“The Advance” is a quarterly newsletter that is published by the California Black Health Network (CBHN) providing news, information, and resources that aim to improve outcomes and create a more equitable future and “health story” for all Black Californians.

It’s hard to believe that May is already here and that 2022 is nearly half over. Time flies!

As I reflect on the time over the past few months, so much has happened. Of most significance is the confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black female Supreme Court Justice. While this is a sign of progress, we still have more work to do to achieve a more just and equitable existence for everyone here in the U.S., especially as it relates to our health and well-being.

Click Here to read more
The past four years have added new dimensions to racial trauma and stress resulting from the isolation and grief associated with COVID-19 and its disproportionate impact on the Black population. This, coupled with the collective social distress spurred by violence against Black Americans, and the political volatility in the United States, has heightened the need for greater attention to Black mental health. As a result, many individuals seek help to address their mental health, however, help-seeking actions are often thwarted by the historical and inherent mistrust of the healthcare system and lack of access to culturally appropriate mental health resources.

So, what’s the solution? This CBHN Perspectives report attempts to answer the questions “What is the state of Black mental health in California?” and “What steps can we take to address the mental health crisis happening before us?” The following data reflects on the state of Black health before the pandemic. However, Lecia Harrison, Executive Director of Be Smooth, helps us answer these questions as we explore what California is doing to increase Black mental health awareness and access to culturally appropriate resources.

Click Here to read the Perspectives Report:
The State of Black Mental Health in California
CBHN, along with other key partners, is a co-sponsor of the California Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund (HE&RJF), a bold, innovative proposal to provide resources directly to community-based organizations, including clinics, and tribal organizations (CBOs) to identify the most pressing health and racial justice issues in their communities and develop solutions to address them. HE&RJF funded initiatives will: 1) reduce health and social inequities that impact communities of color and other historically marginalized communities and 2) transform community conditions and institutional government systems to promote racial justice.

In another year of historic budget surplus, in addition to the funding for health departments in the Governor’s January 2022 budget proposal, co-sponsors support an ongoing commitment of at least $100 million to the Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund to support CBOs as part of a comprehensive approach to improving the health and well-being of our communities.

On April 22, 2022, a series of justice rallies were held in Sacramento, Los Angeles, Fresno, Oakland, and San Diego. To learn more about the HERJ Fund, visit the official website.

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Statewide Research and Reports

Below is an updated list of research and reports centered on health equity and Black health in 2022:

- **In Their Own Words: Black Californians on Racism and Health Care**: The California Health Care Foundation commissioned interviews with 100 Black Californians to understand their views on health and well-being and their perceptions of discrimination and bias in the health care system.

- **A Toolkit to Advance Racial Health Equity in Primary Care Improvement**: The California Health Care Foundation made this toolkit to offer concrete, practical approaches and resources to help health care organizations to increase quality improvement efforts that center racial health equity.

- **Key Facts on Health and Health Care by Race and Ethnicity**: KFF findings that highlight the most recent reports on health disparities in the Black community.

- **The Intellectual Roots Of Current Knowledge On Racism And Health: Relevance To Policy And The National Equity Discourse**: A resource that highlights how the health of populations is deeply affected by large political and institutional effects.

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Policy and Advocacy

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Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund Rally, Los Angeles
Photo Credit: Morgan White
California Black Health Network (CBHN) is introducing a new platform to exchange ideas and information with key community stakeholders. CBHN hosted the first session on March 29 and will continue to host listening sessions, having conversations, sharing information with members, stakeholders and residents to receive input on the future goals of the organization. CBHN will be using this space to discuss shared experiences and produce specific action items based on the conversations shared.

May 2022

- **May 5**
  - *Big Day of Giving*: Thank you to all who supported CBHN during the 2022 Big Day of Giving. You can still donate and support us today on our website!

- **May 17 - 19**
  - *Black Health Agenda - San Joaquin County Collective Impact Meetings*

- **May 19**
  - *World Clinical Trial Day Event Featuring Jeri Lacks and David Lacks of the Henrietta Lacks Family*

- **May 25**
  - *Senior Health and Fitness Day Event with AARP*

**Click here to stay up to date on CBHN events**
CBHN celebrates Toni McNeil of Faith in the Valley as our May 2022 member spotlight. Toni McNeil is a full-time Community Organizer with Faith in the Valley of San Joaquin County. She works with various clergy, congregations, community residents, and concrete members surrounding Restorative Justice Issues. Ms. McNeil has been a passionate and involved partner in developing the Black Health Agenda in San Joaquin County, a program that identifies and solves key issues concerning Black Health disparities.

Watch the full interview here

Meet the Board

Abner Mason, CBHN Board Member

Abner Mason is a leader in driving health equity. Abner is dedicated to creating a more just, equitable, and effective healthcare system. As the founder and CEO of SameSky Health, he leads a team of diverse professionals who strive every day to improve outcomes and lower costs on behalf of health plans. SameSky Health is a post-Series B venture backed company with leading investors including 7wire ventures, Tufts Health Plan, Magnetic Ventures, Salesforce Ventures, and DaVita Venture Group.

Abner has spent decades working to reduce barriers to care faced by underserved people nationally and internationally, from the federal to the local level.

Read full profile
Thank you to our current Black Health Network member organizations!
*Note: Individuals are represented by their organization.*
The Black Health Network Cont.

- Parenting For Liberation
- Project Concern International (PCI)
- Peach Tree Healthcare
- Peer Voices of Orange County (PVOC)
- Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest
- Poindexter Consulting Group, LLC
- Providence medical group.. Napa
- Public Health Advocates
- Queen Afua Wellness Institute
- Rady Children’s Hospital
- Ravenswood Family Health Network
- Riverside Community Health Foundation (RCHF)
- Riverside County
- Riverside University Health System (RUHS) Women's Health Clinic
- Roots Community Health Center
- RPM
- Riverside University Health System - Public Health: Black Infant Health
- Sacramento County Division of Public Health
- Sacramento Maternal Mental Health Collaborative (SMMHC)
- San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH)
- San Joaquin County Public Health Services
- Santa Clara County Public Health Department
- School Health Clinics of Santa Clara County
- Self Employed
- SISTAHFRIENDS Women's Counseling and Elder care Management
- Sow A Seed Community Foundation
- Special Needs Network, Inc (SNN)
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) North Valley Hills Office
- Sterlin Wellness Rx
- Tarzana Treatment Centers College (TTCC)
- The Amelia Ann Adams Whole Life Center (AAAWLC)
- The California Endowment
- The Indi Women's Club, LLC
- The Urban Blackwell
- Therapeutic Play Foundation
- TRIANGLE PLUS 1 LLC
- Tuk Tuk Box LLC
- UC Davis
- UC Davis Alzheimer's Research Center
- UC Davis Health
- UC Irvine
- UCSF Black Women's Health & Livelihood Initiative (BWHLI)
- University of California, Berkeley
- Urban Health Group, Inc. (UHG)
- USI Insurance Services
- Valley Ministries MCC
- Village Keepers, Inc.
- Washington Hospital Healthcare System
- West Oakland Health Council (WOHC)
- Women's Cancer Resource Center (WCR)
- Word + Deed Community Aligned Birthwork
- Yes2Kollege Educational Resources, Inc.

Become a Member of the Black Health Network!

Join The Black Health Network

Free for a limited time

Learn more about member benefits and how to join at Calebblackhealthnetwork.org/membership

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Visit Our Website