

Exchanging Ideas. Exploring Issues.

A Community Service
of St. Mary's Church,
at St. Mary's Place



Monday,
October 20, 2003
5:30 – 7:00 PM

There is no charge for this program.

The Dugan Center
15 St. Mary's Place
Rochester, NY 14607-1798
(585) 232-7168
www.dcfrochester.org

Parking: There is free parking in front of St. Mary's Church.



Since 1985, the Downtown Community Forum (DCF) has offered an open exchange of ideas along with opportunities to explore important issues in gathering that are ecumenical, nonpartisan, democratic and value-centered. DCF encourages a better-informed citizenry by showcasing the diversity of the Rochester community. Support for these programs comes from the people of St. Mary's Church as well as individuals, corporations and the Rochester Area Community Foundation.

“What’s Goin’ On” — A Report of the African American Health Status Task Force

Speakers:

Bonnie DeVinney, Executive Director Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency
Wade S. Norwood, Rochester City Councilman and Chair, Housing & Economic Development Committee

In August 2001, the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency (FLHSA) convened the African American Health Status Task Force. The Task Force was charged with assessing the health status of the African American population in the Rochester region and presenting to the community a comprehensive Report of findings and recommendations. Over the course of the next eighteen months, the Task Force analyzed health data, convened several focus groups and heard presentations from researchers.

In particular, the Task Force wrestled with the question of mistrust and racism on health outcomes. **After extensive analysis of local, regional and national data, the study found that African Americans are more likely than whites of the same socio-economic status to die of heart disease and many other illnesses.** Why?

Bonnie DeVinney, executive director of FLHSA, will present more of the study's findings and discuss the dramatic implications for our region. Wade Norwood will highlight the process the Task Force used and help us understand the importance of creating community environments that build African American neighborhoods and support the families who live there.

Bonnie DeVinney has 25 years of experience in community health services planning and delivery. Her background includes operational responsibility for a community health center as well as

planning and programming responsibilities at the institutional and community level. She received a Bachelors degree from Trinity College and a Masters in Health Services Administration from RIT.

Wade S. Norwood was reelected in November, 2001 to his fourth term as a Rochester City Councilmember-at-Large. As chair of the Council's Housing and Community Development Committee, he has helped to craft numerous housing revitalization strategies, has led Council's review of the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Code and has been a leader in the effort to strengthen our commercial districts. Norwood has a degree in Political Science from the University of Rochester and is a life-long resident of Rochester.

Fast Facts

- African Americans are more likely to live in housing that is overcrowded, dilapidated and therefore presents serious health risks.
- Their mortality rate has not declined in 20 years.
- 1 in 3 African Americans is obese compared with 20% of the white population.
- African Americans were hospitalized 350% more often for “avoidable” cardiac-related causes.
- Homicide causes 2.1% of all African American deaths.

For an executive summary of the African American Health Task Force Report see Current Projects at www.flhsa.org