



MEDIA ADVISORY

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- What:** West Tennessee Health Diversity Institute (HDI)
- When:** November 26-December 2, 2007
- Where:** Various community locations and a three-day conference at Holiday Inn Select - Memphis Airport from November 29-December 1.
- Who:** Presented by Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators, Tennessee Black Health Care Commission, and Tennessee Division of Minority Health and Health Disparities Elimination.

The public is invited to participate in the West Tennessee Health Diversity Institute, a week-long educational event to increase community capacity in eliminating health disparities and in combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The three-day conference offers training, panel discussions and workshops for adults, professionals and leaders of faith-based, community and grassroots organizations on Thursday and Friday, November 29 & 30. Former National Medical Association president Rodney Hood, MD, of San Diego and Rev. Edwin Sanders of Nashville.

The third day on Saturday, December 1, is designated Youth and Family Day. Workshops for youth, ages 13 and up, parents and teachers will be offered at the hotel.

HDI Conference hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Select-Memphis Airport, 2240 Democrat. Free health screenings will be offered daily from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The exhibit hall is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. You must be registered to attend conference workshops and luncheons. For information on obtaining a registration form, call 1-877-606-0089, 615-741-9443, or 901-289-4251.

There are a number of other community activities offered during the week. HDI World AIDS Day observances will be held on November 27, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Orange Mound Senior Center, 2490 Park, and on November 28, 10:30-2:30 p.m. at Tennessee Technology Center at Memphis, 550 Alabama. A free showing of the "My Brother, My Friend" documentary will be held at 6 p.m., November 27, at the University of Memphis Psychology Auditorium.

Moreover, an HDI School Poster and Essay Contest for elementary, middle and high school students is underway. Deadline for entry is November 26. Contest coordinator is Fanta Gibson, 901-489-4378.

Sponsored Methodist Healthcare and the Bluff City Medical Society, a Health Professionals Workshop on Health Disparities and HIV/AIDS Awareness will be offered from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on December 1 at LeBonheur Auditorium, 50 N. Dunlap. Guest speaker is internist Rodney Hood, MD, of San Diego. There will also be a panel discussion. CEU credit is offered for the workshop, which is designed for physicians, nurses, social workers, medical and nursing students, and other health care professionals. Lunch will be provided following the workshop session. Contact Audrey Elion at 901-292-2672 for more information.

HDI events are free with the exception of the “My Brother, My Friend AIDS Benefit Concerts being produced by George W. Tillman, Jr. of Jabril World Institute/Cinematic Arts, Inc. (JWICAI). There will be an R&B concert featuring former Stax artists on Friday, November 30, 7:00 p.m. at Gibson Guitar Factory and a gospel concert on Sunday, December 2, 5:00 p.m. at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts. For ticket information, call 901-288-0054.

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