In 1991, AMHC was established through Act 912 of 1991, initiated by lead sponsor (then) Senator Bill Lewellen. It was the culmination of work begun through the leadership of Dr. Joycelyn Elders and the Arkansas Legislative Black Caucus.

From its start as a volunteer agency with a $5,000 budget, the Arkansas Minority Health Commission (AMHC) has evolved into a fully funded state agency with a powerful voice for health equity in Arkansas.

**AMHC’S LEGACY OF DIRECTORS**

From 1991 to today, the AMHC has had four executive directors that have provided elements to the commission that have made the organization the driving force in minority health it is today.

In 1991, Tommy Sproles was appointed as the AMHC’s first executive director which he served until 2001. Through his leadership AMHC was able to secure Tobacco Settlement Dollars in 2001 and was instrumental in the launch of the CHART (Coalition for a Healthy Arkansas Today) Plan.

Judy Smith was appointed as executive director in 2002. Under her leadership the program Southern Ain’t Fried Sundays was born as well as the Minority Health Today television show. Smith’s contributions included galvanizing a strong volunteer coalition that assisted the agency in spreading the message of living a healthier lifestyle and understanding issues related to health equity. She served until 2007.

Dr. Wynona Bryant-Williams served as executive director from 2007-2009. During her term, the AMHC strategic planning process was completed for 2008-2013. In 2008 it was identified that while there were increased incidence, prevalence, disparity and mortality from HIV/AIDS and Sickle Cell Disease in minority communities, there was not clear investment in primary prevention programs reaching grassroots minority communities. Under the leadership of Dr. BW, as she is affectionately called, AMHC’s HIV Outreach Initiative was established.

In 2009, Dr. Trotter was named executive director of the Arkansas Minority Health Commission. Since then, great strides have been made by the AMHC. Under her leadership there has been an increased awareness in HIV/AIDS and sickle cell disease throughout Arkansas.

She has made public policy towards equitable health care for all Arkansans a centerpiece of her agenda. In keeping with this agenda, Dr. Trotter is also the facilitator of the Arkansas Minority Health Consortium. The Consortium, a collaboration of approximately 30 entities united to increase awareness

1991 - 2011

YOUR HEALTH. OUR PRIORITY.

The Arkansas Minority Health Commission
20 years of Service to the State of Arkansas
of minority health and community issues that impact minority health, has been a visible force at the state capitol during the 88th Arkansas General Assembly Legislative Session.

To learn more about the contributions of AMHC to public health in Arkansas, be on the look out for the 20th Anniversary Issue of the Bridge magazine due out in April.

RAISING AWARENESS OF DISPARITIES

Over the years, Commission programs have been outgrowths of state needs defined by AMHC research studies including the Arkansas Racial and Ethnic Health Disparity Studies I and II and the Marianna Examination Survey on Hypertension Study (MESH).

20 years continued on page 3
In keeping with our dedication to raising awareness about the overall health of Arkansans, the Commission will host the State of Minority Health in Arkansas, April 14 (see pg. 4). Last year, over 150 citizens, legislators, community leaders, and public health advocates attended a panel discussion that highlighted the significant health disparities across the state. The panelists explained the current challenges and the efforts to improve the health of all Arkansans.

This year, the event will focus on the recent state and national health policy changes, and how these will impact minorities and underserved populations in Arkansas as well as the state as a whole. Attendees will also have an opportunity to ask questions and share their feedback. Governor Mike Beebe will give opening remarks. Speakers include Dr. Glen Mays of UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, Lindsey Clark of the Arkansas Office of Health Information Technology and Representative Fred Allen.

Visit arminorityhealth.com to register for the State of Minority Health in Arkansas.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

AMHC has not been on the journey alone to bridging the gap in health disparities since 1991, the organization has garnered countless collaborative partnerships. This year in celebration of 20 years of improving the health of minority Arkansans the AMHC will honor five Minority Health Heroes: AARP, Pfizer, Dr. Thomas Bruce, Senator Jack Crumby and Elroy Brown at the 20th Anniversary Gala. The gala will take place Saturday, April 23rd.

The gala will also serve as an introduction to AMHC’s new focus component—Nutrition and Physical Fitness. National Comedian Bruce Bruce will serve as Master of Ceremonies and will share his personal story of weight loss. Hector Mendoza, with the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness will also address the anticipated crowd of 300.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit arminorityhealth.com.
STATE OF MINORITY HEALTH IN ARKANSAS

Thursday
APRIL 14, 2011
5:30 TO 7:00 PM
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF IMPROVING MINORITY HEALTH IN ARKANSAS

FRED W. SMITH AUDITORIUM
12TH FLOOR OF JACKSON T. STEPHENS SPINE AND NEUROSCIENCES INSTITUTE AT UAMS

FEATURING

GOVERNOR MIKE BEEBE
GLEN MAYS, PHD, MPH
Professor and Chair, Department of Health Policy and Management, Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health
LINDSEY CLARK
Policy Analyst and Consumer Engagement Specialist, Office of Health Information Technology
FRED ALLEN
State Representative District 33

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ARKANSAS MINORITY HEALTH COMMISSION’S STATE OF MINORITY HEALTH IN ARKANSAS.

This year, the event will focus on the recent state and national health policy changes, and how these will impact minorities and underserved populations in Arkansas. Attendees will also have an opportunity to ask questions and share their feedback.

TO REGISTER FOR THIS FREE EVENT

PLEASE EMAIL LINDSEY JOHNSON AT ARMINORITYHEALTH@GMAIL.COM OR CALL (501) 686-2720
ARMINORITYHEALTH.COM
AMHC proudly announces the 2011 Minority Health Month Grantees

Through a competitive selection process, nine organizations in five counties were awarded mini-grants up to $4500 for Minority Health Month activities. Those organizations are

Madison County Health Coalition  
Arkansas Baptist College  
Derek Lewis Foundation  
Arkansas Community Dispute Resolution Centers, Inc.  
Innovative Lifestyles for Senior Living, Inc.

University of Arkansas Disparities Conference  
Boys and Girls Club of Mississippi County  
Osceola Shalom Community  
Independence County Wellness Coalition

This year organizations were encouraged to focus on Nutrition & Physical Fitness among minority communities. Their activity topics include obesity, food demonstrations, fitness, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes and cancer education and awareness.

In 2000, Minority Health Month became a national celebration. This 30-day campaign consists of numerous activities designed to solicit the interest and participation of providers of health services to minority populations. The purpose of this campaign is to increase education, awareness, screenings and intervention strategies that encourage healthy lifestyles among minority Arkansans.

Minority Health Month Activities

Click Calendar below to see events

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Cooking on the Go  | Moving Money  | Unarmed Genus  | Food  | Boys and Girls Club  | World  |
Call 501-661-2990  | Call 501-661-2990  | Call 501-661-2990  | Boys and Girls Club  | State of the World  |
| 10     | 11     | 12      | 13        | 14       | 15     | 16       |
|        |        | Madison County Health Coalition  | Hispanic Health Fair  | AMHC State of Minority Health in Arkansas  | 4th Annual MLK Celebration Concert  |
|        |        | Call 479-778-1548  | Call 501-244-6139  | Call 501-686-2720  | Call 479-575-2054  |
| 17     | 18     | 19      | 20        | 21       | 22     | 23       |
|        |        |        | Boys and Girls Club  | Boys and Girls Club  | AMHC Quarterly Board Meeting  | AMHC  |
|        |        |        | of Mississippi County  | of Mississippi County  | Call 501-686-2720  | 20th Anniversary Gala  |
|        |        |        | Health and Fitness Campaign  | Health and Fitness Campaign  | Call 501-686-2720  | Call 501-666-2720  |
| 24     | 25     | 26      | 27        | 28       | 29     | 30       |
|        |        |        | Boys and Girls Club  | Osceola Shalom Community  | Osceola Shalom Community  | Drisk-Lofton Foundation  |
|        |        |        | of Mississippi County  | Pull Up Your Pants  | Pull Up Your Pants  | 13th in Obesity  |
|        |        |        | Health and Fitness Campaign  | Preventive Care Conference  | Call 870-762-1788  | Call 501-377-1814  |
|        |        |        | Call 870-762-1788  | Call 870-510-0399  | Osceola Shalom Community  | Innovative Lifestyles for Senior Living, Inc  |
|        |        |        |         |         |        | 4th Annual Minority Health Fair  |
|        |        |        |         |         |         | Call 501-960-2569  |
|        |        |        |         |         |         | Independence County Wellness Coalition  |
|        |        |        |         |         |         | Preventive Screening  |
|        |        |        |         |         |         | Call 870-755-0048  |

Minority Health Month Activities

www.arminorityhealth.com
Representative Efrem Elliott Kicks off District Tour

Working in conjunction with Representative Efrem Elliott and other legislators, the AMHC hosted College Day at Dollarway High and a public forum in Pine Bluff. The events were designed to better understand the issues and concerns of citizens in Jefferson County and to educate youth about healthier lifestyles and future educational opportunities.

The tour opened with College Day at Dollarway High School. Students were provided with information on financial aid and recruitment information and healthy lifestyles. Speakers were Representative Efrem Elliott, AMHC’s Patricia Minor, Shawn Linton of UAPB and Lisa Smith of the Department of Higher Education and Dollarway Superintendent Dr. Arthur Tucker.

Later that evening, a public forum was held at the Most Worshipful Masonic Temple in Pine Bluff. Issues discussed were mental health, lottery scholarship funds, unemployment, and community development. The event was moderated by Michael Washington. Those in attendance were Steve Jones, Deputy Director of Department of Human Services; Sterling Hughes, Arkansas Rehab Services; Kathy Harris and Bessie Lancelin of Southeast Arkansas Behavioral Services, Williams Campbell, Arkansas Workforce Services and Representative James Word.

“We invited representatives from education, employment and health because all of these impact one’s access to quality healthcare,” said Idonia Trotter.

Dollarway Principal Arnold Robertson, Jimmy “Mr. Get Better” Robinson of the Movement, Patricia Minor, Dr. Arthur Tucker, Shawn Linton and Jefferson County Clerk, Pat Johnson

AMHC receives additional training in project management

Project managers wear more hats than almost anyone. They’re planners, schedulers, and big-picture thinkers. Project managers must be team builders, coaches, and motivators. They need to know how to negotiate for more time, more resources, and fewer changes. They’ve got to be smart risk takers, turn-on-a-dime decision makers, and communicators extraordinaire. The AMHC staff attended a two-day project management workshop to enhance their ability to handle various projects effectively and efficiently. Each staff member received a certificate of completion. See reactions from staff:

Patricia: “For me the course served as a refresher course that increased my comfort level in utilizing various project manager tools. It also increased my knowledge of the various jargon used in the project management sector. The course gave us the opportunity to bond and to develop a more cohesive working relationship by learning personality traits.”

Pamela: “The workshop was beneficial in many ways. It allowed me to ask questions on how to effectively manage projects and keep the team focused.”
The 14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Concert rescheduled for Saturday, April 2 will feature up and coming operatic singer and Fort Worth, Texas native Keron Jackson.

The event will give the audience an added bonus of hearing Keron Jackson, whose voice has been called “one in a million” by New York based music director Jay Dias. The Dallas Morning News featured Jackson in a January 2010 article where Jackson says at 15 years old, he and his sisters left their drug-addicted parents to set out on their own. Keron Jackson was homeless again in his early 20s before he credits a group of people associated with a Baptist Church in Carthage, Texas with helping him put his life back together. The not-yet 30 year old has been garnering praise across the country for his amazing voice and will thrill the audience in El Dorado with classics like “Ol’ Man River” from the musical Show Boat and gospel favorites including “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.”

The concert will begin at 7:30 pm at the El Dorado Municipal Auditorium. It will remain free to the public and will feature community choral groups.

The free concert is presented by the Arkansas Minority Health Commission and supported by the Arkansas Arts Council, Entergy, Lion Oil Company, Martin Luther King Jr. Commission and the Friends of MLK Concert.

AMHC Executive Director, Dr. Idonia Trotter will deliver a message of health & health equity to the anticipated 1000+ crowd.

For more information visit the South Arkansas Symphony website at www.southarkansassymphony.org.

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*Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.*

--Martin Luther King, Jr.
April is Minority Health Month and National Nutrition and Fitness Month!