

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION

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year-and-a-half — has not been responded to, either by correspondence, or a phone call.

Hill says that it appears that his office location, and his being an African-American foot specialist, has a significant impact on how he is being responded to. He said that he has not ruled out legal channels in order to be given a clear-cut reason for non-inclusion in securing union claims clientele. With nearly fifty-percent or more of those who

reside in the West Las Vegas area; and who are union workers, being totally dependent on Prime Health providers who are located outside of West Las Vegas, Hill said that he believes that, "discrimination is paramount," and that legal channels will be used to stop what appears to be the "redlining" of African-American health specialists, particularly those who have taken a bold enough stand to stay within the predominantly African-American communities

of West Las Vegas and North Las Vegas. He said that he will not back off until his concerns are addressed.

"I sent a letter to Prime Health, which is the carrier for the Culinary Union. I have a letter here dated February 7, 1992 stating that they were thanking me for my interest in becoming a participating provider, but at that time they stated they had a sufficient quantity of providers and that they would not be adding to the network, and they also said

that they would keep the letter on file for future reference. About a year later, in January of 1993, I sent in another request. I received another response on January 28, 1993 with the same response, but a different name. It was essentially the same thing word-for-word."

"On June 1, 1993, I submitted a third letter, here, to Prime Health—Ms. Patricia Allen, Vice President of Operation—and I haven't gotten a reply yet. I also gave her a call on Monday, June

6, and I have not received a return call," Hill said.

"Many of the community members have come to me and expressed a desire for foot care services from me. The Culinary Union has approximately 35,000 members and quite a few of them live in the West Las Vegas area, and many have come to my office and inquired about whether or not I was a union provider. Daily, I have to turn union claim patients away, and this is a strong factor in being able to survive in the African-American community," he added.

When asked if any explanation has been given as to what determines a health care specialist's qualification for inclusion; how and when a sufficient amount of providers is determined; and who determines inclusion on the provider list should another provider be no longer available for the provider pool, Hill said there has been no

explanation given or dialogue with Prime Health other than the aforementioned correspondence.

When Linda Antos of Prime Health was asked by the Sentinel-Voice to answer some of these plaguing questions, she responded by saying, "We will not comment on anything that was said by any of our physicians. If Dr. Hill has some questions, he can call my office."

Believing Prime Health has had over a year-and-a-half to satisfactorily deal with this matter, Dr. Hill, in the meantime, will be initiating litigation, unless some immediate steps are taken to solve this dilemma.

"I have some patients, now on the books, who have gone out of pocket at the higher rates in order to secure my services," Hill said.

"They said that they would encourage their co-workers to do the same."

BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT

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agement, career development, environmental equity, law enforcement, and substance abuse in the workplace.

BIG is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of government workers at the Federal, State or local levels. It consists of more than 170 chapters established around the country, from Alaska to Florida. The organization seeks to promote a higher standard of public service through equality of opportunity.

"The BIG conference continues to be the most intense training experience available to government workers," Bowden stated. "It fills the gap between the real world—where people feel the impact of the quality of public service—and the government workplace, and presents the issues from a perspective that may not otherwise be available to many public employees."

Advance registration is \$225 for members and \$260 for nonmembers. After July 16, it's \$260 for members and \$295 for nonmembers. For more information, contact Wanda Heard, Conference Chair, at (202) 667-3280.

CCSN SUMMER ACTING CLASS

For all those aspiring actors among us who would like to find out if they have what it takes, the Henderson Campus of the Community College of Southern Nevada is offering that opportunity. Critically acclaimed director Brian Strom will teach a summer workshop exploring Shakespearean scenes, with special emphasis on "Romeo and Juliet." Through the use of theatre games, you'll be introduced to a NEW vocabulary of rehearsal techniques, to dig deeper into Shakespeare's text and shake-up those traditional classical interpretations!

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This workshop is an ideal warm-up for those upcoming auditions for two productions of "Romeo and Juliet." (Jetser Productions will present an Equity production of the play in Green Valley in September, with consideration given to local union and non-union actors, and UNLV will present the play in their Fall season.)

At the final meeting, students have the opportunity to work with Tom Ashworth, director of the Green Valley production of "Romeo and Juliet."

The 3-session workshop meets Saturday July 31, Aug. 7 and Aug. 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the CCSN Henderson Campus, 700 College Drive. The fee is \$69.

For more information or to register, call CCSN Community Education at 871-4404.

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