

**Executive Leadership 2008-2009**  
**Office of Minority Health**

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PAST YEAR (2008-2009)

- The Closing the Gap grant program was awarded \$3,279,546 from the Legislature.
- Developed and advertised the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Closing the Gap grant funding announcement. A total of 155 grant applications were received and 44 projects in 24 counties were funded with an average award of \$120,000.
- Initiated the development of a web based data system from a limited Microsoft Access Data Base to collect Closing the Gap project data.
- Developed and submitted to the Legislature the Florida Healthy People 2010 Report. The report contains Florida's health status comparison data in meeting identified federal Healthy People 2010 goals and objectives. The report also addresses the lack of minorities in health care professions.
- Collaborates with and provide support to the Florida Alliance for Health Professions Diversity (FAHPD) in addressing the lack of minorities in health care professions.
- Provided face to face and web-based technical training in proposal writing and board governance to over 150 individuals from community and faith based organizations across the state of Florida that were interested in improving their organizational infrastructure through the State Partnership Grant Program
- Collaborated with St. Pete College to develop a cultural competency curriculum geared toward health care providers and non-clinical personnel within the state of Florida. Secured rights to use HHS' ThinkCulturalHealth modules at no charge. The two HHS modules obtained are for a.) physicians, PAs, ARNPs, dentists, etc. ("A Physician's Guide to Cultural Competent Care") and b.) nurses, social workers, etc. ("Culturally Competent Nursing") Both modules provide the trainee with 9 hours of continuing education credits. A bid for proposals for a third module aimed at training non-clinicians has been disseminated and scored. Is working with St. Pete's College to develop platform for online Cultural competency training module for cultural competency curriculum.
- Collaborated with the Office of Health Statistics and Assessment, and other department offices to develop the Minority Health Profile for inclusion in Florida CHARTS. The profile will Highlight minority statistics such as: general socio-demographic characteristics, social determinants of health, maternal and child health, Injury and injury related deaths, deaths from: diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, modifiable behaviors leading to premature deaths, other indicators of high risk behaviors.
- Developed a draft of the operational plan to compliment the statewide strategic plan to ensure goals and objectives identified are met.
- Organized and implemented the 2008 Florida Minority Health Disparities Summit: "Bridging the Gap: Embracing Solutions to Eliminate Health Barriers." The summit examined challenges that contribute to health disparities and presented innovative strategies and recommendations to eliminate health disparities that impact racial and ethnic populations and bridge the health gap in Florida. The summit hosted over 400 participants.

Organized and implemented activities for the 2009 Minority Health Month which included:

- National Minority Health Month Tele-Conference: The teleconference was entitled *Preconception Health- A Healthy Baby is a Family Affair*. Speakers from the Department of Health, the National Office of Minority Health, Columbia University, Florida A & M University, CDC, and the University of Florida participated.
- National Minority Health Month Press Conference & Health Exhibits was held at the Florida Capitol. The event highlighted the importance of infant mortality and its impact on the total health of minority populations. Press conference speakers included Dr. Emile Commedore, State Surgeon General Dr. Viamonte-Ros, Dr. Hill Sappenfield, Dr. Fran T. Close, and former Representative Curtis Richardson. Various partners exhibited and provided health information.
- 2008 Take A Loved One for a Checkup Day: The event was in collaboration with the Leon County Health Department Office of Minority Health. This observance is designated to take place the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each September. It encourages individuals to take charge of their health by attending a community health event, visiting their healthcare provider or making an appointment to see a health practitioner. Individuals were also asked to spread the word so that their family members, friends and neighbors would do the same.
- 2008 Hispanic Heritage Month: The goal of the initiative is to emphasize the importance of increasing access to care and health literacy to reduce health disparities in Florida's Hispanic and Latino population. A press release was issued and an awareness event was held at the Department.
- 2009 Black History Month Profiles. Disseminated information to increase awareness within DOH of the contribution of African American healthcare pioneers. Profiles of prominent African Americans - Dr. Vivien Thomas, who played a pivotal role in treating the once fatal "blue baby syndrome" and Dr. Mary Logan, the first woman to perform open heart surgery - who contributed to healthcare were featured on the Department's web site.
- Participated in numerous forums and speaking engagements designed to increase awareness of health disparities across the state of Florida This included but is not limited to:
- Florida Department of Health Office of Health Statistic and Assessment Community Partnerships Workgroup Meeting- Dr. Commedore gave a presentation on Cultural Competency Task Force, Community Partnerships and the Office of Minority Health.
- Sisters Rise 2009 Aids Summit- Presented by River Region Human Services Betty Smith represented OMH and gave a workshop presentation on *Gender and Racial Disparity in Healthcare*.
- Black Leadership Commission on AIDS of Tampa Bay Affiliate Installation Ceremony Dr. Emile Commedore, OMH Director was a guest speaker and presented on the *State of Health Emergency for African-Americans in Tampa Bay*.
- African American Men's Health Summit: Held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. Dr. Commedore presented on *Health Screening Tests That Can Save a Brother's Life*.
- Energizing Florida's Economy: Seminar on Florida Stimulus Package held in Daytona Beach Dr. Emile Commedore attended this meeting on behalf of the Surgeon General.
- HIV and Health Disparities: Prevention, Access to Care and Adherence held in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Emile Commedore was the luncheon speaker and gave a presentation on *Bridge the HIV Disparities Gap*.

- Served on the Council on the Social Status of Black Men & Boys which strives to alleviate and correct the underlying conditions that affect black men and boys throughout the State of Florida to bring about an environment that promotes the values of learning, family, prosperity, unity, and self-worth among Black men and boys.
- Served on the The AIDS Education Advisory Council which provides a biannual opportunity for district and state level health professionals, lay people and youth the opportunity to communicate and collaborate regarding efforts to enhance HIV/AIDS Prevention Education in schools.

#### GOALS FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR (2009-2010)

- Reconvene the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Advisory Committee. Seek additional members as several have moved to different positions and no longer serve on the committee. A face to face meeting will be held in conjunction with the CTG training workshop on August 11-12, 2009 in Tampa, Florida. A responsibility of the committee is to recommend and develop a report to assist in the elimination of health disparities.
- Launch the CTG web based data reporting system in September 2009.
- Develop the Healthy People 2010 Report for submission to the Legislature by December 31, 2009.
- Continue to collaborate and support the Florida Alliance to increase minorities in health care professions.
- Reinstate the OMH newsletter
- Conduct an evaluation of the CTG grant program initiatives to include an economic assessment.
- Increasing the implementation of the Operational Plan goals and objectives throughout the Department of Health (DOH) which are to
  - Decrease morbidity and mortality rates due to health care disparities.
  - Advocate for resources that support the elimination of health care disparities.
- Increasing the awareness of the cultural competency curriculum and training within DOH which include:
  - New Employee Orientation Videotape on Cultural Competency in Health Care General module for non-clinicians --web-based (2 to 2.5 hours)
  - Think Cultural Health--Physicians Module--9.0 hrs. CMEs
  - Think Cultural Health -Nurse's (and Social Workers) Module---9.0 hrs CNE
  - Cultural Competency Resource Center---mainly links and other info on CLAS standards, Health literacy, Language Access Services in Florida
- Increasing the continuous connection of grantees to Resources through
  - Speakers bureau
  - Technical Training Modules
  - List serve communication
  - Increasing Community Based Participatory Research Workshops
- Implementation of the Minority Health Profile to be placed on Florida CHARTS that will Highlight key minority statistics

The following initiatives will also be addressed in 2009-2010:

- Cultural Competency & Health Literacy Training in FL

- Race & Ethnicity Access Services in FL
- Minority Population Usage of County Health Departments in FL
- Language Access Services in FL hospitals
- Impact of State Health Policy & Infant Mortality in FL from 1990-Present

#### MAJOR INITIATIVES OR CONFERENCES FOR COMING YEAR (2009-2010)

2010 Florida Minority Health Disparities Summit  
 2009 Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day  
 2009 Hispanic Heritage Month Events  
 2010 Black History Month Events  
 2010 Minority Health Month  
 2009 Closing the Gap New Grantee Workshop  
 2009-2010 Closing the Gap Funded Organization Projects

#### FOCUS AND HIGHLIGHTS FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS (2009-2010)

Cultural Competency: the number of individuals educated, referred into care, the development of policies and procedures along with pre and post test assessments and online assessments. The combined impact of the two-hour curriculum, and the longer course for providers might be further evaluated based on indicators such as patient satisfaction, patient no-show rates, medical errors related to provider-patient communication, patient error or disinterest in complying with medical advice, and hospital readmission rates.

Develop partnerships with other agencies to promote cultural competence. Other state agencies working in this area may be interested in partnering with Florida's DOH to determine if training providers in cultural competence can result in reduced readmission rates. Similarly, agencies working in the area of patient safety, behavior change, and patient compliance may be interested in collaboration.

Technical Training for community and faith based organizations

Complete, implement, and evaluate the goals and objectives of the operational plan.

Determine minority population usage of County Health Departments and develop initiatives to increase use of for racial and ethnic populations.