

DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

Over 25 Years of Service To America's Diverse Communities

A report on the 2016 16th Annual HealthCare Symposium

On May 18th, '**Dialogue on Diversity**' presented its 2016 16th Annual Healthcare Symposium at the Ronald Reagan building in Washington DC.

It was an informative and instructive day that featured experts in the health and wellness fields, from engineers and scientists to community activists, health policy wonks and wonkettes; with a special focus on behavioral health, the health barriers for the under privileged as well as concepts on wellness, the ongoing successes and travails of the Affordable Care Act or ACA, patient care privacy and pitfalls in the ever increasing world of computer technology and health disparities in economically deprived communities.

Attending were not only speakers from across the healthcare and wellness spectrum in both government and private enterprise, but an audience of health enthusiasts and activists as well.

Featured speakers included **Dr Eliseo Perez-Stable** the new director at NIH Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities and expert on health disparities in Latino communities, **Malcolm Joseph**, medical director of CareFirst and **Ysabel Duron**, recipient of the Health Leadership Award and founder and head of Latinas Contra Cancer, an organization that largely advocates and serves cancer patients in the Latino and Hispanic communities.

To kick off the event, **Ma Cristina Caballero** President and CEO of Dialogue on Diversity and the symposium's organizer, gave a welcome speech to all attendees where she outlined the days line up and subjects of specific importance with an introduction from the DC Mayor's Office of Latino Affairs **Julio Guevera**. He spoke about the aims and direction of MOLA which is to encourage social and economic advancement in Hispanic communities in the tri-state area in and around Washington DC.

MC Maria Burgos M.Ed, director of Global Learning at Prince William County Schools, had the honor of introducing **Tracy Harrison** VP of clinical administration at Unity Health Care, a community organization that provides quality healthcare to DC residents regardless of their income or social status including the homeless.

Along with **Fatema Salam** of Patient Centered Primary Care, based in D.C. but evolving evolving model neighborhoods health care centers for replication around the country.

Other expert speakers featured were **Dr. Karen Davenport**, of NWLC, consultant on women's issues in the health care law and former director of health policy research at Center for American Progress, and **Jeanette Contreras** of the Center of Medicaid and Medicare at HHS and expert on public health and government relations, who provided information on the progress and advances being made in the Affordable Care Act. She outlined what steps are being taken to address specific needs, fears and challenges faced by the immigrant Latino and technologically challenged poor and low income communities.

Dr Martin Mendoza of the FDA's office of minority health and **Jason Resendez** head of the Latinos Against Alzheimer's Coalition, provided critical information on the role of costly pharmaceuticals and developmental processes in relationship to clinical trials.

Mr Resendez focused on the disproportionate effects health disparities contribute to significant increases in the Latino and African American communities especially amongst the older demographic, and the steps being taken to address this ongoing and critical issue such as investing in research, clinical trials and innovative Alzheimer's drug development.

Scott Weinstein a lawyer who specializes in regulatory and privacy law in IT and **Dr. Adrian Gropper**, chief technology officer of the Patients Privacy Rights organization, addressed issues of patient rights in regard to law enforcement and access, and the use of unique patient identifiers used for specific purposes such as payment for services or access to a personal health record without the need to be associated with surveillance.

A special lunch session was spearheaded by **Dr Eliseo Perez Stable**, director of the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH, who gave us insights into the social disparities in healthcare and presented the global vision at NIMHD created as a direct result of the ACA.

He spoke of the ongoing commitment to promoting diversity in the medical workforce all over the U.S. and establishing credibility and expansion of research on health disparities for Latino and underserved communities.

Dr Perez Stable presented the Health Leadership Award to colleague and friend and former broadcaster in the Bay area, **Ysabel Duron** for her advocacy and activism. A former Hodgkin's Lymphoma patient she's dedicated to informing and educating the Latino community on health and cancer.

The afternoon session included **Jacqueline Watson**, Chief of Staff at the DC DOH, **Jessica Donze Black**, nutrition expert at Pew Charitable Trusts, **Teresa Nino**, Senior Advisor at CIS, Department of Homeland Security, **Susan Gaffney** of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, **Dr. John Davies Cole**, Epidemiologist for the District of Columbia and **Julian Escutia Rodriguez** of the Mexican embassy who spoke about the consulate's pilot program called "Ventanilla de Salud", a successful program of outreach supported by public, private and governmental partnerships that focuses on health access and prevention.

— Report by Wayne N. Fitzpatrick/thehideontree.com

www.dialogueondiversity.org is the official website of 'Dialogue on Diversity', a non-profit educational organization, dedicated to creative conversation and ground breaking dialogue among American women and men of diverse cultural and ethnic heritage.