**Michael Nordé, MSW, LICSW** is Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) and activist on matters of race, diversity and gender equality. While earning his graduate degree from Rhode Island College (RIC), he interned on the Providence VA Medical Center’s inpatient psychiatric unit. Upon graduation he accepted the position as case manager on their inpatient medical unit. During that time he participated in two research studies which focused on suicidal ideation resulting from combat trauma.

In 2017 Michael was bestowed the Alumni of The Year Award from the School of Social Work (SSW). That same year he joined their Diversity Task Force. Their mission is to change the “face” of social work in Rhode Island by diversifying RICs student body, providing support for students of color, advocating for systemic changes within the School of Social Work and creating a perpetual scholarship.

At a young age Michael became acutely aware of social inequities when his family stood as the first of color in a town whose population exceeded 10,000. Today he facilitates Diversity Trainings as part of personal development seminars.

In 2020 the PVAMC recognized Michael for his contribution to the African American Special Emphasis Program in promoting diversity and cultural awareness during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance.

In 2021 Michael was promoted to the position of Patient Advocate Coordinator and named Social Worker of the Year.