



Health

Understanding

Education



The Ohio Commission on Minority Health

May 2014

John Kasich, Governor

Gregory L. Hall, MD, Chairman

Angela C. Dawson, Executive Director

A Word from the Chairman

Minority Health Month 2014 was an outstanding experience! Health education and screening events, both large and small, happened all across the state of Ohio, and around the country. After our exceptional kick off in Columbus, the work of eliminating health disparities continued throughout the month . . . from the Cleveland Clinic Minority Men's Health Fair which screened hundreds of men, to exercise sessions in Cincinnati, to "Healthy Neighbor Awareness" in Toledo. Under the astute supervision of our Executive Director, Angela Dawson, the Ohio Commission on Minority Health was proudly represented, and great work was done.

Our Local Offices of Minority Health coordinated events in their respective metropolitan areas, and everything went like clockwork. On behalf of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, it's hard-working commissioners, and staff, I would like to personally thank you for your tireless energy and overwhelming support.

Let's keep the momentum going and help make Ohio the healthiest state in the country!

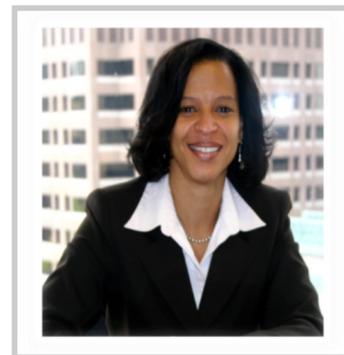
Gregory L. Hall, MD

Chairman
Ohio Commission on Minority Health



Executive Director's Corner

This past year has allowed us to witness historical advances in the fight against health disparities as reflected by the continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the expansion of Medicaid. The Commission's collaborative work with key partners to focus on policy, environmental and programmatic initiatives has resulted in important milestones. This includes health disparity elimination language in Ohio Medicaid managed care contracts; increased visibility of health disparity issues in state-level policy briefs; health disparity elimination activities in state and federal grant applications; and the introduction of comprehensive legislation to address infant mortality.



These multiple efforts underscore the importance of the Commission's intent to diversify our strategies. This journey builds upon the Commission's rich legacy of engaging local communities in finding solutions to poor health outcomes. It also highlights the necessity of working with new partners who can influence the political, social and economic decisions which largely influence health. We must continue to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare. However, we must also contribute to activities that lead to safe and affordable housing, access to healthy foods, stable employment and access to quality education. As we continue to make important advances in these areas, we will see the health of minority populations improve. While the scope of our work seems daunting, we can eliminate health disparities in our lifetime. However, we must first understand what governs health. Collectively, we are powerful enough to address this problem.

Ohio joins the nation in the celebration of Minority Health Month. This year's national theme for Minority Health Month is ***"Prevention is Power: Taking Action for Health Equity"***. During the month of April, there will be over 100 events throughout the State of Ohio focused on the promotion of healthy lifestyles, screening activities, and the provision of crucial information to allow individuals to practice disease prevention.

The Ohio Commission in Minority Health extends our thanks to our corporate sponsors for their continued support of our commitment to eliminate health disparities.

We acknowledge all of our award recipients and grantees, today we celebrate their efforts to address health disparities and achieve health equity within their local communities. They are to be commended.

I want to extend sincere thanks to my outstanding staff members who continue to exceed my expectations and make the journey easier. I owe a debt of gratitude to our Chairman Dr. Hall, the Commissioners and state department designees for their continued support and excellent level of leadership.

Yours in the pursuit of health equity,

Angela C. Dawson

Executive Director

National Minority Health Month Theme

The National Minority Health Month theme is “Prevention is Power: Taking Action for Health Equity”.

Statewide Minority Health Month Kick Off and Awards Ceremony

The state wide kickoff for Minority Health Month was a huge success! The Commission would like to thank everyone who participated and give a special thanks to our media host, WBNS 10TV’s Angela An, and sponsors: CareSource, Promedica, Molina Health Care, Medical Mutual, Buckeye Community health Plan, The James Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Ohio State University, The Wexner Medical Center, Inhealth, and Nationwide Children’s hospital. The event would not have been the same without your generous contributions!

Featured speakers State Representative Tracy Mawell Heard, and Mildred Hunter, Regional Minority Health Coordinator Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services enthralled attendees with their words of encouragement and a call to action.

The Commission Honors Public Health Advocates

Every biennium, the Commission recognizes outstanding public health advocates for their work in reducing health disparities. The Ray Miller Chrystal Stair Award is awarded to acknowledge an individual who improves the health outcomes of minority populations, pursues goals and achieves them, and overcomes any obstacle blocking the achievement of their goals.

The Director’s award is given to someone who directly helps the Commission with accomplishing its goals.

Local Hero/Shero awards are given to those who excel in addressing minority health concerns and promote healthy living behaviors. They all demonstrate a personal and professional commitment to the community’s health needs.

The Minority Health Leadership Award is given to someone who has obtained funding resources for minority health concerns and impacted minority health with a hands-on approach by volunteering and serving on committees.

The Cheryl Boyce Knowledge Award is presented to the individual who is dedicated to making an impact on minority health through research, education, and policy change. Their research has been guided by eliminating health disparities.

Community Leadership Awards are presented to those who are focused on the betterment and health of their community in terms of access to quality health care, prevention by education, and working with health information technology by creating or improving health care systems.





The Ray Miller Crystal Stair Award: Dr. Kwame Osei

Dr. Kwame Osei is the diabetes and metabolism Director at The Ohio State University Division of Endocrinology Diabetes Research Center. He was instrumental in the organization of the Global Diabetes Summit (2007-2013), bringing scientific leaders, educators, and clinicians from around the globe to present the latest diabetes research and technology.



Director's Award: Carol Ware

Carol Ware Ms. Ware has provided the Commission with a clear commitment to raise the policy focus to improve minority health outcomes. She has been instrumental in providing policy makers with access to the Ohio Medicaid Department which has resulted in the collaborative effort to include health disparity language in the State Medicaid contract. and a Consistent focus on need for cultural competency and culturally relevant programming within department.



Local Hero/Shero: Greta Lax, Dorothy O'Brien, Sara Continenza, John W. Tolbert, Virginia Noe, Amelia Gibbon, Cheryl Strother

Greta Lax is the co-chair of the Circles Big View Committee and the Community Outreach Committee of the Minority Health Roundtable. She has excelled in addressing minority health concerns by developing and implementing programs to meet the needs of medically underserved populations.

Dorothy O'Brien is a founding member of the Asian Collaborative Alliance in Cincinnati. She is also a member of the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition and has proven herself to be a health advocate for the Asian community.

Sara Continenza is the coordinator of the Stay Well Project in Cleveland. She address minority health concerns by finding ways to give to those that are food insecure tools for managing healthier living. Ms. Continenza is a former member of the Peace Corps where she spent time in West Africa empowering women and promoting the education of girls.

John W. Tolbert has addressed minority health concerns in his community while serving as the Division Director for the Community

Health Division of the Columbus Public Health Department. In this role, Mr. Tolbert was responsible for the Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and The Office of Health Equity and Minority Health.

Virginia Noe excels in addressing minority health concerns through her role as Director of Health Services for Dayton Public Schools. Ms. Noe has created programs and events to increase health awareness for the 70% minority community that she serves.

Amelia Gibbon serves as the Executive Director of the Friendly Center in Toledo which addresses healthy food and nutrition in Toledo's inner city. Ms. Gibbon has worked for over 20 years in volunteering positions and serving as the co-chair for the United Way African American Leadership Development Committee.

Cheryl Strother has been a minority health advocate for over 30 years. Ms. Strother's advocacy efforts include her work with the Rotary Club to sponsor Shots for Tots, which provides free physical exams and immunizations for underserved and uninsured populations of Trumbull County.



Minority health Leadership Award: Frankye Herald

Frankye Herald has dedicated her time to the community as a nurse and health educator for over 20 years. She is the Director of Mahogany's Child which is an African American women's health program that partners with area churches to educate women on the importance of early detection of diseases. Ms. Herald also works closely with the Dayton Council on Health Equity.



Cheryl Boyce Knowledge Award: Trudy Gaillard

Trudy Gaillard has been a researcher for the past seven years. Her interest has been in the metabolic characterization of African Americans with family history of type 2 diabetes and the ethnic differences in insulin sensitivity and glucose dependent glucose disposal. Ms. Gaillard is responsible for various community diabetes education programs.



Community Leadership Award: The Hispanic Health Committee, Karen Jiobu, Bruce Kafer, and The Word Church

The Hispanic Health Committee is committed to empowering the Hispanic community of greater Cleveland through health promotion, community engagement, education, and collaboration seeking to increase access to health care and decrease health disparities in the Hispanic community. The committee is chaired by Jasmin Santana, who has increased breast health awareness amongst Hispanic women through the BREAST program and the Amigas Unidas program. Beyond a commitment to breast health awareness, the Hispanic Health Committee organizes a variety of health screenings for vision, dental, diabetes, otolaryngology, HIV, and a host of other diseases and illnesses that plague minority communities.

Karen Jiobu has been involved in community service through various committees for the Asian Health Fair, Minority Health Kickoff, and Somali Health Fair. Ms. Jiobu serves as the Regional Director, Midwest Region, of the National hepatitis B Task Force. Ms. Jiobu has a poster presentation accepted at the American Public Health Association meeting. She has been involved in many national education efforts including the "Know More Hepatitis" and the "Hep B United" coal-

tion.

Bruce Kafer is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and maintains a consistent presence in the greater Cleveland Native American Community as a key point of contact for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs issues. Mr. Kafer is an ongoing supporter of educational opportunity for Native American youth and is a member of the Lake Erie Native American Professional Chapter of AISES.

The Word Church is headed by Dr. R.A. Vernon who is the senior pastor, with a multi-site ministry with over 20,000 members between five locations. With this community, Dr. Vernon has used these elements to combat the disparities and increase the overall well being of the African American population by providing resources like health services and social service programs.

Special Thanks from Awardees

"I know that some of you know that my family and I were interned during World War II in the Japanese American internment camp near Phoenix, Arizona. There were 8 children, my parents, and my grandmother in my family. After the war when I was 5, we returned to Lodi, California. When I was about 10 years old, my grandmother had a stroke and lost feeling in her legs. We rushed her to the emergency room. I still remember her talking to me in Japanese while being pushed on a cart through the halls of the small hospital. I was to interpret for her, and she grabbed my hand and squeezed it tightly as she said, "Promise me that you will help old women who can't speak English like me". Not until I retired in 2002, have I been able to keep my promise and I thank all of you who help those who cannot help themselves, because of language literacy. I am honored to receive this award and I am happy that there are people who will continue to keep my grandmother's promise at OCMH.

Thank you,

Karen Jiobu"

"This is just a note to let you know that I am truly and humbly grateful for the award I received and, wanted you, the staff there, as well as your Board, how much I appreciate the recognition. As much as I appreciate the recognition, I wanted to say to the many people in attendance, that please don't assume that whatever they may think that I had accomplished, that in no way did I do it by myself. There are sooooo many people who helped me and worked with me to bring about some of the changes and improvements to "our community's" health. I cannot and could not have done any of this alone. My journey over the years has been inspired by people like you, Cheryl, and many other committed persons who work in the community to improve the health of minorities in Ohio. With that said, once again thank you for the honor and recognition, but know that I owe much of what has been accomplished to many who came before me and with me. "A stream cannot rise above its source" (African Proverb) And as Maya Angelou says, "It is the belief in a power larger than myself and other than myself which allows me to venture into the unknown and even the unknowable." Thanks Angie and staff, I look forward to continuing my work with the Commission and those it serves!

John W. Tolbert, MA "



Special Feature: Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a major problem for Ohioans. Human trafficking occurs when one person controls or exploits someone else. It has been called the modern day form of slavery, where individuals can be subjected to hard labor or forced to perform sexual acts. According to the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, Human trafficking unfortunately affects 1,000 children per year in Ohio and over 3,000 Ohio children are at risk. Children who are most likely to runaway and become homeless have a 90% chance of being inducted into the sex industry within days of running away.

In an effort to combat the high prevalence of human trafficking in Ohio cities, Attorney General Mike DeWine reconvened the Human Trafficking Commission in August of 2011 which is dedicated to finding ways to help victims, and discover how to investigate and prosecute traffickers by gathering local officials to meet and discuss solutions. Recently, House Bill 252 or the Safe Harbor Law, passed in Ohio which increases penalties on traffickers and improves care for victims. In addition to the Attorney General's efforts, Governor John R. Kasich has created the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force. This task force is organized so that many branches of Ohio government are working together to prevent human trafficking. Ohio is working hard to solve this terrible problem plaguing the state. To decrease the occurrence of Human Trafficking, Ohioans should be able to report any suspicious behavior. The signs that someone is being forced into hard labor or sexual slavery are all available on the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force Website, http://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdfs/HTFACTSheet_SEX.pdf If you recognize any of the signs, please report the crime to the human trafficking hotline at 1-888-3737-888 or use the online reporting form available at www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/national-human-trafficking-hotline/report-a-tip. For more local information on human trafficking, contact Melinda Sykes, Director of Children's Initiatives at 614-995-0328.

Ohio Commission on Minority Health Month Marketing Efforts included billboards within six cities to increase participation of minority health month activities.



Ohio Commission on Minority Health Wishes to Thank You

Minority Health Month has been an annual celebration for the past 27 years. It is important to continue the celebration of those who are committed to combatting the disparity in minority health issues. The commission is dedicated to researching health disparities and improving the overall access and to quality health care. However, the Commission can not do the work alone. All of the awarded individuals are just a small percentage of those who work diligently to create equal access to health care through policy systems change, community education, research, and improving health information technology systems. The commission is forever grateful for every unsung hero and volunteer who helped work with us for equitable health. Thank you!

The Ohio Commission on Minority Health Board Members



Ohio Commission on Minority Health
77 South High Street
18th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614.466.4000
[Www.mih.ohio.gov](http://www.mih.ohio.gov)
Good Health Begins With You!®