

# THE COMMUNITY MONITOR

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF  
THE HOUSTON MEDICAL MONITORING PROJECT

## CONGRATULATIONS HMMP!!!



Congratulations to the Houston Medical Monitoring Project (HMMP), for having their logo contribution (shown above) accepted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and approved by vote by all 26 Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) sites across the United States and Puerto Rico. The Houston logo will be the logo used by all MMP sites. Michele LaLand, Surveillance Investigator for HMMP, designed the logo. “I designed the logo originally for use by Houston only. However, when it was submitted to the CDC for approval, staff there loved it and requested permission to adopt it as the national MMP logo.” The principal investigators voted unanimously at their meeting. There was another vote by all sites including the community advisory board and provider advisory board members. There were other logos provided by the CDC, however, our logo won that vote as well. The idea is that MMP is putting together a puzzle whose pieces include Access to Care, Quality of Life, Prevention Services, etc. The piece that is missing, “**Y-O-U**” could be either the provider or patient. MMP is a project that collects information from HIV/AIDS patients in care. MMP wants to know from the patients how they feel about their medical care, how they utilize prevention services, as well as if they practice prevention.

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## HOUSTON TRAINS THE STATE

### *Houston Medical Monitoring Project Local Community Advisory Board*

Steven Walker, Chairperson, *SLW  
Consulting*

Hunter Hammill, MD

Cathy Wiley, *HDHHS*

Dan Snare, *Bering Omega Community  
Services*

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Beau Mitts, *HDHHS*

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*TSC, HCHD*

Nancy Miertschin, *HCHD*

Porfirio Villarreal, *HDHHS*

Terence O'Neill, *AVES*

Roberto Andrade, MD, *TSC*

Sharonda Wright, *NAACP*

Tina Megdal, *Legacy Clinic*

Kelly McCann, *AIDS Foundation Houston*

Charles Henley, *HCPHES*

### *Houston Medical Monitoring Project Provider Advisory Board Representative*

Hunter Hammill, MD

### *Houston Medical Monitoring Project Consultants*

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Bureau Chief, *HDHHS*

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Jean Galloway, *Fort Bend County Health and  
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Kaye Reynolds, MPH, *Fort Bend County  
Health and Human Services*

Lupita Thornton, *HDHHS*

Umar Shah, MD, *HCPHES*

Marcia Wolverton, MPH, *HDHHS*

The Houston Medical Monitoring Project hosted medical records abstractor training for their counterparts at the state health department. Six members from MMP in Austin and Dallas traveled to Houston to receive crucial training in the area of chart abstractions. This project consists of both patient interviews and chart abstractions. Through partnership with a local provider, HMMP was able to conduct part of the training sessions at a clinic where participants had the opportunity to practice chart abstractions. Training was provided on CDC forms used to collect data, various medical terms and abbreviations, and medications and infections associated with HIV and AIDS. HMMP is responsible for Houston and Harris county while Austin is responsible for the remainder of the state of Texas. In May 2006, HMMP staff will travel to the national interviewer/abstractor training at the CDC in Atlanta. This will be the second opportunity for HMMP to receive and provide training to the other 26 MMP sites. In the past, HMMP has provided national web training on the sample frame method.



## NEW APPOINTMENT TO RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL



*Osaro Mgbere, PhD*

Osaro Mgbere, PhD of the Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Epidemiology has been appointed a member of the Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council. Dr. Mgbere is currently an Epidemiologist-Biostatistician at the Houston Department of Health and Human Services and he will bring to bear his wealth of experience in data mining and information sharing that will support decision-making tasks at the council. Each member is assigned by the Chair of the Planning Council to work on one or more of the seven standing committees: Administrative Assessment, Advances in Medications/Treatment, Affected Community, Comprehensive HIV Planning, Operations, Priority and Allocations, and Quality Assurance. Further more the Houston Ryan White Planning Council has significant activities throughout the year in which consumers, providers and members of the general public are encouraged to attend and provide public comment at any of the meetings.

Dr. Mgbere also serves as the Biostatistician/Data Manager of the Houston Medical Monitoring Project (HMMP), a new surveillance project that is designed to collect information from HIV/AIDS patients who receive care from randomly selected HIV care providers. The project will attempt to answer some pertinent questions such as: what proportion of People Leaving With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) use multiple sources of care? What are the met/unmet needs for medical services? What are the barriers of accessing care? What proportion of PLWHA are receiving treatment and care according to the United States Public Health Services (USPHS) guidelines? What factors are associated with non-adherence to Anti-retroviral therapy (ART)? It is hoped that the project which is on going will contribute to a nationally and locally acceptable morbidity data picture, Epi profile, documentation of Ryan White CARE Act-supported care impact, resource needs for treatment/care, and treatment guidelines. This information will be very useful in the decision-making process by Health Authorities, Ryan White Planning Council, Community Planning Group (CPG), public health professionals and other stakeholders.

For more information on Planning Council processes or to receive monthly calendars and/or meeting packets, please contact the office of support at 713-572-3724.

## OBSERVING AFRICAN AMERICAN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

### YWCA Press Conference Feb . 7, 2006

In observance of African American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Yellowstone YWCA hosted a press conference where leading political figures were present to comment on the state of African Americans and the rise in HIV infections.

*Pictured rt: Beau Mitts, HMMP CAB member; Michele LaLand, HMMP investigator; Councilwoman Ada Edwards; and Jeff Campbell of St Hope Foundation.*



### Positive Truth Gala Feb. 10, 2006

This annual event recognizes soldiers on the battlefield of HIV/AIDS prevention. Health Dept. employees received the Mayor's State of Emergency Task Force Shining Star Awards. Mr. Williams and Dr Troisi were among the award recipients.

*Pictured rt: Stephen Williams, Health Dept. Dir; Barbara Joseph of Positive Efforts, Michele LaLand; and Dr. Cathy Troisi, HMMP CAB consultant.*



## LEARNING, LOVING AND LIVING WELL

St. Hope Foundation of Houston utilized the philosophy of community partnership to host a weekend of events observing National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The events held on February 3-4, 2006 were co-hosted by St. Hope Foundation, Fresh Start Church, Abbott Laboratories, Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, Sunnyside Multi-Service Center and The Menil Collection. February 3<sup>rd</sup>'s event, "Cake, Coffee and Conversation" consisted of an evening of intimate conversation and book signing with Bishop Dr. Yvette Flunder, a noted HIV activist, author, and Gospel recording artist from San Francisco, CA. This event targets the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender community. February 4<sup>th</sup>'s events began with a series of seminars targeting the African American gay male community that addressed developing and maintaining healthy long-term relationships. This event featured speakers from Atlanta, GA, Dallas, TX and Washington D.C. The weekend culminated with a gospel concert that was designed to attract all members of the African American religious community. HMMP staff were on hand to provide information about the Houston Medical Monitoring Project to awareness day participants. St. Hope is now gearing up to participate in events being held during Houston Splash May 3-7, 2006. Houston Splash attracts some 10,000 black gay men for parties, educational, arts and worship events.

## HMMP REACHES OUT

### Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day Texas Southern University March 10, 2006



Sharonda Wright, Terri Davis and Garet Barrett of the Houston NAACP provided testing, info and condoms to TSU students. The NAACP facilitates the Women at Risk (WAR) committee.

### North American AIDS Treatment Action Forum in Oaxaca, Mexico Nov 2005

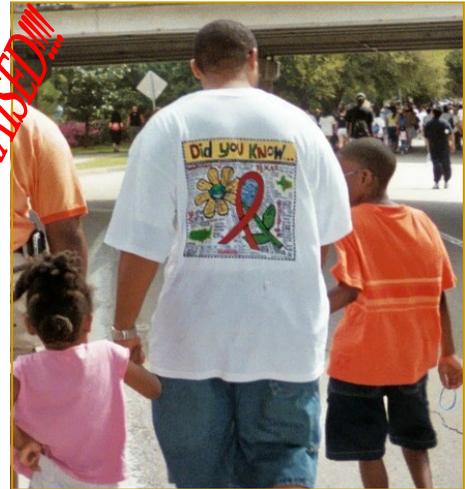


Taiwo Fasantoni, MD, HMMP Provider Liaison and recipient of the L. Joel Martinez (Founder of CFA) scholarship with a resident of Oaxaca.

# AIDS WALK HOUSTON 2006



Team HMMP raised over \$2800 to benefit Houston organizations dedicated to providing services to people living with HIV and AIDS.



*OVER \$700,000 RAISED!!!*



Captains from HDHHS Teams HMMP and Healthy Soles joined and walked together to present a united front in the walk against AIDS!



# AIDS WALK HOUSTON 2006



Warming Up For The Big Walk



Team Bread of Life

*OVER 10,000 WALKERS!!!*



Thomas St Clinic Hydration Station



Smiles From People With AIDS Coalition



St Hope Gets Ready



Team Lazarus House



Team AVES

## HMMP'S COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



The Center for AIDS Information & Advocacy (CFA) was founded in 1995. The CFA is a community-based, nonprofit organization in Houston that specializes in the latest treatment- and disease-related information. The CFA advocates for research and accessible treatments until there is a cure for HIV/AIDS.

Through programs such as direct advocacy, education and outreach, publications, and a storefront information center, The CFA provides the latest treatment and research information to persons with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers with the goal of improving the healthcare of patients and the quality of their lives. Each year, The CFA records more than 2,000 client contacts. The organization is one of just a handful of such organizations across the US and the largest community-based repository of HIV/AIDS-specific treatment and research information in the southwest US. Free publications, as well as information on educational programs and outreach, can be found online at [www.centerforaids.org](http://www.centerforaids.org) or call 713-527-2819.

### HMMP Staff & LEAP Graduates

Taiwo Fazoranti, MD and Osaro Mgbere, Ph D



Project LEAP is a 17 week advocacy training program of the Ryan White Planning Council and is facilitated by the CFA.

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POSTAGE

#### *HMMP Team :*

*Debo Awosika-Olumo MD., Principal Investigator*

*Hickmon Friday, MPH, MPA Coordinator*

*Osaro Mgbere, PhD, Biostatistician*

*Tai Fazoranti, MD, Epidemiologist*

*Lydwina Anderson, Investigator*

*Brian Goldberg, Investigator*

*James Gomez, Investigator*

*Michele LaLand, Investigator*

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**MONITORING PROJECT (HMMP)**

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