

Dear Coalition Member, Partner or Friend:

It is our pleasure to invite you to join the Coalition to Promote Minority Health, AltaMed and CHC, along with Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health Task Force and other interested Congressional members to *Empowering Local Communities, Informing National Policymakers: A New Agenda to Address Health Disparities*, a regional health forum. The Community Health Forum will be convened at the California Endowment's Center for Healthy Communities in downtown Los Angeles on Friday, July 7th.

As sponsors of this year's event, our general goal is to highlight and develop local efforts to combat health disparities. Focusing on the work of local communities will raise awareness regarding critical health issues multiple barriers hindering access to and quality of care for communities of color. It is our hope that the lessons learned from the Forum and the sharing of community experiences will inform policymaker's work in California and Washington D.C. to better protect our nation's health.

A specific goal of the Coalition is to kick off the planning for our local Healthy Lifestyles, Healthy Communities initiative. With a focus on obesity prevention through community education and increasing community access to healthy lifestyles, this initiative is designed to grow into a national movement, but will commence in targeted areas in which minority obesity issues are most acute so outcomes can be measured and best practices can be spread nationally to other targeted areas. At the July 7th meeting, we will begin designing the Los Angeles initiative with like-minded policy makers, community organizations and business leaders.

Specific topics to be covered include:

- Action Plan for the LA Healthy Lifestyles, Health Communities Initiative
- Assessing the Health Environment of Communities of Color
- Behavioral Health and Community Well-Being: Combating the Impact of Mental Illness & Alcohol and Other Drugs in Communities of Color
- Community Leaders and Innovative Models of Care to Address Health Disparities
- Designing Healthy Communities and the Importance of Healthy Environments
- Effective Advocacy: Best Practices in Securing Better Health Policy
- Obesity and its Connection to the Disproportionate Impact of Chronic Diseases on Communities of Color
- The Local Community and its Role in the Elimination of Health Disparities

For additional information or to RSVP for the event or the VIP Reception, please contact Daron Watts at dwatts@cpmhinc.org or 213-896-6044.



A G E N D A
July 7th Community Health Forum

- 8:00 am to 8:45 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am to 8:45 am Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Members of Congress
Daron Watts, Coalition to Promote Minority Health
- 9:00 am to 10:00 am Opening Plenary Session: The National Perspective on Addressing Health Disparities
- 10:15 am to 11:15 am Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- A. Assessing the Health Environment of Communities of Color
 - B. Behavioral Health and Community Well-Being: Combating the Impact of Mental Illness & Alcohol and Other Drugs on Communities of Color
 - C. Obesity and its Connection to the Disproportionate Impact of Chronic Diseases on Communities of Color
- 11:30 am to 12:30 pm Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- A. Designing Healthy Communities and the Importance of Healthy Environments
 - B. Effective Advocacy: Best Practices in Securing Better Health Policy
 - C. Community Leaders and Innovative Models of Care to Address Health Disparities
- 12:45 pm to 2:00 pm Lunch Plenary: The Local Community and its Role in the Elimination of Health Disparities
- 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Community Dialogue
- A. Coalition to Promote Minority Health: Developing the Healthy Lifestyles, Healthy Communities Initiative
 - B. Other Community Dialogue
- 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm VIP Reception: *Presented by CPMH, AltaMed and National Council of La Raza (NCLR)*