

**Moving Beyond Health Disparity and  
Achieving Health Equity**



**Cooperation and Interdependence**

**African American Symposium  
Graduate Center, The City University of New York,  
365 Fifth Avenue at East 34<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York**

**February 9, 2012**

**Check-in & Networking Breakfast  
7:45 am – 8:30 am**

**Symposium  
8:30am – 4:30pm**



# New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute African American Symposium

**Moving Beyond Health Disparity & Achieving Health Equity: From Strategy to Action**  
**Thursday, February 9th, 2012 - The Graduate Center, The City University of New York**

Health disparities are deep and pervasive in New York State, as they are in almost every state in the nation. African Americans, as a racial and ethnic minority group, are disproportionately more likely to experience lower incomes, live in underserved communities, and have poorer health outcomes from birth to death. Across the lifespan, they suffer higher rates of disease and disability.

As is the case in other states, health disparities in New York State often occur along the lines of race, ethnicity, nativity, language ability, socioeconomic status, and geography, among other factors. Some racial and ethnic minority groups consistently experience poor health relative to majority-group New Yorkers:

- African American and Hispanic New Yorkers die prematurely at rates nearly twice that of white New Yorkers<sup>1</sup>.
- African American New York State residents experienced rates of infant mortality that were nearly 2.5 times higher than those of whites and Hispanics, and over three times higher than those of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.<sup>2</sup>
- Statewide, African Americans experience HIV/AIDS mortality rates that are 13 times higher than those of whites, and Hispanics face HIV/AIDS mortality rates that are seven times higher than those of whites.<sup>3</sup>
- Between 1995 and 2004, African Americans experienced asthma mortality rates that were over 3.5 and 4 times higher than those of whites.<sup>4</sup>
- Cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death in New York State, disproportionately claimed lives among African Americans (289 deaths per 100,000).<sup>5</sup>

The NYSDOH AIDS Institute believes that the wide gaps in minority health can be reduced through collaboration with the medical and public health communities, corporate entities, academia, elected officials, consumers, advocacy organizations and others through cooperative planning, networking and action. The Symposium will convene and engage over 200 individuals from New York State who are actively involved in health equity initiatives and/or committed to addressing health disparities in their communities.

## Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the symposium is to address racial and ethnic health disparities within African American communities in New York State. The goals of the symposium are to:

- Learn about health inequities, their root causes, and effective service models to address them;
- Obtain input from participants to formulate specific program and policy recommendations that will address racial and ethnic health disparities;
- Understand and apply specific tools that can aid in addressing health inequities in New York State; and
- Encourage the establishment of collaborative partnerships among symposium participants for the subsequent development and implementation of Community Action Plans that will assist in the reduction of racial and ethnic health disparities.

1-5 - Smedley B. (2009). "Moving Toward Health Equity in New York: State Strategies to Eliminate Health Disparities." A Report for the Minority Health Council, New York State Department of Health: pp. 3-5.





## African American Symposium

**Moving Beyond Health Disparity and Achieving Health Equity: From Strategy To Action**

February 9, 2012

**7:45 am – 8:30 am**

**Check-in, Breakfast and Networking**

**8:35 am – 9:00 am**

**Welcome and Introduction**

**Moderator:**

**Darrell P. Wheeler, PhD, MSW, MPH**

Dean and Professor  
Graduate School of Social Work  
Loyola University Chicago

**Speakers:**

**Humberto Cruz, MS**

Director, AIDS Institute  
New York State Department of Health

**Yvonne J. Graham, RN, MPH**

Associate Commissioner  
New York State Department of Health  
Director, Office of Health Disparities Prevention

**9:05 am – 9:10 am**

**Dedication in Honor of Michael A. Dunham**

**La Mar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH**

Ulster County Commissioner of Mental Health  
Ulster County Public Health Director

**9:15 am – 9:45 am**

**Morning Plenary:**

The Landscape of Health Disparities  
Among African Americans

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Marilyn Aguirre-Molina, EdD, MS**

Founding Executive Director  
CUNY Institute on Health Equity  
Lehman College

**9:50 am – 10:50 am**

**First Panel Presentation:**

Reframing Public Policy

**Presenters:**

**Michelle S. Batchelor, MA**

Senior Manager, Health Equity  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors

**Michelle S. Davis, PhD**

Regional Health Administrator – Region II  
US Department of Health and Human Services

**Jaime R. Torres, DPM, MS**

Regional Director – Region II  
US Department of Health and Human Services

**10:50 am – 11:00 am**

**Break**

**11:05 am – 11:35 am**

**Second Panel Presentation:**

Moving From Statistics to Solutions

**Presenters:**

**M. Monica Sweeney, MD, MPH**

Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention & Control  
New York City Department of Health and  
Mental Hygiene

**Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS**

Associate Professor of Medicine  
Associate Professor of Public Health  
Weill Cornell Medical College



**11:40 am – 12:00 pm**

**Special Presentation from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Health Equity**

**Kevin Fenton, MD, PhD, FFPH**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Director, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

**12:05 pm – 12:45 pm**

**Third Panel Presentation:**

Best Practices

**Presenters:**

**Neil S. Calman, MD**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Institute for Family Health

**Rita Hubbard-Robinson, JD**

Corporate Training Director  
Community Health Education and Outreach  
Erie County Medical Center

**12:50 pm – 1:30 pm**

**Lunch/Program**

Viewing of select footage from  
Unnatural Causes...Is Inequality Making Us Sick?

**1:35 pm – 1:50 pm**

**Special Auditorium Performance**

**Mr. Brien Ling and students**

Let's Move - PS/MS 161  
Don Pedro Albizu Campos School

**1:50 pm – 2:05 pm**

**Call to Action**

**Michelle S. Davis, PhD**

Regional Health Administrator - Region II  
US Department of Health and Human Services

**2:10pm - 3:45pm**

**Concurrent Break-out Sessions – Community Action Planning (CAP)**

**Facilitators:**

**Michelle S. Batchelor, MA**

Senior Manager, Health Equity  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors

**Bethsabet de Leon Justiniano, MA**

Director, Bureau of Community Based Services  
AIDS Institute  
New York State Department of Health

**Michael T. Everett, MHS**

Capacity Building Assistance for Community Based  
Organizations Team Leader  
Harm Reduction Coalition

**Allen Kwabena Frimpong**

Capacity Building Advisor  
Harm Reduction Coalition

**Tara Tate, MA**

Director, Bureau of Community Support Services  
AIDS Institute  
New York State Department of Health

**Adam C. Viera, MPH**

Assistant Director of Training and Quality Assurance  
Harm Reduction Coalition

**1. Buffalo/ Western NY** (includes the following counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming)

**Rita Hubbard-Robinson, JD**

Corporate Training Director  
Community Health Education and Outreach  
Erie County Medical Center

**2. Central NY** (includes the following counties: Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Oswego, Schuyler, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates)

**Andrea Miles Ogunwumi**

Chief Executive Officer  
Economic Opportunity Program, Inc.



**3. Capital District Region/Northeastern**

(includes the following counties: Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington)

**Robert L. Miller, Jr., PhD**

Director, Research Training and Education  
Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities  
Associate Professor, School of Social Welfare  
University of Albany, State University of New York

**4. Mid- and Lower-Hudson** (includes the following counties: Dutchess, Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester)

**La Mar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH**

Public Health Director  
Ulster County Commissioner of Mental Health  
Ulster County Public Health Director

**5. Long Island** (includes the following counties: Nassau and Suffolk)

**Gregson Hugh Pigott, MD, MPH**

Director, Office of Minority Health  
Suffolk County Department of Health Services

**6. New York City** (including the following boroughs: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island)

**Kenneth Wilson, PsyD**

Director of Community Partnerships  
Department of Pediatrics  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
of Yeshiva University

**4:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

**Closing Remarks**



