMA-OPINION.HTML](https://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2020/08/black-children-are-suffering-from-trauma-opinion.html)

[HTTPS://WWW.YDR.COM/STORY/OPINION/2020/03/11/THER-E-ANOTHER-VIRAL-PANDEMIC-SPREADING-ACROSS-AMERICA-HATRED/5021032002/](https://www.ydr.com/story/opinion/2020/03/11/ther-e-another-viral-pandemic-spreading-across-america-hatred/5021032002/)

[HTTPS://6ABC.COM/6ABC-TOWN-HALL-RACE-RAGE-AND-HEALING-SHARRIE-WILLIAMS-GRAY/6234985/](https://6abc.com/6abc-town-hall-race-rage-and-healing-sharrie-williams-gray/6234985/)

[HTTPS://WWW.JEWISHEXPONENT.COM/2020/06/12/BZBI-HOSTS-DISCUSSION-SERIES-ON-JEWS-RACE/](https://www.jewishexponent.com/2020/06/12/bzbi-hosts-discussion-series-on-jews-race/)

[HTTPS://WWW.JEWISHEXPONENT.COM/2020/06/12/BZBI-HOSTS-DISCUSSION-SERIES-ON-JEWS-RACE/](https://www.jewishexponent.com/2020/06/12/bzbi-hosts-discussion-series-on-jews-race/)

[HTTPS://WWW.PENNLIVE.COM/NEWS/2020/03/IN-CORONAVIRUS-CRISIS-ASIANS-IN-PA-ARE-FACING-MORE-DISCRIMINATION-AND-HARASSMENT.HTML](https://www.pennlive.com/news/2020/03/in-coronavirus-crisis-asians-in-pa-are-facing-more-discrimination-and-harassment.html)

[HTTPS://WWW.YDR.COM/STORY/NEWS/2020/09/18/TRUMP-SUPPORTERS-PROTEST-HISTORICALLY-BLACK-CHEYNEY-UNIVERSITY-PA/3487021001/](https://www.ydr.com/story/news/2020/09/18/trump-supporters-protest-historically-black-cheyney-university-pa/3487021001/)

[HTTPS://FUSION.INQUIRER.COM/OPINION/GEORGE-FLOYD-LOOTING-UNREST-KING-RIOT-PHILLY-JENICE-ARMSTRONG-20200531.HTML](https://fusion.inquirer.com/opinion/george-floyd-looting-unrest-king-riot-philly-jenice-armstrong-20200531.html)

[HTTPS://WWW.YDR.COM/VIDEOS/NEWS/2019/02/01/WATCH-PHRC-EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR-CHAD-DION-LASSITER-TALKS-FUTURE-TOWN-HALLS/2739594002/](https://www.ydr.com/videos/news/2019/02/01/watch-phrc-executive-director-chad-dion-lassiter-talks-future-town-halls/2739594002/)

[HTTPS://6ABC.COM/TOWN-HALL-COVID-19-ASIAN-AMERICAN-HERITAGE-NYDIA-HAD/6179330/](https://6abc.com/town-hall-covid-19-asian-american-heritage-nydia-had/6179330/)

[HTTPS://BILLYPENN.COM/2018/08/15/PENNSYLVANIANS-CAN-FINALLY-FILE-LGBTQ-DISCRIMINATION-COMPLAINTS/](https://billypenn.com/2018/08/15/pennsylvanians-can-finally-file-lgbtq-discrimination-complaints/)

[HTTPS://WWW.WITF.ORG/2020/08/12/CENTRAL-PA-GROUPS-CONDEMN-ATTACK-ON-HARRISBURG-JEWISH-TEMPLE-VIGIL-PLANNED-FOR-WEDNESDAY-NIGHT/](https://www.witf.org/2020/08/12/central-pa-groups-condemn-attack-on-harrisburg-jewish-temple-vigil-planned-for-wednesday-night/)