

## **Just Medicine – Making the ACA Vision a Reality For African Americans**

**Walter E. Washington Convention Center**

**Thursday, September 15, 2016**

**2:00PM – 4:00PM, Room 147A**

A series of provocative conversations among doctors, social scientists, legislators, activists, and lawyers about new ways to achieve justice for African Americans so that we have an equal opportunity to pursue life, health, and well-being. Health requires equality in health care, housing, food security, employment, education, built environment, and personal safety. Each panelist will address ways to tackle inequality in these areas, using law, policy, data, and clinical strategies. We will discuss what *everyone* in Black communities can and must do to achieve health equity.

Introductory Remarks - Health Injustice - The Most Shocking and Inhumane Deprivation of Civil Rights"

Invited Speaker: Sylvia M. Burwell, Secretary, United States Department of Health and Human Services

Moderator: Roland S. Martin, Journalist, Host and Managing Editor of TV One's NewsOne Now

### Description of Content:

While the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has improved access to health care, the care Black patient access remains inferior to whites, and thus health disparities remain doggedly persistent. This panel will explore the reasons health inequality pervades our system, causing Blacks to die quicker and live sicker than any other population in America. This panel will feature the introduction of Dr. Thomas LaVeist's newest initiative, "The Black Men's Health Challenge." In addition, Mr. Daniel Dawes, an expert on the Affordable Care Act who was "in the room" when the law was written, will address the need for continued reform including Medicaid expansion in the remaining 19 states, coverage for the remaining uninsured, and insurance marketplace reforms. Dr. Brian Smedley, the nation's leading expert on public health equity and renowned leader of the IOM's landmark study, *Unequal Treatment*, will address social, economic, and environmental causes of racial and ethnic health inequities. Professor Dayna Matthew will discuss improving Black Americans' health by using civil rights laws to combat the unconscious racism that plagues the American medical care system, as well as systems that control education, employment, the environment, food distribution and law enforcement in our nation.

### The Health Care Inequity Problem

African American health outcomes are compromised by inferior access to diagnostic procedures, transplants, and other treatments of choice, as well as biased interactions with clinicians, payers, and institutions. Epidemiological evidence confirms that equality would close persistent gaps in survival rates for cancer, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses that unnecessarily result in Black patients suffering excess preventable hospitalizations and premature deaths relative to other communities. By one estimate, nearly 84,000 people of color die needlessly each year due to health inequality. This panel addresses the life and death issues that face Black Americans daily, and steps we can all take to repel efforts to reverse the health reform progress we have made in order to make the ACA goal of health equity a reality.

### Press Conference – Press and Public Invited to The L-Bridge

Immediately following this panel, at 4:30 pm, we will hold a press conference to launch **The Black Men's Health Challenge**, the most comprehensive study ever conducted of Black men - the least healthy population in America.

### Confirmed Panelists - 20 minutes each

- Dr. Thomas A. LaVeist, Chair, GWU Milken Institute School of Public Health Department of Health Policy and Management
- Dr. Brian Smedley, Co-Founder and Executive Director National Collaborative for Health Equity
- Daniel Dawes, Executive Director of Health Policy and External Affairs, Morehouse School of Medicine
- Dayna Bowen Matthew, J.D., Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow and University of Colorado Law School/ Colorado School of Public Health