

# HEALTH FYI



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**Newsletter of the Alliance for  
African American Health in Central Texas  
Addressing Health Issues of African Americans in Central Texas**

**"Our Health, Our Community, Our Future"**

**In Affiliation With Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department**

**Vision:** *We are successful when preventable and treatable illnesses among African Americans are no longer disproportionate to other community populations.*

**Mission:** *The Alliance will ensure that African Americans in Central Texas have increased access to health services and acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve and maintain optimum health for life. Through education, advocacy and community collaboration the Alliance will seek to eliminate health disparities and improve health status.*

## **Update: Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas Advocacy and Funding top action list**

On April 6, 2006, The Alliance met at the beautiful Boyd Vance Theater of the Carver Museum to discuss its plan of action for the balance of the year. Marva Overton, Alliance spokesperson, provided an update regarding the status of the Alliance. While waiting processing of pending application for 501c3 status, the Alliance is moving forward in three directions. Membership is the first and will be an ongoing activity. Membership shows support for the Alliance and its mission. Membership also provides an opportunity to volunteer in the start-up activities of the organization.

The second area is advocacy. Exclusion from discussions regarding structure, policy, and operations of current health care system has been an historical element contributing to the wide disparity in health services and outcomes for African Americans. Advocacy relates to involvement and participation in those discussions and presenting a point of view consistent with the vision and mission of the Alliance – reducing the health disparity between African Americans and other populations. Without that voice of inclusion, the results of the system are not likely to change. For an application and to obtain further information about the advocacy efforts, contact Marva Overton - [meoverton@austin.rr.com](mailto:meoverton@austin.rr.com)

The other area of action is funding. The Alliance, like most advocacy organizations, will need to move from volunteers to full-time staff managing programs in a business manner. Revenue to fund operations is a very serious component of any business. The Alliance has established a committee to develop a funding plan for the first three years of operation. Individuals interested in working in this area can contact Joe Barnes, [joe.barnes@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:joe.barnes@ci.austin.tx.us).

The process will follow these steps:

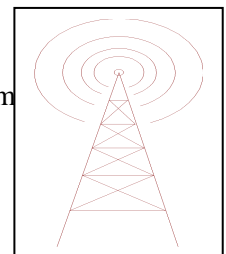
June 1, to June 23 Membership and Committee sign up

June 29 Meeting of members and others interested in this issue and effort, Rm 326, RBJ Bldg, 15 Waller Street

The Alliance thanks all those who have volunteered time over the past year. This was not and is not an easy task. As the saying goes, "if it was easy, there probably would not be a need for it". But there is a need for this type of organization. It is a quality of life challenge as well as a community challenge. The support from all segments of the community has been instrumental in the continuous development of the Alliance. Your continued support, at whatever level available to you, has been and will be the foundation upon which the organization will develop into a positive participant in the health care community of central Texas.

## **Quality of Life Health Initiative (AAQL) starts Weekly radio program to address health challenges in the city**

Austin/Travis County Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health and Community Services will begin conducting a radio program addressing health issues and health disparities in Travis County. Shannon Jones, Assistant Director, will serve as moderator for the weekly show. Each week, the program will address a community health issue or the progress of the African American Quality of Life Health Initiative (AAQL) headed by Mr. Jones.



The broadcast will be carried by KAZI, 88.7 FM each Tuesday starting June 6, 2006 from 8am to 9am. The first segment will outline the history of the African American Quality of Life effort by the City of Austin,

with emphasis on the health recommendations. Guests will be Marva Overton, spokesperson, Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas. Be sure to tune in to this program. The format will include audience call-in participation.



## **June Events**

- 3** Men and Boys Conference, Rosewood-Zaragosa Community Center, 2808 Weberville, 10am – 2pm
- 6** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit - Mission Possible, 12:00 – 5:00pm  
AAQL Radio Program, KAZI (88.7 FM) 8am to 9am
- 7** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit – Blackland Neighborhood Center, 12:00 – 5:00pm
- 8** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit - Huntington Meadows, 12:00-5:00p.m.
- 13** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit -Trails at Vintage Creek, 12:00-5:00p.m.  
AAQL Radio Program, KAZI (88.7 FM) 8am to 9am
- 14** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit -Walnut Creek Apts., 12:00-5:00p.m.
- 15** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit -Heritage Pointe, 10:00-3:00 pm
- 19** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit/Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas -Intergenerational Juneteenth Celebration, 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. Rosewood Park
- 20** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit -Mission Possible, 12:00-5:00p.m.
- 21** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit -Blackland, 12:00-5:00p.m.  
AAQL Radio Program, KAZI (88.7 FM) 8am to 9am
- 22** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit -Huntington Meadows, 12:00-5:00p.m.
- 27** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit -Trails at Vintage Creek, Trails at Vintage Creek, 12:00-5:00p.m.
- 28** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit -Walnut Creek Apts., 12:00-5:00p.m.  
AAQL Radio Program, KAZI (88.7 FM) 8am to 9am
- 29** AAQL Prevention Team Mobile Screening Unit -Eagles Landings, 12:00-5:00p.m.  
Meeting Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas, Rm 326, 15 Waller Street, 3pm