

Black Health Alliance



Annual Report 2014 - 2015

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President's Report

As I wrap up my first year in office as the president of BHA, it is time to reflect on our activities for the past year, take time to acknowledge our accomplishments but most importantly to learn from our challenges. Since our last AGM, BHA has continued its activities “To reduce the racial disparities in health outcomes and promote the health and well-being of people from the diverse Black communities in Canada...” This is an ongoing process and one that requires patience, resilience, dedication and commitment from our members, member organizations and BHA board as a collective. Our victories are large and small and as we trod along, we endeavour to remain vigilant and committed, and not lose sight of our goal.

Over the past several months, BHA has forged some key partnerships to apply for funding for research projects such as “Ko-Pamoja”: Learning together about breast and cervical cancer screening, with representatives from TAIBU Community Health Centre, St. Michael's Hospital and McMaster University. The goal of this project is to create a pilot peer-education program for Black Canadians in the Malvern area, on cervical and breast cancer screening. Another significant application for research funding was done for a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Transitional Operating Grant, in collaboration with Dr. Logie, a professor at University of Toronto. The project is entitled, “Addressing social and structural drivers of HIV and sexually transmitted infections among diverse young women in Canada: A Mixed Methods, Multi-site Cohort Study”, and looks at key populations of young women, like African Caribbean women, who face social inequities that increase their risk of HIV/STI in Ontario, Alberta & Saskatchewan. These applications were successful and are progressing well. Special thanks to BHA board member Nakia Lee-Foon who has been instrumental in the forging of these alliances.

BHA also continued to work diligently to maintain a presence in our community and to create greater awareness about the health issues that people of African descent are facing. We have participated in community activities such as health fairs, walkathon, presented at different community events, provided printed materials on health related issues, collaborated with other member organizations and allies and increased our presence at different health-related functions. We continue to work on projects to build partnerships through the Black Physicians of Ontario (BPAO) that will generate mentorship opportunities for especially Black medical students and create more awareness in our community about our health. This initiative will also provide the opportunity for partnership with other member organizations and one that will move us closer to our goal.

This past year the Black Health Alliance (BHA) engaged in a few new initiatives such as the Board led Walk Good Walk-A-Thon, the BHA Member Organization and Community Survey (BHA Survey) and of course the Inaugural Black Health Alliance Awards.

The 2014, provincial election provided an opportunity to revise the Black Health Alliance *Excellence in Health Care for All* and the associated *State of Health Fact Sheet* as we strived to remind the public and health policy makers of the needed changes to better address health disparities and inequities. Looking forward, this will be an ongoing effort by BHA along with our community partners to ensure any proposed changes to our health care system do not weaken but enhance our capacity to effectively serve the Black community.

Further, the Board recognizes that the strength of the Alliance is directly related to our capacity to build and sustain strong communication and collaboration amongst our members. We will continue the BHA Survey which will help identify and direct focus on key areas from which consensus and engagement can emerge. In addition, you can expect a new revitalized and energized BHA website and social media presence that will support our communication and engagement efforts.

We look forward to the future with excitement and optimism. We welcome your ideas, passion and service as we remain committed to *Working in Partnership to Advance the Health and Well-Being of the Black Community*.



Dalon Taylor
President

Board of Directors 2015 - 2016

THE EXECUTIVE



Dalon Taylor
President

Dalon is currently completing her PhD at York University and has a wealth of knowledge and experience from teaching at the post-secondary level and working in the government and non-profit sector in areas of social work and community development. Dalon's participation in community research projects include the *ACT for Youth* Project (2009 - 2014) which brings together a multi-sectoral alliance of community stakeholders and an interdisciplinary network of researchers in a programme of applied research, capacity building, knowledge transfer and evaluation that is focused on youth in urban communities, using the Jane-Finch community as a case study. Her current research interest focuses on Foreign-trained professionals and notions of credentialism & professionalization and in particular, issues related to foreign-trained professionals (skilled workers) from the Caribbean



Donna Alexander, MSW
Vice President

Donna graduated from the University of Toronto in 2005 with a Masters in Social Work (Specialization Addiction and Mental Health). She currently works at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in the Child, Youth and Family Program - Substance Abuse Program for African Canadian & Caribbean Youth (SAPACCY). Donna previously worked in Correctional Services and Residential Treatment Services and also served on the Transitional Board of the TAIBU CHC as well as Warden Woods Community Centre. Donna is active in the community advocating for the rights of Black Youth and also guest lectures at universities and provides training on Concurrent Disorders to staff at community agencies.



J. R. Dash
Treasurer

JR is currently a Communications Advisor with Trillium Gift of Life Network, the government agency tasked with managing organ and tissue donation and transplantation provincially so that more Ontarians can be saved. Through her company Dash Communications she has provided publicity in Canada and internationally to, among others, the Juno Award-winning Toronto Mass Choir, Doctors Without Borders and the U.S. Information Service. As a research associate with DiversiPro, she devised promotional outreach strategies for Canadian Blood Services' diversity initiative. Through her volunteer work she has managed media relations for World Youth Day, provided public relations and media services for the Harry Jerome Awards and served as President of the Japan-Afro American Friendship Association while living in Japan during the 1990's. J.R. holds a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Journalism from Ryerson University and a Postgraduate Honours Public Relations Certificate.



Yvette Leander
Secretary

Yvette currently works with the Ontario Public Service with the Ministry of Education. She previously held positions with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Government Services and the Ministry of Health. Passionate for wellness, she is a volunteer on the communications, employee engagement and mental health and addictions committees in the workplace and is an active leader in her Anglican parish and serves as a secretary of a Driftwood community centre advisory council. She is the past treasurer (2011-2014) of the TDSB's Cluster Parent Academy Committee (CPAC) and parent council representative. She has completed the Government Administration program at Seneca College and is currently working on her Public Policy & Management degree at York University.

OTHER DIRECTORS



Dr. Christopher J. Morgan, BSc., DC, FRCCSS(C)

Founder and Past President

Christopher is a Chiropractor, Sports Specialist and Director of Morgan Chiropractic & Wellness, a family-oriented, interdisciplinary health clinic in central Toronto. Dr. Morgan has been an active volunteer in the community for over 20 years. His Board experience includes the Malvern Family Resource Centre, Black Health Alliance (BHA) and TAIBU Community Health Centre.



Lanre Tunji-Ajayi

Director

Lanre's most recent volunteer positions include President of Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario and currently President/Executive Director of Sickle Cell Disease Association of Canada. Ms. Tunji-Ajayi holds a diploma from George Brown College in the Hearing Aid Specialist Program and a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration from Ogun State University, Nigeria.



Nakia Lee-Foon

Director

Nakia is a PhD student in public health at the University of Toronto. She completed a Masters of Health Sciences in Community Health at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT). During her masters, Nakia researched Black-Canadian parent-youth sexual health communication in order to determine ways to enhance youths' sexual health education and reduce HIV infection rates among Black youth populations.



Dave D'Oyen

Director

Dave is a RBC Career Launch Program Associate. Dave has held various positions in Human Resources with responsibilities for recruitment, policy development, occupational health and safety and change management communications. Concerned by the challenges confronting visible minorities, Dave currently serves on the Toronto Police Service's Police and Community Engagement Review Advisory Committee. Dave is also a member of CivicAction's Emerging Leaders Network and was a delegate for the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games' Youth Summit. While attending university, Dave took an active role in his university's governance serving on committees related to student life and learning. Dave is an alumnus of McGill University holding a Bachelor of Arts in Industrial Relations and studies in Marketing and German Language. He is also certified in Nonviolent Crisis Intervention through the Crisis Prevention Institute.

Dave was appointed to the Board after the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

THE EXECUTIVE



Diya Basil

Director

Diya is currently a student at Centennial College pursuing their diploma in Community Development. Interested in community health and well being. Passionate about the black community and helping the community see and reach their full potential. Currently engaged in community building projects abroad specifically in the Caribbeans and in West Africa. Diya is passionate about reconciling differences between the two communities to work together as one for the better of the whole black community in Canada.

Diya was appointed to the Board after the 2014 Annual General Meeting.



Chantelle Bishop

Director

Chantelle Bishop is pursuing a Bachelor of Health Science at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) where she currently serves as the president of UOIT's National Health Science Students' Association. She was a member of UOIT's Varsity Rowing Team and a recipient of an All-Academic award in 2013 and again in 2015. Passionate about policy and the academic wellness of her student peers, Chantelle serves on UOIT's Academic Council Executive Committee and is now beginning the second year of her term as one of two elected student representatives for UOIT's Academic Council. A strong believer in giving back, she volunteers at Lakeridge Health Oshawa where she works with palliative care clients in the End-of-Life unit. Chantelle aspires to be a physician. She values and appreciates the fine arts and plans to utilize this passion as a medium to help her patients and community.

Chantelle was appointed to the Board after the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

Financial Statements

NOTICE TO READER

The Board of Directors of the Black Health Alliance have prepared the statement of financial position as at March 31st, 2015 and the statement of revenues and expenses, and net assets balance for the year then ended.

Please be advised that these are unaudited financial statements due to the amount of funds being managed and the feasibility of an audit. Accordingly, readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

JR Dash
Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended March 31, 2015

1. ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE

The Black Health Alliance ("Alliance") is a registered Charitable organization incorporated as a corporation with no share capital in the province of Ontario. The mission of the Alliance is to reduce the racial disparities in health outcomes and promote health and well-being for people from the diverse Black communities in Canada with emphasis on the broad determinants of health, including racism.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

i) Basis of Presentation

The Alliance follows Canadian generally accepted accounting principles in the preparation of its financial statements which require that the statements be prepared using the accrual method of accounting. Under the accrual method of accounting, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when incurred.

ii) Fund-Raising Events Revenues and Expenses

Revenues and expenses from fund-raising events are recorded in the period in which the event takes place.

iii) Donations

Donations are recorded when received. Donated goods and services are not recorded in the accounts, except when they are used in the normal course of business and when a fair value for such goods and services can be readily determined.

3. GENERAL

Income Taxes

The organization is a registered Charity and while registered is exempt from income taxes.

Financial Statement

Financial Statements (Unaudited) For Year Ending March 31, 2015

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	\$ 2015	\$ 2014
Current Assets		
Cash and Bank	1,166	183
TOTAL ASSETS	1,166	183
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Bank	-	-
Accounts Payable	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	0
NET ASSETS - General Fund Balance	1,166	183

Income Statement

REVENUE	\$ 2014	\$ 2014
Donation	234	295
Fundraising	1,104	-
Membership	325	175
TOTAL REVENUE	1,663	470
EXPENSES		
Telephone	-	162
Bank Charges	68	35
AGM	362	-
Membership Support	113	-
Website	132	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	675	197
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	988	273
Net Assets – at beginning of year	183	(89)
Net Assets – at end of year	1,166	183

Community Engagement

Walk Good Fundraiser

BHA Board Members slipped on their running shoes, stretched their legs, and joined nine other community organizations as we walked 5km or 10 km (naturally BHA participants completed the 10km route) as a community organization fundraiser. The Walk Good Fundraiser is organized by the Jamaican Canadian Association. BHA would like to thank all those who pledged in support of the mission and vision of the organization.



Above: Members of the Board who participated in the walkathon.

(To the left) Dalon Taylor and Dr. Christopher Morgan both placed third in the Male and Female 10 km walk, respectively.



Flood Relief for Guyana

BHA Board members joined several other community groups and community members on the G98.7 FM Radio Fundraiser to gather much needed money and supplies as part of the disaster relief for thousands of people in Guyana following a massive flood in fall 2014.

Community Engagement

6th Annual Black Diabetes Expo

The Black Health Alliance has been a supporter and member of the Advisory Committee for the Black Diabetes Expo since its inception. The Expo is lead by the Caribbean Chapter of the Canadian Diabetes Association, a BHA member organization. This community expo attracts 600-800 participants each year and addresses the signs and symptoms of diabetes, its complications and treatment, with an emphasis on prevention and healthy lifestyle modifications. BHA promotes the Expo through community media, SHARE magazine and provides an information table display at the event.



First Friday's Health and Fitness Edition 2015

Black Health Alliance board members were among presenters at this annual event which features businesses and organizations with a health and/or fitness focus, including the Toronto 2015 PanAm Parapan Community Initiatives Group. BHA made participants and audience members aware of health disparities being faced in the Black community. BHA plans to continue participating in this annual event.



Biography of Nene Kwasi Kafele

Delivering the 2015 Keynote Address

Nene Kwasi Kafele is the former Director for Health Equity at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto for 11 years. He has been a Senior Policy Analyst with the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs as well as Senior Manager with the Ontario Anti-Racism Secretariat, both with the Ontario provincial government. Nene was also the Executive Director of the Jamaican Canadian Association for 7 years.

Nene has taught certificate courses at the University of Toronto's School of Social Work on Equity and Cultural Competence for Human Service Providers. He has also been a Sessional Instructor for the "Emerging Leaders" course at York University's Schulich School of Business.

Nene also has wide teaching experience in the Faculties of Environmental Studies and Education at York University and recently taught a York University certificate course on community capacity building in working with urban youth called Advancing Equity, Building Youth Capacity.

Nene Kafele has extensive research, teaching and clinical expertise in mental health and addictions. He is widely recognised for his contributions in the areas of Life Cycle Training (Rites of Passage) youth leadership, Equity, Anti-Oppression, Community Development, Strategic Planning and Human Resource Management.

Nene has received numerous awards for his work in social justice, human rights and equity over the past 35 years and is listed in "Who is Who In Black Canada". He was recently identified as one of the "100 most influential people of Colour Anti Racist Activists in Toronto" in the Annual Racism Free Ontario Campaign hosted by the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA).

Nene is a certified conflict mediator and volunteered with Scarborough Conflict Resolution Services for 10 years as a mediator. He was the founder and co-chair of the Health Equity Council, a Toronto collective of health organizations and advocates dedicated to advancing anti-oppression and equity in health.

He has a B.A. from the University of Toronto, an M.A. from the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, and is completing a PhD from York University, with a speciality focus in Urban Health, Health Equity and urban youth coping mechanisms. Nene also has an Advanced Certificate in Executive Leadership from the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto. Nene has researched and written extensively on youth leadership, community development, African spirituality, mental health and race, and holistic wellness.

Nene Kafele is the founder and CEO of Akoma Learning Centre, a collaborative training, capacity building and wellness space focussed on community development, organizational change, research, anti-oppression, trauma resilience, collaborative leadership and social justice planning and advocacy.

Finally, Nene is Manoyam Matse (Chief of Development) with responsibilities for the welfare of close to 300,000 youth as well as Ga Wolor (Strategic Advisor) in Manya Krobo Traditional Area in the Eastern Region of Ghana. His Stool name is Nene Kwesi Detse I.



Biography of Akwatu Khenti

2015 BHA Legacy Award Recipient

Akwatu is the Director of Transformative Global Health at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and an Assistant Professor with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Akwatu has a Specialist Degree in Economics and a Masters in Political Science from the University of Toronto and is completing a PhD in health policy and equity at York University. Akwatu is involved in a wide variety of international efforts to strengthen mental health and addiction in primary care; and previously led CAMH's development of a cutting edge training centre (the Eli Lilly Canada Learning Centre) and its specialized drug treatment and prevention programs for Black youth in Toronto, the Substance Abuse Program for African and Caribbean Youth (SAPACCY).

He is a principal investigator (PI) on several important research initiatives; including a CIHR funded randomized control trial (RCT) to test an anti-stigma intervention in primary health care in Ontario as well as a Grand Challenge in Global Health funded project to improve mental health conditions in Gujarat, India using human rights based approaches. Akwatu has also been co-leading a hemispheric drug research capacity building collaboration for the past 9 years with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD, OAS). This involves 30 universities across Latin America and the Caribbean. He also led the development of easy-to-follow, culturally adapted cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) interventions for immigrants of Latin American as well as African Caribbean origin (both English and French speaking).

Akwatu is a recipient of the 2010 Harry Jerome Award for Professional Excellence. In April 2008 Akwatu received the 'Ethno-Racial Education Initiatives Award' from the Department of Public Health Science, University of Toronto. In April 2007, Akwatu received the award, Educational Excellence for Community Health Care, from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto for excellence in teaching. In November 2005, he was awarded the William P. Hubbard Award by the City of Toronto for "pioneering work in community development, human rights and promotion of the African Canadian heritage" as well as the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for innovative use of culture in substance abuse programming.

"If we cross the river together, the alligators won't bother us"
~ African Proverb

The Black Health Alliance would like to thank our fellow community organizations that shared a cooperative spirit and worked alongside us throughout the year.

We look forward to the coming year filled with challenges and opportunities. We are confident that working in partnership we will advance the health and well-being of the Black community.

stay in touch

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