

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

PRESS RELEASE

June 3, 2009

Contact: Lenore Ostrowsky

(202) 376-8591

TDD: (202) 376-8116

U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION TO HOLD PUBLIC BRIEFING ON HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES BETWEEN MINORITIES AND NON- MINORITIES, AND BUSINESS MEETING

DATE AND TIME: Friday, June 12, 2009; 9:30 a.m. EDT

PLACE: 624 9th St., N.W.
Room 540
Washington, DC 20425

BRIEFING AGENDA

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will examine the reasons for persistent gaps between the health status of minorities and non-minorities in the United States, focusing on cardiovascular disease and the related condition of hypertension since racial and ethnic minorities continue to have more disease, disability, and premature death than non-minorities. Experts will present the Commissioners with results from ongoing research, health care delivery systems, access to and quality of care, community education, patient behavior, and other aspects of health differences between population groups. The Commission Chairman will make introductory remarks, followed by the speakers' presentations, questions from Commissioners and the Staff Director, and adjournment of the briefing.

Speakers will include **Louis W. Sullivan**, M.D., Chairman of the Sullivan Alliance to Transform the Health Professions, Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and President Emeritus, Morehouse School of Medicine; **Sally Satel**, M.D., Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, Psychiatrist, Oasis Drug Treatment Clinic, Washington, DC, Lecturer, Yale University School of Medicine, and author, *The Health Disparities Myth: Diagnosing the Treatment Gap*; **Rubens J. Pamies**, M.D., Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dean for Graduate Studies, Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and co-author, *Multicultural Medicine and Health Disparities* textbook; **Peter B. Bach**, M.D., Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, pulmonary and critical care physician, former Senior Adviser to the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and author, *Racial Disparities and the Site of Care*, and *Primary Care Physicians Who Treat Blacks and Whites*; **Amitabh Chandra**, Ph.D., Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University - Kennedy School of Government, author, *Hospital-Level Racial Disparities in Acute Myocardial Infarction Treatment and Outcomes*, *Mortality After Acute Myocardial Infarction in Hospitals That Disproportionately Treat Black Patients*, and *Do Race-Specific Models Explain Disparities in Treatments after Acute Myocardial Infarction?*; **Garth Graham**, M.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; **Herman A. Taylor Jr.**, M.D., Principal Investigator/Director, Shirley Professor for the Study of Health Disparities,

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Jackson Heart Study (JHS); **Barbara Howard**, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Strong Heart Study, Medstar Research Institute, Hyattsville, Maryland, and lead author, *Rising Tide of Cardiovascular Disease in American Indians: The Strong Heart Study*; **William Lewis**, M.D., for the American Heart Association's *Get with the Guidelines*, Chief of Clinical Cardiology and Associate Professor of Medicine, Metro Health Medical Center, Cleveland, OH; and **Bruce Siegel**, M.D., Co-Director, *Expecting Success: Excellence in Cardiac Care*, of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Quality Improvement Collaborative, The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2009 Meeting
- III. Announcements
- IV. Staff Director's Report
- V. Program Planning
 - Discussion of 2009 Statutory Report
- VI. Management & Operations
 - Motion Regarding Evaluation of Staff Director Performance (Melendez)
 - Motion Regarding Staff Director's Provision of Quarterly Financial Reports to Commission (Melendez)
 - Motion Regarding Commission Preparation of a Public Service Announcement (Melendez)
 - Motion Regarding Review and Standardization of Agency Regulations, Administrative Instructions and Other Practices (Melendez)
- VII. State Advisory Committee Issues
 - California SAC
 - New Hampshire SAC
- VIII. Future Agenda Items
- IX. Adjournment

Persons with a disability requiring special services, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, should contact Pamela Dunston at least seven days prior to the meeting at 202-376-8105. TDD: (202) 376-8116.

###

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Members include Chairman Gerald A. Reynolds, Vice Chair Abigail Thernstrom, Commissioners Todd Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlan D. Melendez, Ashley L. Taylor, Jr., and Michael Yaki. Martin Dannenfels is the Staff Director. Commission meetings are open to the general public. The Commission's website is <http://www.usccr.gov>.