

# HEALTH ISSUES IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY FOCUS OF NAACP HEALTH SUMMIT

Health, a major issue in the African-American community, will be the focus of a special three-day program, a prelude to the NAACP's 1992 Annual Convention in Nashville, TN. The Convention, whose theme this

year is "Honoring Our Past, Fulfilling Our Present, Preparing for Our Future," will be held at the Nashville Convention Center July 11-16.

A pre-convention activity, the Health Summit is designed to

examine the critical issues facing the African-American community — including health care, cost, access and prevention — and to produce policy statements for both the guidance of the NAACP's constituency and for

action by policy makers.

The Summit opens on Thursday, July 9th, with a training session and reception for participants. The day's activities will conclude with a dinner featuring an address by Dr. Therman Evans, M.D., Vice President and Corporation Medical Director for the Cigna Corporation.

On Friday morning, July 10th, an outstanding panel of experts will come together to discuss the topic "The Need for Health Care Reform."

Among the scheduled speakers for the morning session are Dr. Lonnie Bristow, M.D., American Medical Association; Dr. Caswell Evans, D.D.S., M.P.H.; Assistant Director, Health Care Service, Los Angeles County, California; Dr. Richard D. Butcher, M.D., President-Elect, National Medical Association; Dr. Anthony Cebrun, J.D., M.P.H., CEO, Tennessee Primary Care Network; Wade J. Henderson, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau; Gerald Mossinghoff, President, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association; and John R. Stafford, Chairman/ CEO, American Home Products Corporation.

Following lunch, which will feature the Honorable Louis L. Sullivan, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services as the keynote speaker, the Summit will continue with two afternoon sessions, "Access: Proposal for Reform" and "Drugs and Violence As A Public Health Issue."

Among the scheduled speakers are Dr. Helene Gayle, Chief, International Activity, Center for Disease Control, HIV/AIDS Division; Dr. Benny Primm, M.D., President, Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation.

On Saturday, July 11th, the Summit will feature a morning session addressing the topic "Proposals for Strengthening the U.S. Health Care System."

Among the scheduled speak-

## VIEW FROM HHS

by Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.



For the 20 million Americans in need of drug and alcohol rehabilitation—and their families—we have a hopeful message. Treatment works!

That's what many years of experience in treating addicted individuals has taught us. The harder lesson we've learned is that successful treatment of addiction requires a whole spectrum of services if people are to remain drug-free and have a chance to return to productive lives.

And with the high risk of HIV/AIDS in substance-abusing populations, we must look beyond isolated, piecemeal substance abuse treatment to new, more effective and comprehensive approaches to care.

The model we know is successful is when the community's entire health, human service and social structure provides a safety-net for persons dependent on alcohol and other drugs. We also know that addiction is a complex, chronic, relapsing disorder that requires treatment, follow-up, and often, continuing assistance and aftercare.

The federal government, through the Public Health Service, is attempting to improve and expand access to effective treatment, as part of the President's National Drug Control Strategy. The quality of services, as well as availability, is a paramount key.

One innovative approach now being tried is the drug treatment "campus." In Houston, Texas, at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and in Secaucus, N.J., at Meadowview Hospital, treatment campuses will examine various approaches to residential treatment and evaluate which work best, and for which patients.

As many as five to eight different treatment approaches will be used on the same site, while sharing a central intake unit, medical and psychiatric

care, educational and vocational training, and recreational activities.

These campuses will have the added benefit of increasing residential treatment capacity substantially in two states which desperately need it. The demonstration facilities will also expand treatment for high-risk segments of these cities: ethnic and racial groups, adolescents, pregnant women and female addicts and their children.

Each campus will be able to treat up to 300 substance abusers at a given time. Patients may be self-referred or referred by treatment agencies, practitioners, the criminal justice system or social service agencies.

HHS has awarded approximately \$9 million to each campus this fiscal year. With contributions from Texas and New Jersey, the federal/state investment will total \$68.6 million over three years. HHS' Office for Treatment Improvement is also funding many other demonstration programs.

We all must help convince alcohol and other drug users, especially hard-core users, to become drug free. Unfortunately, overcoming an addiction is a difficult personal struggle requiring resolve, perseverance and determination.

While addiction is not easily treated, we believe that with comprehensive treatment along with a sustained continuum of care and support, we can eliminate the revolving door of relapse in which the addicted individual is all too often caught.

For further information, you may contact: Office for Treatment Improvement, Rockwall II, 10th Floor, ADAMHA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Md. 20857; telephone: Edward Brown, Public Health Provider, (301) 443-8802.

(Dr. Sullivan is U.S. secretary of health and human services.)

# HEALTH

## AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY DID YOU KNOW THAT MOST CANCERS ARE TREATABLE?

Most cancers are treatable? Early detection tests are available to detect cancer? There are more cancer survivors in the United States than the number of people in the city of Los Angeles? The American Cancer Society offers patient service programs that include: Transportation to and from treatment facilities, Support groups, Equipment loans, Ostomy supplies, Food supplements, and Wigs.....Free of charge to cancer patients? Smoking causes 90% of lung cancers, and 30% of all cancers? People who are 40% or more overweight may increase their risk of cancers of the colon, breast, gallbladder, prostate, and uterus? Ethnic minorities die from cancers that are curable, simply because they don't get regular checkups or early detection tests? For more information on services and ways you can decrease your chances on getting cancer contact the local American Cancer Society at 702-798-6877.

ers are Dr. Linda Burnes-Bolton, M.D. President, National Black Nurses' Association; Anthony Cebrun, J.D., M.P.H., CEO, Tennessee Primary Care Network; the Honorable Roscoe Dixon, Chairman, Health Committee, National Black Caucus of State Legislators; and Leslie Atkinson, Legislative Director for Health Issues in the office of Congressman Louis Stokes.

The session will be moderated by Dr. Donald R. Henderson, M.D., Clinical Director, Wadsworth Medical Center, University of California at Los Angeles.

The Summit will conclude on Saturday, July 11th, with a closing discussion and luncheon. It is being underwritten through a grant from the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association.



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THERE'S NOTHING MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD.