

# *Faith-Academic Initiatives for Transforming Health (FAITH) Network to Address Health Disparities*

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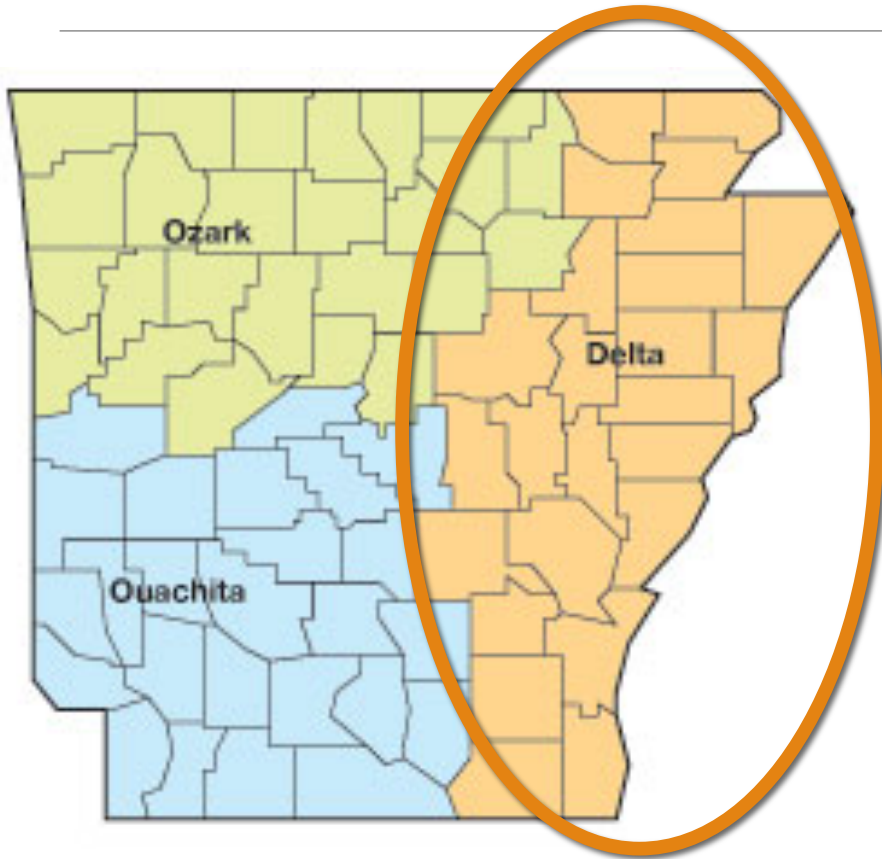
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# The setting: Arkansas Delta



Primarily rural with agriculture based economy

Characterized by:

- **Poor economic conditions**
- **Higher prevalence of chronic health conditions**
- **Increased risk of early mortality**
- **Poor access to quality health services**

Highest percentage of cities with predominately African-American populations

# Mental Health & Rural African-Americans

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African-Americans living in the rural South are particularly susceptible to mental health concerns.

This population is more likely to:

- have more stress from unemployment, poverty, and racism/discrimination
- receive little to no care at all or wait much longer to get help for mental health problem, and
- become ill, stay ill longer, and suffer more because they do not get the care they need.

# Addressing mental health in rural communities

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- Religion + Poor health= Non-Traditional Approaches
- Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
- Establish partnerships and engage diverse groups of clergy and congregants across denominations
- Develop evidence-based health promotion interventions



# Beliefs about Depression in the rural African-American Faith Community

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- “There’s a word (depression) that makes them feel like that they’re on the borderline of going crazy.”
- “Ain’t nobody gonna’ talk about being depressed, ‘cuz they kinda put some labels on you, and them labels makes them stay underground.”



# Beliefs about Depression in the rural African-American Faith Community

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- Depression is a result of a lack of faith in God
- Depression is caused by a generational curse
- Depression is caused by a demonic possession or attack of the devil
- Depression occurs among those who do not actively engage in religious activities (e.g. prayer, attending church service)

*Other thoughts not unique to the faith community:*

- Depression is not a real medical condition
- Depression is a sign of personal weakness

Bryant, K., Greer-Williams, N., Willis, N. & Hartwig, M. (2013). Barriers to diagnosis and treatment of depression: Voices from a rural African American faith community. *Journal of the National Black Nurses Association*, 24(1), 31-38.

# Roles & Recommendations to Address Depression in the rural African-American Faith Community

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	The Church	Pastor/Clergy	The Lay
Roles	Holistic approach to man	Provide spiritual guidance & support	Pastoral support
	Support system	Preach & minister hope	Peer support
	Provide health information, referrals & health services	Recognize depression and take appropriate actions	Lead as an example
Recommendations	Incorporate a program in the church that gives persons the tools they need to manage stress	Educate pastors/clergy about depression	Train lay members in the church to be “depression” experts
	Address the needs of men differently		
	Change depression terminology	Gain the support of the pastors	
	Educate the community about depression		

Bryant, K., Haynes, T., Yeary, K., Greer-Williams, N. & Hartwig, M. (2013). A rural African American faith community's solutions to depression disparities. *Public Health Nursing*. DOI: 10.1111/phn.12079

# Trinity Life Management: A Faith-Based Stress Management Intervention

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*Trinity Leaders and Community Advisory Board*  
Mississippi County, AR



Source: Bryant, K., Moore, T., Willis, N., & Hadden, K. (2015). Development of a Faith-based Stress Management intervention in a Rural African American Community. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*, 9(3), 423-430.

# FAITH in the Delta (2013-16)

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The specific aims of the study were to build the capacity of both community members and academics to conduct and collaborate in partnered health research in the Arkansas Delta region.

The goal was identify a key health issue and pilot an evidence-based intervention.

Funding Source: *National Institutes of Health/NIMHD (R24)*

# Renewed and *Empowered* for the *Journey* to Overcome *In Christ Everyday* (REJOICE)

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From left to right: Pastor Johnny Smith, Community PI; Dr. Tiffany Haynes, Academic PI; Dr. Karen K. Yeary, PhD, Academic Co-PI; and Pastor Jerome Turner, Community PI

Funding Source:  
National Institutes of Health/  
NIMHD U01MD010644

Haynes, T., Yeary, K., Turner, J., Smith, J., Curran, G., Bryant-Moore, K., Ounpraseuth, S., Kramer, T., Harris, K., Hutchins, E. (2018) Reducing Depressive Symptoms through Behavioral Activation in Churches: A Hybrid-2 randomized effectiveness-implementation design. *Contemporary Clinical Trials*, 64, 22-29.





Community-Campus  
Partnership Conference  
to Address Health Disparities

# “The Power of the Faith Community to Promote Health Equity”

June 17, 2016



## *Conference Aims:*

- Partnership Development & Continued Engagement
- Dissemination of Research Findings, Best Practices, etc.
- Generation of new research ideas
- To increase the capacity of researchers & community members in CBPR

Funding Source: Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) EAIN 2975;  
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD); UAMS Translational Research Institute



# “The Power of the Faith Community to Promote Health Equity, Part II”

April 7, 2017



Funding Source: Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) EAIN 2975; Arkansas Minority Health Commission; Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD); UAMS Translational Research Institute



# Delta Pastors Visit Springdale



## Arkansas



- “Community Building Community”
- Translation of successful research programs/interventions from one ethnic minority community to another

# Development of the *FAITH Network*

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FUNDED BY: PATIENT CENTERED OUTCOMES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PCORI) EAIN 4026



# Faith Leader Focus Groups (Fall, 2016)

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Purpose to elicit beliefs, attitudes and opinions about the faith community's role to

- addressing health,
- what the faith community is currently doing, and
- developing a network of faith organizations to address health.

Seven focus groups: Springdale, Dumas, Pine Bluff, North Little Rock, Marvell, Arkadelphia and Blytheville

# Focus Group Results/Themes

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- Bringing People Together
- Communication with Pastors/Congregations
- Current Church Activities
- Current Community Resources
- Resources Needed from the FAITH Network
  - Mental Health Training, Health Education, Wellness Facility/Center, Connection to Services in the Community, Grantsmanship, and others
- Community Health Coordinator

# Focus Group Results/Themes (cont.)

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- Barriers to Building a FAITH Network
  - Not having a holistic approach to mankind, stating health is not on the radar
  - Church at times promotes unhealthy lifestyles and behaviors
  - Pastors not living in the same city where they pastor
  - Pastors not sharing information
  - Racial Tensions
  - Lack of Vision from Church Leadership
  - Churches focused on their congregations, not the community
  - Problems with Awarding Grants
  - Mindset

# What is the FAITH Network?

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The FAITH Network is a partnership between communities of faith, community-based organizations, and researchers that focuses on improving the health of underserved communities in Arkansas. As such, we are committed to improving health through:

## **Research:** The FAITH Network commits to:

- ◆ Increasing the participation of communities of faith in Arkansas in health related research
- ◆ Providing training in patient centered research
- ◆ Connecting members of the faith community to researchers nationwide

## **Educational Outreach:** The FAITH Network commits to:

- ◆ Providing access to evidence-based health promotion and education programs to communities of faith
- ◆ Serving as a hub of educational resources for any faith community interested in improving the health of their congregation and community

## **Unity:** The FAITH Network commits to:

- ◆ Partnering with and working alongside organizations, regardless of religious affiliation, that share our ultimate goal of improving health for underserved communities in Arkansas.



# FAITH Network

## 2016-17 Community Advisory Board (CAB)

(Left to right)

Rev. Gregory Nettles,

Pastor Rick Iban,

Rev. Natasha Murray,

Rev. Edward Richardson,

Chaplain Steve Sullivan,

Rev. William Givens,

Rev. Bryant Whitted,

Rev. William Robinson Jr.,

Rev. Johnny Moore (not pictured)



# Vision for the FAITH Network

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- Development of evidence-based interventions/programs
- Disseminate research findings
- Translation of evidence-based interventions/programs (Implementation Science)
- Recruitment of research participants
- Identify partners in health research
- Connection to resources and other partners
- Provide health education
- FAITH Network “Research” Advocate Training Program





# FAITH Network Summit – September 9, 2017

## “Emotional Wellness: What can the Faith Community Do?”



**FAITHNetwork**

# FAITH Network “Research” Advocate Training Program

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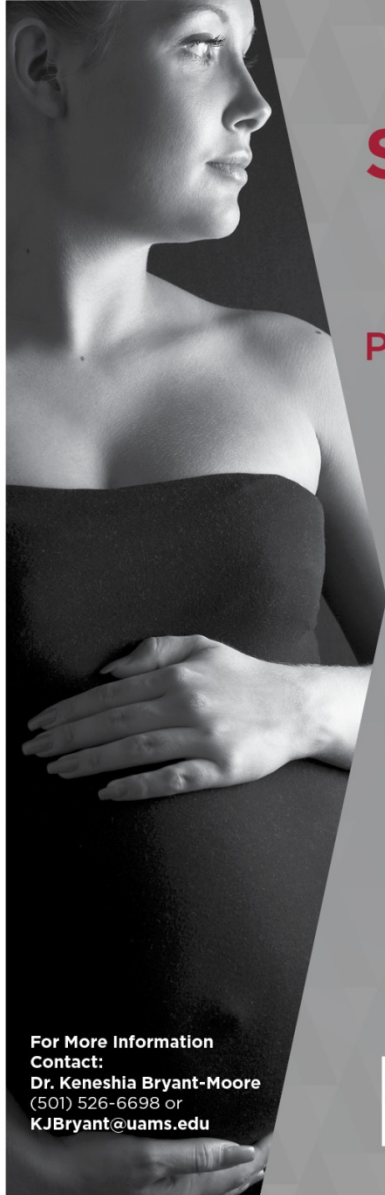
The goal of the FAITH Network “Research” Advocate Training Program is to build members of the faith community ability to engage in partnered health research and other activities that will improve the health and well-being of Arkansans, particularly those from vulnerable and underserved populations.

- ❖ 15- hour face-to-face curriculum (5 – three hour sessions)
- ❖ 40-hour paid internship



# Other Events/Programs

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**SUPPORTING  
FAMILIES IN  
CRISIS:  
PREGNANT & HOMELESS**

**Tuesday, March 13, 2018**  
**11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
Doors will open at 10:30 AM


**The Centre at University Park  
Banquet Hall**  
6401 West 12th St.  
Little Rock, Arkansas


Registration is now open at the following link:  
[supportingfamiliesincrisis.eventbrite.com](https://supportingfamiliesincrisis.eventbrite.com)

Registration is **FREE** and lunch is included,  
but is limited to 150 people.

**SPONSORS:**  
This summit is partially funded through  
a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute  
(PCORI) Pipeline-to-Proposal Award #7717048,  
administered on behalf of PCORI by  
Trailhead Institute.

**For More Information  
Contact:  
Dr. Keneshia Bryant-Moore**  
(501) 526-6698 or  
[KJBryant@uams.edu](mailto:KJBryant@uams.edu)

 **FAITHNetwork**





# Save-the-Date

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## 2018 FAITH Network Summit

September 14, 2018

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location:

Centre at University Park

Little Rock, AR 72204

# Future Plans...

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- ❖ Continue Annual FAITH Network Summit and Co-sponsor two regional events each calendar year
- ❖ Offer the *FAITH Network “Research” Advocate Training Program* in Spanish and Marshallese
- ❖ Provide information about and connect members of faith communities to research training opportunities
- ❖ Partner with other organizations to deliver evidenced-based health education programs to communities of faith in Arkansas
- ❖ To serve as a hub of educational resources for any faith community interested in improving the health of their congregation and community



# Questions?

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