



Black Women for Wellness
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RESPECT: Inclusion & Integrity of African Americans in Health Care Conference Fact Sheet

Conference Description

RESPECT: Inclusion & Integrity of African Americans in Health Care presented by Black Women for Wellness in partnership with the California Family Health Council and L.A. Care on October 29, 2009 at the California Science Center. The conference created a dedicated space to address the historical and contemporary affects of health care systems and laws on the lives of African American women. Discussions focused on addressing the reproductive health disparities experienced by African American women and girls through keynote speakers and smaller breakout strategy sessions brought together grassroots leadership, public health advocates, scholars, students, medical providers, health care professionals and community members.

Attendance

With support and direction from a cadre of collaborating partners, board and membership of Black Women for Wellness, staff and volunteers RESPECT participants totaled nearly 200 representing more than 53 community based organizations, clinics, health insurance corporations and government agencies women providing care and services to African American and Black women /girls. Evaluations illustrated 95% thought the topics very or extremely important to the health and well being of African American women.

Conference Program

Keynote Speakers

RESPECT! 2009 featured the following keynote speakers:

- **Thema Bryant-Davis** PhD – Associate Professor of Psychology, Pepperdine University and author, *Thriving in the Wake of Trauma: A Multicultural Guide*
- **Vernellia Randall JD** – Professor, University of Dayton School of Law and author, *Dying While Black*
- **Loretta Ross** – National Coordinator, SisterSong, and author, *Undivided Rights*
- **Gail Wyatt, PhD** – Professor, UCLA and author, *Stolen Women*

Breakout Sessions

RESPECT! 2009 featured breakout sessions covering a multitude of topics, including *social determinants of health status, defining cultural competency with primarily African American organizations and analysis and solutions to systematic racism in health care settings*. Breakout session leaders included: Nell Forge, Fran Jemmott, Mary Jane Puffer, Kimlin Ashing Giwa, and Yvette Ingram Chappelle



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Hall of Promising Practices

The Hall of Promising Practices posters illustrating a campaign, community event or a program
Participants in the Hall of Promising Practices at *RESPECT!* 2009 include:

- Auset Connection
- California Family Health Council
- Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
- Healthy African American Families II
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health
- Paid Family Leave Collaborative
- South Los Angeles Health Projects
- Watts Healthcare Corporation

Sponsorships

RESPECT! 2009 was generously supported by the following organizations:

- California Family Health Council
- L.A. Care Health Plan
- California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom
- Gilead Science Inc
- Kaiser Permanente – Community Benefits Program
- The California Endowment
- Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
- Watts Healthcare Corporation

Media Coverage

Black Women for Wellness had a variety of media coverage including weekly opinion editorials in *The Los Angeles Sentinel* and listings in all Los Angeles African American print media (*Los Angeles Wave*, *Our Weekly* and *LA Watts Times*, among others), participation with radio programs on KPFK 90.7FM and KJLH 102.3 targeting African American communities and a variety of internet coverage including live Tweeting and blogging from the event.

About Black Women for Wellness

Black Women for Wellness is an organization committed to healing, educating, and supporting Black Women. As a nonprofit organization, **Black Women for Wellness** is able to seek funding and accept donations to support our programs. BWW is a nonprofit corporation under Section 501 (c) (3) Revenue Code. Financial contributions to BWW are tax deductible.