NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY ACTIVITIES ONLY THE BEGINNING

National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) was Sunday, June 27, 2010. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one out of five people living with HIV in the U.S. are unaware of their HIV status. NHTD is an opportunity for people nationwide to learn their HIV status, and to gain knowledge to take control of their health and their lives.

To observe this national day towards an end of motivating, educating and mobilizing Arkansans against HIV/AIDS, the Arkansas Minority Health Commission challenged faith-based institutions to create greater awareness about HIV/AIDS and its affect on the community. As a result, ten churches in four counties partnered with the AMHC to administer HIV/AIDS tests on Saturday, June 26th and Sunday, June 27th. AMHC is grateful to the Arkansas Department of Health’s HIV/STD/Hepatitis C section for providing screeners at each testing site.

This effort was announced on June 25th at a press conference held at the First Baptist Church located at 811 Scipio A. Jones Drive in North Little Rock where Rev. William L. Robinson is the pastor.

“History has shown that the church strongly influences knowledge, attitude, belief and behavior about health. Therefore, faith-based initiatives have been proposed by national and statewide authorities as a way to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic within minority communities,” said Idonia Trotter, AMHC Executive Director. “We are grateful to Pastor Robinson and the First Baptist Church congregation for serving as a testing site and for Pastor Robinson’s long history of leadership in the community,” Trotter said. “These efforts are only the beginning of AMHC’s commitment to broaden and build its relationship with the faith-based community in Arkansas to increase awareness of not only HIV/AIDS, but other issues of public health in which we know the church can play an extremely important role.”

As a result of these efforts, more than 150 people were tested during the NHTD weekend! “That’s 150 more Arkansans who now know their HIV status. This is a preventable disease. Not knowing is not an option,” Trotter stated. Test results are forwarded to the Arkansas Department of Health for confidential follow up and statistical data gathering.
AMHC & ADH ANNOUNCES MORE THAN $600,000 IN HIV AWARDS

This year, AMHC expanded the commission’s HIV/AIDS focus as a part of a model collaborative education/ awareness campaign with the Arkansas Department of Health HIV/ STD/Hepatitis C Unit. As a result of the joint effort, 12 community organizations have been funded covering 41 counties. AMHC and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) announced in a press conference June 25, $617,963 in grant awards to the following community-based organizations to fight HIV/AIDS through education and awareness.

AMHC Grantees:
- Alliance on Community Health
- Arkansas Human Development Corporation
- Centers for Youth and Families
- Future Builders
- Jubilee Christian Center

ADH Grantees:
- White River Rural Health
- Black AIDS Institute
- Black Community Developers
- Brothas & Sistas, Inc.
- Chicot Memorial Hospital
- Planned Parenthood of AR and East Oklahoma, Inc.
- St. Francis House NWA dba Community Clinic

Dr. Creshelle Nash, AMHC Medical Director, stated at the press conference, “Our goal is to strengthen these organizations and their capacity to implement HIV prevention and awareness programs toward the state’s goal of reducing and eventually eliminating the spread of HIV/AIDS in Arkansas.”

Source: Arkansas Department of Health

2010 Award Grantees, Centers for Youth and Families

Senator Tracy Steele, District 34

Dr. Nate Smith (ADH), MD, MPH, Deputy Director Public Health Programs Arkansas Department of Health
AMHC has experienced tremendous change and growth over the past year. Oftentimes, change and growth are accompanied by growing pains—some welcomed, some not. To ensure the organization is steadfast in keeping its mission, AMHC staff embarked on a two-day staff retreat June 30th and July 1st. Veronica P. Allen of the Rockhurst University Education Center in Overland Park, Kan., conducted a seminar entitled “The Essentials of Communication and Collaboration” that focused on interpersonal communication. The staff received training on communicating within the office setting and with external collaborative partners.

Objectives were:
- Fostering a collaborative working environment
- Communication essentials for collaboration
- Building work relationships that support collaboration
- Collaboration tactics and techniques for success
- Working through disagreement and conflicts

According to her biography, Allen has led more than 600 seminars throughout the country. Prior to her current work of facilitating and leading seminars, Allen’s years of experience in the healthcare industry has given her a deep understanding of the challenges employees face in administering public health services.
Arkansas Minority Health Commission
Your health. Our priority.

Public Health Fair
Monticello, Arkansas

Thursday, July 22, 2010
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Public Health Fair

VFW Building
148 Veterans Drive
Monticello, AR 71655

Free Health Screenings!
Blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol...and more

Health Information Provided by Minority Health Vendors

Idonia L. Trotter, JD, MPS, Executive Director

For more information, call 501.686.2720

Lunch provided by the Arkansas Minority Health Commission
Putting Your Tobacco Settlement Dollars to Work!

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PLEASE JOIN THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINORITY HEALTH

SENATOR JACK CRUMBLY, CHAIR
SENATOR PERCY MALONE • SENATOR GILBERT BAKER • SENATOR TRACY STEELE • SENATOR RANDY LAVERTY

Legislative MEETING

MONTICELLO, ARKANSAS

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2010

6:00PM - 8:00PM

VFW BUILDING
148 VETERANS DRIVE
MONTICELLO, AR 71655

ATTENDEES WILL BE PROVIDED:
• A synopsis of public health concerns expressed by citizens living in counties where life expectancy at birth based on death data shows that minorities die 10 years earlier than non-minority citizens.
• Demographic snapshot of minority Arkansans (including Health Screening data) living in counties where minorities are expected to die 10 years earlier.
• Legislation passed in the 2009 Session that will impact public health.

ATTENDEES ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE THEIR VIEWS ON:
• Next Steps
• Services Needed
• Use of Existing Services
• Gaps in Service

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JUANITA WITHAM OR KIM BAXTER
501.682.1937

Bureau of Legislative Research
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR
Dinner Courtesy of the Arkansas Minority Health Commission
Health Care Access: 28% of nonelderly African Americans and 40% of nonelderly Hispanics are uninsured in Arkansas. Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

82% (114,844) of black children live in low-income families

Quality Health Care: More minorities state that people like themselves are treated less fairly when seeking health care, specifically, 40% of urban blacks, 29% of rural blacks and 25% of Hispanics. 42% (199,879) of white children live in low-income families

Behavioral: More than 73% of African Americans are overweight or obese; compare to 66% of all Arkansans. Source: 2008 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System-Arkansas

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Ask the Doctor

with Dr. Creshelle Nash, Medical Director of the Arkansas Minority Health Commission

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