



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

Over Twenty Five Years of Service to America's Diverse Communities

NEWS ADVISORY

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WASHINGTON, D.C. JUNE 11, 2018. Dialogue on Diversity launches its 2018 Health Care Symposium in a day-long program at the UNIDOS US offices on sixteenth Street in downtown Washington. The theme for this year's edition is the Quest for Policy Stability – The Routes to Wellness. “Our program overview itself is to be an essay,” remarks **Ma. Cristina Caballero**, Dialogue's President, “exploring what we have called a Philosophy of Wellness. This is the animating spirit that has come to be a leading theme in the movement for a sound and productive populace in times that may prove difficult to navigate. We want to be in the vanguard as the national discourse moves to map the routes forward, that in a spirit of Wellness.”

The Symposium gets underway with an opening discussion by **Dr. Joyce M. Hunter**, Senior Advisor to the Director of the Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH. In any realistic overview the health care universe is seen through the lens of diversity, as the health institutions of this supple and dynamic society are constantly recast with new discoveries and with its always fresh moral insights, so that the evolving form of the health care establishment can be one in which diversity exists in full vigor, with minorities sharing par with erstwhile majorities, this in a briskly moving engine of equality.

The agenda moves directly to a review of the never quite settled state of the law and regulations concerning health care, and the gyrations of the insurance markets that lie at the core of the system. **Mara Youdelman** of the Health Law Project and **Stephanie Glover** of the National Partnership for Women and Families map for the Symposium audience the current movements in the legislative struggles over the exact shape of the health care industries, while **Debra Curtis**, of the D.C. Office of Health Benefits, and the HealthLink D.C. insurance facility, outlines the panoply of insurance options offered to the D.C. medical consumer. **Dr. Malcolm N. Joseph**, a Medical Director for the CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield organization in the mid-Atlantic area, and a strong backer of our Dialogue, gives the main midday session address, reflecting on the imperatives of a sound and well articulated health care system in the conditions of a troubled society. Dr. Joseph is to receive Dialogue on Diversity's HEALTH CARE EXCELLENCE AWARD at this session.

Ron Honberg, the Senior Advisor to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, sets forth a studied view of the problems of mental illness in American society: the stance of the laws, the requirements of sufficient socialized care and ample financing for treatment needs, and the losses to the community from less than functional individual persons in households and schools and places of employment, and from the occasional harm through actively destructive impulses deriving from a mental disorder.

The afternoon sessions of the Symposium will hear from **Scott Weinstein**, a legal expert in the nexus of the law and the provision of care, and the troubled position throughout of the value of privacy, apt to be compromised in the health care complex.

Among afternoon topics is discussion of the variety of existing barriers experienced by low-income and ethnic minority persons, as well as the geographically isolated and other marginalized members of American society. Here is the familiar call for “cultural competency” in solving the quandaries of linguistic and cultural disconnects in the patient/provider interface. **Dr. Sergio Rimola**, a physician in northern Virginia, long experienced in working with the Latino communities as they relate to the wider English speaking society, reviews the essence of these sources of confusion and potential inefficiency.

In an agenda section focusing on the most formidable of present day medical conditions **Carmen Pastor**, heading the Fuerza contra Alzheimer's organization, reviews the role of civil society, financially and through stoking public awareness, in furthering the battle against Alzheimer's.

Among other speakers will be **Maria E. Rosa, Ph.D.** of the Universidad Adventista de las Antillas, PR, **Hilda Crespo**, Aspira Association, on HIV/AIDS, **April Rai**, National Organization for Youth Safety, on Bullying, **John Davies-Cole**, State Epidemiologist, D.C., **Bridgette Gomez** of Planned Parenthood, **Seme D. Ayane**, of Catholic Charities, on Health Care provision for Refugees, and **Jackie Reyes-Yanes**, Director, D.C. Office on Latino Affairs

Display tables will offer attendees a variety of materials on the work of many participating organizations. The program runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Reception follows the final panel.

Registration for the Symposium is gratis, and may be made at www.dialogueondiversity.org

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