ANNUAL REPORT 2015/6

BHA

Black Health Alliance

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The past year for the Black Health Alliance (BHA) has been one filled with progress, challenges and changes but we have continued the committed to our goal. We hosted our inaugural forum on November 12, 2015, A Sound Mind: Mental Health in the Black Community, which was a resounding success. We provided a safe space for individuals living with mental illness, service providers, caregivers, supporters and champions of mental health, to begin to address the stigma of mental health in the Black community. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Kwame McKenzie, CEO of Wellesley Institute and he shed light on the reality of mental illness within the Black community. We developed several concrete recommendations from the forum that identifies the need for culturally competent training in areas of mental health across different institutions such as schools, law enforcement, Community Health Centres (CHC) as well as across social services agencies throughout Ontario.

In response, BHA is currently working in collaboration with the Tabono Institute and stakeholders on the development of a Mental Health Trauma and Resiliency Training Program. Life skills training, research on mental health in the Black community in Canada, were also identified as areas that require major attention. The need for a culturally sensitive mental health promotion campaign at the local, provincial and national levels was also identified. For mental health week, BHA created a number of online mental health infomercials including excerpts from A Sound Mind forum and started compiling a database of mental health professionals and service providers for the community. We will continue to develop these initiatives as we look forward to A Sound Mind II: Mental Health & Youth on November 12, 2016.

This past summer in response to concerns expressed by community members, BHA led a coalition consisting of The African Canadian Legal Clinic, Zero Gun Violence Movement and the Tabono Institute to organize a Community Stakeholders Meeting on the Future of the Substance Abuse Program for African Canadian and Caribbean Youth (SAPACCY) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

The July 20th Forum at City Hall was well attended by community members, service providers, media and clients of SAPACCY. Among the strong testimonials from SPACCY clients and difficult questions from stakeholders, a number of key recommendations surrounding staffing, sustainable funding, restoring the community advisory committee, and commitment to an Africentric, anti-oppression framework were made to CAMH representatives.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

In addition, BHA continues to build key partnerships on research projects such as "Ko-Pamoja": Learning together about breast and cervical cancer screening, in collaboration 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. We are also working in collaboration with Dr. Logie, professor at University of Toronto, on her project "Addressing social and structural drivers of HIV and sexually transmitted infections among diverse young women in Canada: A Mixed Methods, Multi-site Cohort Study". The focus of the study is on key populations of young women, like African Caribbean women, who face social inequities that increase their risk of HIV/STI in Ontario, Alberta & Saskatchewan. Our collaboration also extends to the Olive Branch of Hope on their Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign in partnership with Women's College Hospital, Health Equity Research Collaborative (HERC), TAIBU and Dr. Daniel from McMaster University.

BHA continues to build its community presence by participating in activities such as the Jamaican Canadian Association annual Walk Good community organization fundraiser, the annual Black Diabetes Expo organized by the Caribbean Chapter of Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA), First Fridays events such as their Health and Wellness Edition, Black Physicians Association of Ontario (BPAO) initiative to increase the number of Black medical students through the Learning Diversity office at the Faculty of Medicine at University of Toronto. These are only some of our key activities and we recognize that the strength of BHA is directly related to our capacity to build and sustain strong communication and collaboration amongst our members and partners. We will continue to identify opportunities for collaboration and engagement over the upcoming year. The Board of Directors' intend to continue to work on making patient-centered healthcare in Ontario in the Black community a reality. The first step was BHA's official submission to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Supporting Patient's First, an Ontario Health Equity and Black Health Strategy which makes specific recommendations regarding the critical need for universal collection and analysis of health data that includes factors such as ethnicity; and the necessary the implementation of a Black Health Strategy that can begin to frame the quality of the responses required to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities in the Black community.

Many of these initiatives will require a significant amount of our time and resources over the next several months but we are committed to working with our partners and fellow stakeholders towards a successful outcome. 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. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Dalon Taylor
President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Barbara Frum Library, 20 Covington Road
Wednesday, September 21, 2016
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

AGENDA

- Welcome, Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on September 28, 2015
- Annual Report of 2015 - 2016
- Approval of Financial Statements
- Election of Board of Directors
- Announcements & Upcoming Events
- Adjournment

Black Health Alliance Awards: Legacy Award to Kathy Nelson, RN, CDE
Founder & President, Caribbean Chapter of Canadian Diabetes Association

Special Presentation: The Need for Supports for Black Youth
Natasha Halliday, Youth Forensic Clinical Coordinator, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

These financial statements were prepared and approved by the Board of Directors. Complete financial statements are available upon request. The Black Health Alliance is a registered charitable organization **Reg# 81517 5674 RR0001**. All Canada Revenue Agency reporting requirements and the issuance of tax receipts have been met.

ASSETS	**$2016**	**$2015**
Current Assets		
Cash and Bank	2,271	1,166
TOTAL ASSETS	2,271	1,166
Current Liabilities		
Bank	-	-
Accounts Payable	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-
NET ASSETS - General Fund Balance	2,271	1,166
Income Statement (Unaudited)		
REVENUE	2016	2015
Donation	153	234
Fundraising	3290	1104
Membership	780	325
TOTAL REVENUE	**4,223**	1,663
EXPENSES		
Telephone	-	-
Bank Charges	78	68
AGM	685	362
Sound Mind Forum	2,787	-
Membership Support	180	113
Website		132
TOTAL EXPENSES	**3730**	675
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	493	988
Net Assets - At beginning of year	1166	183
Net Assets - At end of year	2271	1166

Kathy Nelson, RN, CDE

Founder & President
Caribbean Chapter of the Canadian Diabetes Association
2016 Black Health Alliance Award: Excellence in Health Education

Ms. Kathy Nelson is an experienced (over 50 years) registered nurse decorated with awards from the community and from her current employer of over 25 years Mount Sinai Hospital, Ms. Nelson is also a Certified Diabetes Educator.

The tragic loss of her father in 1995 due to complications related to type 2 diabetes was the impetus for Kathy to commit herself to educating herself, her family and soon the community about the disease. Kathy joined the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA), attended diabetes workshops and conferences in the USA and the Caribbean, and earned her CDE, Certified Diabetes Educator. In 1999 she founded the Caribbean Chapter of the Canadian Diabetes Association and began sharing her knowledge with thousands of people from the community through mall screens, her monthly church-based chapter meetings, community based research projects, and health fairs.

The Caribbean Chapter of the Canadian Diabetes Association has become one of the most active CDA chapters. Through the chapter's monthly meetings with invited specialist (dietitians, optometrists, endocrinologists, chiropodists, exercise physiologists, cardiologists, etc) Kathy has been able to provide one of the most comprehensive community based diabetes education programs.

Beyond the activities of the chapter, Kathy has conducted numerous diabetes mall screenings throughout the GTA screening several hundred people in a weekend, in each instance identifying individuals with undiagnosed diabetes and providing critical health information, support and guidance they needed.

In 2009, Kathy led the development of the Annual Black Diabetes Expo held in the spring of each year at the Jamaican Canadian Association. The Expo attracts 600-800 community members, organizations and health professionals and has become one of Toronto's Black community's most popular community health event.

Kathy Nelson is a community diabetes champion because of her deep commitment, passion and tireless energy in helping people prevent or live better with diabetes.

The Need for Supports for Black Youth

Natasha Halliday

Youth Forensic Clinical Coordinator
Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences

Natasha Halliday, BA, CYC, is the Youth Forensic Clinical Coordinator at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. She received her BA in Child and Youth Care from the University of Victoria. She has worked with youth for almost 20 years in a variety of milieus. She started out in community settings, including residential treatment homes and a community agency, working with 'at risk' youth in Toronto's East end. She has focused the bulk of her practice, working with mentally ill youth at Rouge Valley Centenary, North York General Hospital and Lakeridge Health Oshawa, both in inpatient and outpatient programs. She has taught in the Child and Youth Worker Program at Centennial College. She has spoken at mental health forums addressing drug-induced psychosis and mental health in the black community. She is currently in the process of developing programs to help youth function and live optimally through developing resilience and practicing mindfulness.