Dismantling Myths: Why Your Practice Isn't as Diverse as You Would Like Learning Objective:

- 1. Enhance knowledge of tools to approach ethical conversations regarding increasing diversity, equity, and engagement throughout an organization.
- 2. Gain resources for responding to common barriers to action concerning efforts to increase diversity engagement.

Abstract: A panel of tri-state leaders examine the importance of diversity, equity, and engagement, analyzing why social workers should engage critically with diversity in their practice. Discussion will focus on moving from "have to" regulations to policy alignment with social work ethics and our clients' best interests through allyship, training, and culture shift. Participants will leave with tools to utilize in their practice including how to have and start these conversations keeping ethics and safety at the forefront, redefining the definition of diversity and how it is approached, how to incorporate diversity throughout their practice, and responding to common barriers to action.

Presenters: CheaRon Darrett, LCSW, MPSA; Amanda Green, BS; Dr. Valerie Stein, ThD; Cedalia Ellis, MSW, LCSW: Lori Sutton