



“Strengthening Families” AAHMI – Atlanta Forum

We hope you will join us for a very exciting event for African-American youth, college students and faith, civic and community leaders about the importance of healthy marriage in the African American community.

The African-American Healthy Marriage Initiative-Atlanta Forum will take place at the Morehouse School of Medicine Research Center. It will consist of a two-day forum starting on Friday evening, November 7 and from 8 AM-3:30 PM on Saturday, November 8, 2003.

Representatives from national organizations including Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC), the Centre for New Black Leadership (CNBL), the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), and others have joined in partnership with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services and other national and local community organizations, in proposing a strategy aimed at increasing child well-being and strengthening families by promoting healthy marriage.

The forum will provide a special venue for creative input and discussion on the AAHMI as it relates to African-American youth. A recent AAHMI Roundtable held in August in Washington, DC identified African-American youth as a much needed contributor to this initiative. The forum will include a mix of educational/informational workshops, theater, music and opportunities for discussion in open sessions about issues facing African American families today. It is designed to educate and inform a wide spectrum of participants about why marriage matters, consider the current research, and demonstrate how to effectively incorporate marriage education into human service programs for the African American population.

Some of the sessions featured at the forum will offer information geared toward youth, college students and young adults on Healthy Relationships and Marriage Education. Other sessions include Research and Applied Practices, Faith-based and Community Healthy Marriage Implementation. Sessions will offer guidance and insight on marriage from academia, community and faith based groups, youth advisors, parents and others.

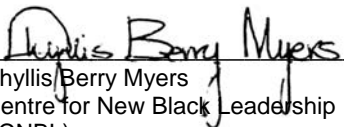
This initiative is about helping couples, who choose marriage for themselves, develop the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain healthy marriages now and in the future. It is also about providing youth with the tools and information to make healthy relationship choices.

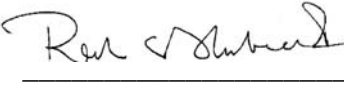
HOW TO REGISTER

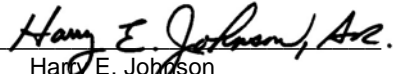
Please read and complete the on-line registration form for each individual participant. Registration is free, but slots are limited. Please register on-line by visiting www.marlawssystem.com as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, October 31, 2003.

Questions concerning the AAHMI-Atlanta Forum can be addressed to: Gloria Lawlah-Walker, (301) 588-9781, x101.

Sincerely,


Phyllis Berry Myers
Centre for New Black Leadership
(CNBL)


Reuben C. Blackwell, IV
Executive Directors of OIC of
America (OIC)


Harry E. Johnson
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

EXPLORE: LIFESTYLES,
RELATIONSHIPS AND MAKING
HEALTHY CHOICES

African American Healthy Marriage Initiative - Strengthening Families Forum

November 7, 2003
6 pm – 8:30 pm
November 8, 2003
8 am – 3:30 pm

MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
RESEARCH CENTER
720 WESTVIEW DRIVE
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30310

Special Training Tracks
for
Youth and Adults

CONVENERS:
CENTRE FOR NEW BLACK LEADERSHIP (CNBL)
ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF OIC OF AMERICA (OIC)

In partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration for Children & Families



Wanted:

- Youth
- Faith/Community Based Organizations
- Fatherhood and Grassroots Organizations
- Professional Associations
- Public and Private Sectors
- Policy Makers
- Federal and State Agencies

*Come and Share Your
Thoughts and Perspectives on:*

**Healthy Marriage
Building Relationships
Making Healthy Choices
Lifestyle Choices**

What Can You Expect?

Free Food
Focus Group
Entertainment
Fraternity/Sorority
Step Show

Opening Play – “Jumping the Broom”
Showtime: Fri., Nov. 7 at 6 pm

TO ATTEND THE FORUM...

FREE REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION GO TO
[HTTP://WWW.MARLAWSYSTEMS.COM](http://www.marlawsystems.com)

AND CLICK ON:

Register for AAHMI Forums

Enter Password: AAHMIFORUM

OR FAX REGISTRATION TO: (301) 588-9785

LIMITED SLOTS – REGISTER EARLY!

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN HEALTHY MARRIAGE FORUM
ATLANTA FORUM-PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2003

MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESEARCH CENTER

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

6:00 PM	WELCOME/INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE	C. Everett Wallace, Centre for New Black Leadership (CNBL) Harry Johnson, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Carl Gee, Executive Directors of OIC of America (OIC)
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CO-SPONSORS/CO-HOSTS	
6:30 PM	THEATRICAL VIGNETTES	Thomas Meloncon, Playwright, Truth Theatre Productions “Jumping the Broom”
7:45 PM	BREAK	
8:00 PM	DISCUSSION SESSION	Thomas Meloncon, Moderator Audience Discussion around relationship themes from “Jumping the Broom”
8:30 PM	CLOSING REMARKS	Carlis Williams, Regional Administrator Administration for Children and Families

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2003

MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESEARCH CENTER

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST	
9:00 AM	WELCOME/PURPOSE	Carlis Williams, Regional Administrator Administration for Children & Families
	CONVENERS/CO-HOSTS GREETINGS	Representatives from the Centre for New Black Leadership (CNBL); Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. & the Executive Directors of OIC of America; Department of Labor & the Office of the Governor of Georgia
	MUSICAL SELECTION	Youth Performer
	SPEAKER	Roland Warren, National Fatherhood Initiative Special Celebrity Guest
10:00 AM	BREAK	

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HEALTHY MARRIAGE FORUM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2003 WORKSHOPS
MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESEARCH CENTER

10: 15 AM- 11:45 AM WORKSHOP TRACK I

<p>HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS (YOUTH) Presenter: Clarence Shuler Moderator: Dr. Rozario Slack Participants: Youth ages 13-18 from church groups or arranged by civic or social organizations, grantees, schools, etc. Focus: Modified training excerpt from the <u>Art of Loving Well</u> (designed for grades 7-12); secular youth curriculum.</p>	<p>MARRIAGE EDUCATION (COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT) Presenters: Dan & Gayle Tate; Dr. Patricia Dixon; Khalil Osiris Moderator: Nisa Muhammad and/or Bill Stephney Participants: College students from HBCU's, churches & community organization, etc. Focus: Modified training excerpt from Tate model & Talking & Listening with Care (TLC).</p>
<p>RESEARCH/APPLIED PRACTICES Presenters: Dr. Obie Clayton, Morehouse College; Dr. Linda Malone-Colon, Hampton University Moderator: TBD Participants: Academia/research students, parents, youth advisors, community persons, etc. Focus: What research is available & what is lacking, best practices, challenges, next steps for building capacity for further research.</p>	<p>FAITH-BASED GROUPS Presenters: Dr. Diana Durham-McCloud; Dr. Benton Cook; New Birth Missionary Baptist Church Moderator: Rev. George Young Participants: Youth Pastors/Marriage Enrichment Staff/Parents/ Advisors Focus: Address questions around types and usage of curriculums for relationship building; discussion by attendees on what is currently being done in the church as it relates to marriage and how this initiative impacts the church-workshop may include selected Healthy Marriage training components.</p>

COMMUNITY HEALTHY MARRIAGE INITIATIVES
 Presenters: Bill Coffin, ACF HM; Grant Collins, ACF-CO, OFA; Mary Myrick, Public Ventures
 Moderator: Carlis Williams, ACF-RO
 Participants: State/Local governments; grassroots, civic and social organizations
 Focus: To provide information on the ACF CHMI concept, potential funding streams and the roles faith and community based groups can play in heightening awareness and offering services to support families through marriage. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for participants to share information and network around programs already in place.

11:45 AM- 12:30 PM LUNCH & MUSIC FOR YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS/NETWORKING SESSION

12:30 PM- 1:45 PM WORKSHOP TRACK II

<p>HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS (YOUTH)-continued Facilitator: Dr. Rozario Slack Interactive session to discuss morning session and dialogue around issues facing African American Youth that impact on relationships and marriage; feedback on possible learning opportunities and environments and topics that would meet the needs of youth.</p>	<p>MARRIAGE EDUCATION (COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT)-continued Facilitator: Nisa Muhammad Interactive session to discuss morning session and dialogue around issues facing African American Youth that impact on relationships and marriage; feedback on education topics that would be useful.</p>
<p>RESEARCH/APPLIED PRACTICES-Repeat Presenters: Dr. Obie Clayton, Morehouse College; Dr. Linda Malone-Colon, Hampton University Moderator: TBD Participants: Academia/research students, parents, youth advisors, community persons, etc. Workshop will focus on what research is available and what is lacking, best practices, challenges, next steps for building capacity for further research.</p>	<p>FAITH-BASED GROUPS-Repeat Presenters: Dr. Diana Durham-McCloud; Vivian Berry-Hill; Community of Faith Family Church Moderator: Rev. George Young Participants: Youth Pastors/Marriage Enrichment Staff/Parents/ Advisors Focus: Address questions around types and usage of curriculums for relationship building; discussion by attendees on what is currently being done in the church as it relates to marriage and how this initiative impacts the church-workshop may include selected Healthy Marriage training components.</p>

COMMUNITY HEALTHY MARRIAGE INITIATIVES -Repeat
 Presenters: Bill Coffin, ACF HM; Grant Collins, ACF-CO, OFA; Mary Myrick, Public Ventures
 Moderator: Joyce Thomas, Regional Administrator, ACF/Region 5
 Participants: State/Local governments; grassroots, civic and social organizations
 Focus: To provide information on the ACF CHMI concept, potential funding streams and the roles faith and community based groups can play in heightening awareness and offering services to support families through marriage. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for participants to share information and network around programs already in place.

1:45 PM - 2:00 PM BREAK

2:15 PM- 3:15 PM CLOSING PLENARY SESSION- Report Out- Feedback From Sessions
 Moderators: C. Everett Wallace, CNBL and Dr. Patricia Ware, DHHS
 Panel Facilitator: Julie Rainbow
 Three couples married less than 5 years; married 10/15 years and married for over 30 years will speak and participate in Q&A exchange with the audience.

3:15 PM- 3:30 PM CLOSING REMARKS: Diann Dawson, ACF Director ORO



AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTHY MARRIAGE FORUM
Morehouse School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA
November 7 – 8, 2003
Registration Deadline: Friday, October 31, 2003

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____ MI: _____
COMPANY/ORGANIZATION: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
TELEPHONE AREA CODE: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
FAX AREA CODE: _____ FAX NUMBER: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
AGE: 13 – 17 Yrs _____ 18 – 21 Yrs _____ 22 Yrs and Above _____

(The age information is required in order to tailor the youth sessions for the appropriate age levels.)

PLEASE INDICATE WHICH EVENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND:

Friday, November 7, 2003 6:00 – 9:00 PM

- Forum Opening Session
"Jump the Broom" – Educational Drama/Discussion by Thomas Meloncon
(Other plays by Thomas Meloncon: "Diary of a Black Man" and "Whatever Happened to Black Love?")

**REGISTRATION FOR SATURDAY TRACKS WILL BE ON A
"FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS"**

Saturday, November 8, 2002

Registration 8:00 – 9:00 AM
Forum 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM Vegetarian Lunch Preferred

Choose either ONE selection from Track 1 – OR – TWO selections from Track 2:

TRACK 1:

- Healthy Relationships (Youth) – All Day
 Marriage Education (College and Young Adult) – All Day

TRACK 2:

Research/Applied Practices 10:15 – 11:45 AM 12:30 – 1:45 PM
Faith-Based Groups 10:15 – 11:45 AM 12:30 – 1:45 PM
Community Healthy Marriage Initiatives 10:15 – 11:45 AM 12:30 – 1:45 PM

CONTACT FOR FORUM:

Gloria Lawlah-Walker, Phone: (301) 588-9781 x101
Address: 8121 Georgia Avenue, Suite 801, Silver Spring, MD 20910
E-mail: glwalker@marlawssystem.com

TO REGISTER BY FAX:

Fax registration to: (301) 588-9785



“Strengthening Families” AAHMI – Atlanta Forum

**African-American Healthy Marriage Initiative
Atlanta Forum
Morehouse School of Medicine Research Center
Friday evening, November 7, 2003 6 – 9 PM
Saturday, November 8, 2003 8 AM - 3:30 PM**

Rooms have been reserved for this event at the **main** hotel. The rooms will be held on a “first come, first served” basis. Transportation will be provided to and from the **main** hotel to the event location.

The **main** hotel selected for this event is:

Marriott Residence Inn – Downtown
134 Peachtree Street North
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-522-0950

Refer to group: AAHMI Forum

Alternate hotels:

Hilton Atlanta
255 Courtland
404-659-2000

Suite Hotel at Underground
54 Peachtree
404-223-6002

Hyatt Regency Atlanta
265 Peachtree Street
404-577-1234

Marriott Marquis
265 Peachtree
404-521-0000

Westin Peachtree Plaza
210 Peachtree Street
404-659-1400