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**THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HOSTS
2008 FLORIDA MINORITY HEALTH DISPARITIES SUMMIT**

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health’s (DOH) Office of Minority Health will host the 2008 Florida Minority Health Disparities Summit on August 13-15 at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay in Tampa, FL. The summit’s theme is *“Bridging the Gap: Embracing Solutions to Eliminate Health Barriers.”* The event will examine challenges that contribute to health disparities and present innovative strategies and recommendations to eliminate health disparities that impact racial and ethnic populations.

“The summit presents a unique forum that brings together leaders, stakeholders, healthcare workers and advocates for the purpose of addressing Florida’s health disparities” Emile C. Commedore, M.D., J.D., Director, Office of Minority Health said. “The health of every Floridian is vital, and the Department of Health is diligently working to close the health gaps.”

The 2008 summit will feature two pre-conference workshops: an Oral Health Forum and a Community-Based Participatory Research panel discussion. The summit will also address the impact of socioeconomic conditions on public health, increasing minorities in healthcare professions and clinical trials, emergency preparedness and a variety of health topics that will be addressed in breakout sessions.

Featured speakers include:

- Louis Sullivan, M.D., Former Secretary of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Richard Williams, M.D., President of the Minority Health Institute, Inc., and Founder of the Association of Black Cardiologists
- B. Lee Green, Ph.D., H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute
- Kevin Stephens, M.D., Health Director, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Arlene Lester, D.D.S., Region IV Minority Health Consultant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Youjie Huang, M.D., DrPh, M.P.H., Chronic Disease Epidemiologist Administrator, Florida Department of Health
- Janie Austin Clayton, M.D., Deputy Director, Office of Research on Women’s Health
- Gary Puckrein, M.D., Executive Director, National Minority Quality Forum
- Adewale Troutman, M.D., Director, Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness

In addition to the summit, a town hall meeting will be held on Thursday, August 14 from 6:00pm-9:00pm at Hillsborough Community College, Dale Mabry Campus, Student Services Building, #113 Main Auditorium.

DOH promotes, protects and improves the health of all people in Florida. To register online for the 2008 Florida Minority Health Disparities Summit, visit www.gnahec.org/. Early registration is \$100 and entitles an individual to all conference activities and lunch. Registration after **July 18th** will be \$110 and on-site registration is \$115. Sponsors, vendors and exhibitors are welcome. To become a sponsor, vendor or exhibitor, visit the DOH website at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Minority/pdfs and word docs/MarketingProspectus08.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Minority/pdfs_and_word_docs/MarketingProspectus08.pdf). For more information about the minority health summit, visit the website at www.doh.state.fl.us/Minority/index.htm.

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