

Upcoming Events

- **Indian Health Service Cancer Support Leadership Training**

Dates: March 13-15, 2015

Location: Hyatt Place Albuquerque Uptown 6901 Arvada Northeast, Albuquerque, NM

Contact: Marybeth Martin at 605.721.7508 or Marybeth.Martin@gpctchb.org

- **National Hispanic Medical Association Annual Conference: Effective Strategies to Improve Healthcare for Hispanics in our Local Communities**

Dates: March 26 – 29, 2015

Location: Wardman Park Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC

<http://www.nhmamd.org/index.php/events/19th-annual-conference>

- **8th Biennial Childhood Obesity Conference**

Dates: June 29 – July 2, 2015

Location: San Diego, CA

<http://www.childhoodobesity2015.com/index.cfm?pid=871>

- **7th Annual Health Literacy Research Conference**

Dates: November 2 – 3, 2015

Location: Hyatt Regency Bethesda, Bethesda, MD

<http://www.bumc.bu.edu/healthliteracyconference/>

Editor's Note

The *AHDConnection* is published quarterly on January 31, April 30, July 31 and October 31. We are always looking for stories and information related to efforts to reduce health disparities in Arizona.

Due to space limitations, each article submitted should not be more than 500 words. Notifications of relevant upcoming events, funding opportunities and ideas for community stories are always welcome. The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month prior to the publication date (Dec 15, May 15, June 15 and Sept 15). Please email articles or ideas to hong.chartrand@azdhs.gov.

AHDConnection - Volume 8, Issue 1 - January 31, 2015

ARIZONA'S
LEADING
HEALTH
DISPARITIES
RESOURCE

AHDConnection



Arizona Loan Repayment Program

Did you know that the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (NHSC LRP) is not the only loan repayment program available in Arizona? If you are a full time physician, dentist, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife, you may qualify for the Arizona Loan Repayment Program.

The [Arizona State Loan Repayment Program \(SLRP\)](#) is a program administered by the Arizona Department of Health Services, [Bureau of Health Systems Development](#). Modeled after the NHSC LRP, SLRP will qualify public, non-profit or rural private practice primary care providers for an initial two-year service commitment working at an [eligible service site](#) within a federally designated [Health Professional Shortage Area \(HPSA\)](#). Up to \$40,000 is available to [qualified candidates](#) based on the [priority ranking](#) of his/her service site. For full details of award amounts for SLRP or to apply, [visit the website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Ana Roscetti at 602-542-1066 or [email Ana](#).



Smiles Over Miles

by Hong Chartrand

One early Thursday morning in nice Arizona winter weather, when I walked into the community room of the MANA (Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force) House, a transitional housing facility for the Madison Street Veterans Association in central Phoenix, I was amazed by how fast the room was transformed from a little community gathering room into a dental treatment room. Three portable dental chairs and other dental equipment were laid out in a professional way in order for dental providers and patients to have access.

Several dental students and staff members from the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ASDOH) at A.T. Still University had driven all the way from Mesa to set up their portable dental clinic to serve homeless veterans at MANA House as they do two Thursdays every month. A patient pays \$30 and receives different types of dental services, from diagnosis to treatment.

this issue

Arizona Loan Repayment Program **P.1**

Smiles Over Miles **P.1**

Courage to Conquer Fear **P.2**

Public Health Matters **P.3**

News from the Network **P.4**

Morvaid Emamy and Elizabeth Rivers are student doctors in the dental medicine class of 2015. Both signed up to serve the portable dental clinic at MANA House for a few weeks, which is part of their Fourth Year dental rotation plan. Morvaid shared that the reason she signed up was because her services could “impact people’s lives.”

“You cannot get better services than this,” says Dorsey, a patient who works for MANA House and is also a veteran herself. “It is convenient and also provides financial relief to me.”

It was a natural partnership between MANA House and ASDOH because both organizations share a similar mission: serving a vulnerable population in the community. The partnership started almost three years ago.

(Continued on page 4)


Arizona Health Disparities Center
Promoting Health Equity

150 N. 18th Avenue, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-1219 ph
(602) 542-2011 fax
www.azminorityhealth.gov


Arizona Health Disparities Center
Promoting Health Equity

Funding Opportunities

[Opal Apple Youth Make a Difference Grants](#) – Deadline: February 28, 2015

[National Gardening Association: Kids Gardening.org: Jamba Juice "It's All About the Fruit and Veggies" Garden Grant](#) – Deadline: March 6, 2015

[Mazda Foundation: 2015 Community Grants](#) – Deadline: July 1, 2015

[Charles Stewart Mott Foundation: Pathways Out of Poverty Grant Program 2015](#) – Deadline: Rolling

[Doris Duke Charitable Foundation: Child Well-Being Program](#) – Deadline: Rolling



Courage to Conquer Fear

By Hong Chartrand

Three years ago, Dr. Matthew Whitaker kicked off our Social Determinants of Health series at the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and gave his “The House We Live In: Race in America” presentation to ADHS employees and community partners. I was impressed by his powerful and passionate talk and still remember what he said:

Martin Luther King, Jr said ‘forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude.’ In definition, forgiveness requires resolution with someone who has hurt you. It is human nature to want to punish those who have harmed us, but King reminded us that vengeance often leads to more fear. Therefore, we have to have courage to conquer fear, have hope and reconciliation and obtain healing.

Dr. Whitaker is Foundation Professor of History and Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy (CSRD) at Arizona State University. CSRD was established in March 2011 and is one of two centers focusing on race and democracy research in the United States. It serves as a leading interdisciplinary, problem-solving venture committed to engaged scholarship and communities and informed dialogue involving the topics of race and democracy at the local, state, national and international levels. The “Healing Racism Public Dialogue Series” is one of projects that CSRD engages in with its community partners, the Maricopa Community Colleges and the City of Phoenix, to bring awareness of and practical solutions to racism. Dr. Whitaker is the driving

force of the series and one of the main speakers.

“Tearing down racial barriers and stereotypes and building a more informed, unified citizenry requires dialogue in settings where people feel comfortable enough to respectfully express their opinions and know they won’t be attacked by someone who disagrees with them,” Dr. Whitaker says.

Dr. Whitaker attributes his passion about the study of race and democracy to his mother, a retired school teacher, and the environment where he grew up. He was born and raised in the Van Buren and 35th Ave. Area, which is considered a poor neighborhood now. Dr. Whitaker observes the big demographic change in his neighborhood. “When I grew up, we were the only African-American family and there were two more Latino families in the neighborhood,” Dr. Whitaker recalls. “The rest of the families were White. The Reynolds Aluminum in the neighborhood was closed. The middle class White families moved away and other immigrant families moved in.”

“I didn’t understand such a change until I was in college,” says Whitaker. It was his mother who encouraged him to do what he liked to do. “I came

to believe that education is an equalizer. I want to help people to understand their history and empower them to change their social status through civic engagement and other activities.”

Dr. Whitaker has numerous publications about race and democracy. He is the author of *Race Work: The Rise of Civil Rights in the Urban West* and *Peace Be Still: Modern Black America from World War II to Barack Obama*, which won the 2014 Bayard Rustin Prize, an award named after Bayard Rustin (1912-1987), an American leader in social movements and the Presidential Medal of Freedom winner recognized by President Barack Obama. He also will be given the Arizona State University (ASU) Pioneer Award during the 2015 ASU Black History Month Pioneer Award Dinner on February 19. The award

was initiated at the ASU West campus by its Black History Month Coordinating Committee in 2002, to “recognize African Americans who have made significant contributions to the life and culture of the Phoenix Metropolitan area.” In addition to research and teaching, Dr. Whitaker wants to apply his knowledge and skills to practical solutions on race and democracy. He is active on different boards, including those of St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center and St. Vincent de Paul, and is the

owner and CEO of the Whitaker Group, L.L.C., an organizational development and equity and inclusion consulting firm. Dr. Whitaker is writing a memoir about his life and his thoughts. He shares that he has a mixed family background and sees how happy his mother and her partner are. He wants to use his own experience to tell people that “everyone is unique and shouldn’t be discriminated against due to their race, gender or sexual orientation.” He wants to be remembered as someone who tried to make the world a little better using the talents he has.



New Publications of Interest

- [Crosswalks: National CLAS Standards and TJC Hospital Accreditation Requirements](#)
- [ADA Adjusts Diabetes Screening Recommendations for Asian Americans](#)
- [Race, Ethnicity, and Socioeconomic Status in Research on Child Health](#)



PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS: STUDENT WORKSHOP DAY

By Alina Penny and Amber Penny

The Arizona Department of Health Services and the Native Health hosted a public health workshop on January 13. The workshop informed a small group of college students about the functionality of public health in everyday situations. The all-day event involved presentations about public health on a local and global scale, a lunch panel discussion with professionals from different fields of public health,

a walking audit around the surrounding area, and a tour of the State Lab. Through engagement and of the different activities, the students were able to better understand: (1) what public health is, (2) the role of public health, (3) the key functions of public health, and (4) the issues surrounding public health matters in Arizona. The workshop was an overall success: the students revealed their interest in learning more about and becoming involved in the field of public in their evaluation sheets.

Even though this is only the third one, future workshops have the promise of becoming more successful and impactful as the structure of events and topics of discussion become more tailored to the students’ interests. The hope is that for the next workshop in the summer, students will be able to experience more fields of public health (i.e. Maternal & Child Health) as part of the initiative.



News from the Network

Black Lives Matter Conference Hold

UN Declaration: 2015-2024 as the Decade of People of African Descent

By RJ Shannon

The Black Lives Matter conference took place at the University of Arizona in Tucson from January 15-17, the Martin Luther King Day weekend. For three days, 700 students, staff, community members and visitors from around the country conversed in serious dialog regarding Black lives.

One important message from the conference was that the United Nations (UN) declared 2015 to 2024 the decade of People of African Descent. The UN's goal is centered on changing the quality of Black lives by impacting social, medical, economic, education and political justice. For the first time, Black voices have been heard at an international level of influence.



Mountain Park Gateway Clinic Opens



After almost three years of thoughtful planning, design and construction, Mountain Park Gateway clinic, opened its door and welcomed their first patients on Tuesday, January 20. The 40,000 square foot facility, located in 3830 E. Van Bureau Street, Phoenix, provides access to affordable healthcare for families living in the surrounding neighborhood. The clinic is the new addition to the Mountain Park Health Center, a federally qualified health center serving low-income and medically underserved communities in Phoenix.



Continued from page 1

Unlike a traditional dental office, ASDOH sends students and faculty members into the community for dental services. The idea was born in 2008, when ASDOH received a grant from the Arizona Department of Health Services Oral Health Office to expand services to the underserved in Arizona. The Clinical and Educational Outreach (CEO) program of ASDOH was established to provide students with a significant amount of external community experience through portable dental services.

“The CEO program provides several benefits to the students,” says Mary Bush, Associate Director of Community Partnerships. Such benefits include “exposure to a

Smiles Over Miles, Cont.

variety of community and public health-based clinical environments and situations; an opportunity to significantly enhance their clinical skills provide a deeper understanding of the unique oral health challenges faced by many communities and the opportunity to learn first-hand information how to address those challenges. It’s a win-win situation, because the community in need also benefits from our services,” Mary stressed.

There are two projects under various stages of development in the CEO program. One is Smiles Over Miles - Homebound to deliver oral health services to people with cognitive and physical disabilities in a home-based setting. This may include a nursing home, assisted living facility or hospice care. The other CEO project is Dental Outreach for Rural Arizona (DORA), which is expands the dental safety net for low-income children and adults in Arizona. In addition to MANA House, the other “partnering/host” sites are the Empowerment Systems Center for Health and Wellness in Apache Junction, the Dorothy Nolan Senior Center in Florence and Head Start sites affiliated with Pinal/Gila Community Child Services.

In six years the CEO Program has served more than 400 patients with multiple visits. “Our program provides a continuum of dental services to the patients

from beginning to the end,” said Joni Podmanik, CEO Program Coordinator.

“I like to do community services because I’ve learned a lot from the community,” says Elizabeth. After this rotation, her next rotation will be at a community health center in Tucson. She says that she will go back to her home state, New Mexico, and work in a community health center after she graduates.

