



The Governor's Commission  
on African Affairs

*Presents*

**The 2014 Health Fair**

November 22, 2014  
9:00am to 3:00pm

*Hosted By*

DuVal High School

9880 Good Luck Road  
Lanham, MD 20706



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

November 5, 2014

Dear Friends:

I am writing to thank you for your support as Maryland responds to the Ebola outbreak now affecting the West African nations of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea.

To protect the health of Marylanders, we are actively monitoring all travelers from the affected nations to support prompt evaluations of concerning symptoms. We are working closely with medical professionals, the ambulance system, and hospitals to safely evaluate and care for patients. Should a case of Ebola infection be identified in Maryland, our public health system will work quickly to contain the spread of the illness.

To support efforts to address the outbreak at its source, we are providing support to Marylanders who are volunteering for service and working to coordinate donations to relief organizations. We recognize that no place on Earth is safe as long as this tragic outbreak continues to claim lives in West Africa.

To support the African community in Maryland, the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives is responding to reports of discrimination, and we are providing broad, science-based information to schools, businesses and others about who is and who is not at risk.

Our hearts and prayers go out to those in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea who have been affected by Ebola. The State of Maryland will do everything possible at home and in Africa to end this public health tragedy.

For more information, visit the DHMH website: [www.dhmh.maryland.gov/ebola](http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov/ebola) or the Governor's Commission on African Affairs: <http://african.maryland.gov/>. You can also reach the Commission directly at [African@Maryland.gov](mailto:African@Maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.  
Secretary



STATE OF MARYLAND  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
MARTIN O'MALLEY  
GOVERNOR



ANTHONY G. BROWN  
LEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
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GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION African AFFAIRS  
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**Commissioners:**

Valentina Ukwuoma, Chair

Jewru Bandeh, Vice Chair

Olaolu Adewole

Kwaku Agyemang-Duah

Mohamed Bah

Sarijan Bouma

Jean Bailey, Ph.D.

Leticia Enos

Anu A. Esuola, D.D.S.

Abimbola Idowu, Ph.D.

Suna Nafo

Theo Ngongang

Alfred Nkere

Frederick Nnoma-Addison

Joshua Nzueni

Mamadou Sy, Ph.D.

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the Governor's Commission on African Affairs we would like to thank you and your organization for your participation in our inaugural 2014 Health Fair. We are working towards turning this first event into an annual initiative. In this way, the Commission hopes to continue promoting healthy living within our African community.

As part of the Commission's mission, we have been committed to the health and well being of the Diaspora in our state. As immigrant Africans, our needs can differ from that of the larger minority populations, and the Commission has been focusing on how to most effectively address the Diaspora needs and concerns. Our work across the state to promote better health awareness will continue throughout the year and we hope to continue working with your agencies to provide the most reliable health information to our community members.

Again, we thank you for your time and resources for our event. Your participation and effort has helped make our first health event a successful one. We look forward to continuing our relationship with your organization and to keep you updated on all of our Commission upcoming initiatives.

Thank you,

Valentina Ukwuoma  
Chairwoman  
Governor's Commission on African Affairs

Anu Esuola, D.D.S.  
Chairwoman  
Health Committee Taskforce  
Governor's Commission on African Affairs

## Planning Committee Recognition

Today's program has been organized through the Governor's Commission on African Affairs, Health Committee Taskforce. The Commission would like to recognize the members of this committee:

Dr. Anu Esuola, D.D.S., Chair

Dr. Abimbola Idowu, Ph.D., Vice Chair

Joshua Nzueni, Committee Member

## Governor's Commission on African Affairs Members

Valentina Ukwuoma, Chair

Jewru Bandeh, Vice Chair

Olaolu S. Adewole

Kwaku Agyemang-Duah

Mohamed Bah

Sarian Bouma

Suna G. Nallo

Lady Kate Ndi

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Leticia Enos

Anu Esuola, D.D.S.

Abimbola Idowu, Ph.D.

Frederick Nnoma-Addison

Joshua Nzueni

Mamadou Sy, Ph.D.

Elias Woldu

## Special Thanks

The Governor's Commission on African Affairs would like to thank our host, [DuVal High School](#), for providing today's venue. In addition, on behalf of the Commission we would like to thank our sponsors who have made today possible:

BJ's Wholesale  
Capital Area Food Bank  
Chick-Fil-A  
Giant  
7-11  
#12 Caribbean Food  
Queensway

Little Caesars  
Safeway  
Starbucks  
Subway  
Walmart  
Zion Kitchen



## Health Fair Vendor List (Alphabetical)

2-1-1 Maryland	Cozi Furniture
Affyya Health & Wellness	DAMRON Accounting & Consulting Svc
African Women Cancer Awareness Association	Department of Aging
All Eyes on Africa	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Amerigroup	Discovery Learning Alliance
American Physical Therapy Association	Eko Club - Maryland
Asian American Center of Frederick	Envision Eye & Laser Center, PA
Assembly of Petworth	Exit Right Realty
BB & T Bank	EZ Rehab Solutions
BD Empowerment Forum	Fortis College
Cameroon American Council	Graceland Bible Faith Church of God
Center for Disease Control and Prevention	Glenn Dale Fire Association
Chariss Family Medical Clinic	Hand Enterprise LLC
Christian Association of Nigerian Americans	Hepatitis B Initiatives of WDC, Inc.
Colgate-Palmolive BSBF	House of Ruth
Community Radiology Associates	Howard University, College of Dentistry
Community Dentistry on Wheels, Inc.	Howard University College of Medicine

Howard University Hospital  
Department of Community & Family  
Medicine/ Department of  
Geriatrics/Department of  
Radiology/Viral Hepatitis Center

Inspiring More Mind

International House of Prayer

Kaiser Permanente

King David Party Rentals, LLC

LASERS

Liberian Association of Maryland, Inc.

Med Cyber Security, LLC

NativSol Kitchen

Norbrook Medical Supply

Office of Minority Health and Health  
Disparities

OSI Management, Inc.

PACANet - USA

Pace Group PLLC

Physiotherapy Associates

Prince George's County Department  
of Family  
Services  
Prince George's Health Department

Ray of Hope Foundation,  
International

RCCG Victory Temple, Bowie

Real Time Pain Relief (Haind  
Enterprises LLC)

Rite Aid

Sembe International, Inc

Shiloh Healthcare, LLC

Sims Chiropractic Center

Sisters 4 Sisters Network, Inc

TAMRI International

Technical Learning Centers

Tutu's Storybooks

Walgreens

WBGR Sports Network

We Refuse Abuse

West Lanham Hills Volunteer Fire  
Dept

Winners Chapel International

Women Heart

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

## Program

### Introduction and Welcome

Valentina Ukwoma, Chair, Governor's Commission on African Affairs  
Jewru Bandeh, Vice Chair, Governor's Commission on African Affairs  
Dr. Anu Esuola, Chair, Commission Health Committee Taskforce

### Ambassador's Greeting

Adebowale Ibidapo Adefuye, Ambassador, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria  
Jacinth L. Henry-Martin, Ambassador, Caribbean Island Nation of St Kitts & Nevis

### Prince George's County Executive Remarks

Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive, Prince George's County

### Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Secretary, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Dr. Laura Herrera, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

### Panel 1: Faith Based Outreach and Domestic Violence Awareness

Reverend Alexine Mendscote-Howard, Alpha & Omega Ministries International, Inc.  
Bishop David Adeoye, R.Ph. Graceland Bible Faith Church  
Lyn Twyman, L.A.S.E.R.S.  
Lilian Agwu Ibeh, We Refuse Abuse, Magazine

### Moderated Q&A

Iman Awad, Administrative Director  
Arlee Wallace, Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

### Panel 2: Infectious Diseases and Health Care General Information

Dr. Donald Shel, DHMH Director Cancer & Chronic Diseases Bureau  
Andrew De Los Reyes, Project Officer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Dr. Renee Bovellet, Envision Eye & Laser Center, PA  
Dr. Charles Howell, Department of Medicine Howard University Hospital

### Moderated Q&A

Iman Awad, Administrative Director  
Arlee Wallace, Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

~End~



## Health Fair Presenters and Biographies

### Ambassador Adebowale Ibidapo Adefuye. Embassy of Nigeria

Since March 2010, the ambassador from Nigeria to the United States has been a former history professor, Adebowale Ibidapo Adefuye, who has already helped to persuade the U.S. to remove his country from the government's "country of interest" terrorism watch list. Nigeria was placed on the list following the December 25, 2009, incident when Nigerian national Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab tried to blow up a Northwest Airlines flight headed from Amsterdam to Detroit.

Describing relations between Nigeria and the United States, Adefuye told the *New African*, "Historically, we've had a love-hate relationship with the United States. We are of strategic importance to America; that no-one can deny. They want us to be a bastion of democracy, a peaceful nation. If we're not, they get very angry."

Born in Ijebu-Igbo, Nigeria, circa 1947, Adefuye received his First Degree in History at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in 1969, and in 1973 earned a Ph.D. in History there, with a dissertation on "The Political History of the Palwo, 1400-1911." As a Fulbright scholar he studied at Columbia University, the University of North Florida and the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Adefuye started his academic career as a Lecturer at the University of Lagos, where he rose to the position of Professor, published books and articles, and served as Head of the History Department from 1985 to 1987. Among the books he has written are *History of the Peoples of Lagos State* (1987) and *Culture and Foreign Policy: The Nigerian Example*(1993).

He received his first diplomatic commission, as High Commissioner (*i.e.*, ambassador) to Jamaica, with concurrent accreditation to Haiti and Belize, a job he kept from 1987 to 1991. From 1991 to 1994, he served as Deputy High Commissioner at the Nigerian Embassy in London, U.K., when he was hired by the Commonwealth (formerly the British Commonwealth of Nations) as Deputy Director of Strategic Planning. After fourteen years with the Commonwealth, Adefuye took a job with the Economic Community of West African States, where he served as an Advisor for two years, from 2008 to 2010.

### Ambassador Joseph B.C. Foe Atangana

Ambassador FOE-ATANGANA Bienvenu Joseph Charles is a senior career diplomat with rank of Minister Plenipotentiary. He was born on January 6, 1952 in Edea, Cameroon, where his parents lived and worked at the time, though originally from Yaoundé in the then Centre-South Province of Cameroon.

He attended primary school at Saint Joseph School, Mvolye from 1958-1964; secondary school at the Saint Paul Junior Seminary in Mbalmayo, and completed at Saint Theresa Seminary in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

On obtaining his Baccalaureat certificate (equivalent to the GCE "A" Level) in 1972, he proceeded to the University of Yaoundé where he graduated three years later with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History-English and a post-graduate diploma in 1976. Foe-Atangana Bienvenu J.C. pursued his post-graduate education at the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC) where he

graduated in 1978 with a Doctorat de 3eme Cycle. He was initially recruited by the Ministry of Foreign affairs as a contract worker in 1976, but on graduation from IRIC he was absorbed into the Cameroon Civil Service as a career diplomat.

Joseph Charles Bienvenu Foe-Atangana served at the Cameroon Embassy in Kinshasa, Zaire, from 1981 to 1986 as Second Secretary, First Secretary, and Second Counselor, successively. In 1997, he was appointed Director in charge of Protocol at the Douala Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Six years later, he was appointed Consul of Cameroon in Calabar, Nigeria with jurisdiction over some 10 states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

He was appointed Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cameroon to the United States of America by the Cameroonian Head of State, His Excellency President Paul Biya, on March 11, 2008.

Ambassador Foe-Atangana is a practicing Roman Catholic Christian. He has attended numerous seminars and international conferences. He is the holder of several awards and decorations, both national and international; notably, Knight of the Cameroon Order of Merit; Member of the Niger Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Knight of the Cross of King Leopold (Belgium); Officer of the National Order of Merit (France).

Ambassador Foe-Atangana is married and has eight children. His hobbies include reading, travelling, and sports.

### Bishop David Adeoye, R.Ph., Graceland Bible Faith Church

Prior to his ordination as a Bishop he has served in different ministerial capacities in a denomination church for over 22 years. God released Bishop Adeoye into a greater dimension of His grace by forsaking the old order and embracing the New.

Since the inception of Bible Faith Church of God he continues to work and move in the grace and anointing of God that breaks the yoke of oppression and release burden from the children of God.

Bishop Adeoye is a powerful instrument in the hand of His Maker. He is set apart for His use. His life is grounded and rooted in the five fold ministry, He is a teacher, who teaches the unadulterated word of God that bring about changes in the life of those who are weary.

As a pastor he guides and nurtures his members with the staff of comfort. He is a prophet to many nations. He is married to Dorcas Olasimibo Adeoye nee Ajanlekoko. They are both blessed with three children biological; however they have in total 7 children now.

### Sylvie Bello, Cameroon American Council

Sylvie Bello is the Executive Director of the Cameroon American Council. Sylvie started out in the nonprofit world in the Fall of 1999 as an Accounting Assistant for a Family Service Agency in New Jersey. Prior to this Executive Director position, she was the Finance and Operations Manager for the Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington- a capacity building organization. She was an Obama for America (OFA) campaign staffer and worked in over 10 U.S. States for a year long period. Her outreach constituents were: Women, African Americans and People of Faith. Sylvie studied Finance and Accounting at Kean University. Her community activism includes: Co-Chair of the National African Heritage Month Committee, National Public Relations Officer of Omega Phi Chi Multi- Cultural Sorority.

## Renee Bovellev, MD, Envision Eye & Laser Center, PA

Dr. Renee Bovellev, a board-certified ophthalmologist, has performed thousands of LASIK, laser, ophthalmic, cataract and BOTOX® procedures. Her commitment to excellence in ophthalmic training and surgical technique, coupled with her expertise with state-of-the-art technology, has enabled Dr. Bovellev to earn her patients' confidence and trust. Dr. Bovellev offers both non-surgical and surgical treatments to enhance and rejuvenate her patients. Dr. Bovellev's practice emphasizes disease prevention, overall wellness, and patient education. Dr. Bovellev is committed to treating all of her patients with compassion and caring. She offers each patient an individualized treatment plan, and she is dedicated to helping patients make informed decisions about medical, surgical, and aesthetic treatments.

Throughout her career, Dr. Bovellev has distinguished herself in the field of ophthalmology. She served as assistant professor of Ophthalmology at Louisiana State University, and has worked at the National Institutes of Health. Her work in ophthalmology includes clinical research on the latest devices used in modern refractive surgery. Dr. Bovellev's work has been published in medical textbooks and ophthalmology journals in the United States and internationally. She lectures locally and across the country. Dr. Bovellev donates her time to caring for the poor both locally and internationally by participating in health fairs and medical mission trips. She has volunteered in Prince George's County, Washington DC, Louisiana, Jamaica, Africa and India.

Dr. Bovellev earned her bachelor's degree from Wellesley College and her medical degree from Drew-UCLA School of Medicine. She completed her internship at a Johns Hopkins-affiliated hospital and her residency in ophthalmology at Yale University, where she served as chief resident. Following her residency, Dr. Bovellev completed a Cornea and Refractive Surgery fellowship at the Louisiana State University Eye Center under the direction of Dr. Herbert Kaufman, one of the world's leading corneal and refractive surgeons. She continues to augment her education with additional training in the disciplines of oculo-plastics and aesthetics. Dr. Bovellev has been performing surgery since 1993.

Dr. Bovellev is a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Her professional affiliations include the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery and the Ocular Nutrition Society. Her practice is located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, where she resides.

## Congressman Elijah Cummings

Congressman Cummings has dedicated his life of service to uplifting and empowering the people he is sworn to represent. He began his career of public service in the Maryland House of Delegates, where he served for 14 years and became the first African American in Maryland history to be named Speaker Pro Tem. Since 1996, Congressman Cummings has proudly represented Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Cummings currently serves as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. As the main investigative committee in the House of Representatives, Oversight and Government Reform has jurisdiction to investigate any federal program and any matter with federal policy implications. As the Committee's Ranking Member, Congressman Cummings fights to hold the Presidential Administration to a high standard of excellence and to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the actions of the government of the United States. He also

seeks to identify appropriate reforms that prevent waste, fraud and abuse and that ensure government programs meet the needs of the American people.

Congressman Cummings serves on numerous boards and commissions. He is spearheading an effort to strengthen the Maritime curriculum at the Maritime Industries Academy (MIA) in Baltimore, serving as Chairman of the MIA Board and Chairman of the MIA Foundation Board. He also serves on the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors, the Morgan State University Board of Regents, the University of Maryland Law School Board of Advisors, the SEED School of Maryland, and the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors. He is an honorary Board member of KIPP Baltimore Schools and the Baltimore School for the Arts.

Congressman Cummings is an active member of New Psalmist Baptist Church and is married to Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings.

### Ambassador Jacinth L. Henry-Martin. Caribbean Island nation of St Kitts & Nevis

Jacinth Lorna Henry-Martin has served as ambassador to the United States from the Caribbean island nation of St. Kitts and Nevis since February 2011. St. Kitts and Nevis is the smallest independent nation in the Americas in both area and population (50,000). She also serves as her nation's representative to the Organization of American States.

Henry-Martin was born in Sandy Point, St. Kitts and Nevis, on July 28, 1961. Educated at the Sandy Point and Basseterre High Schools, she is fluent in French and Spanish. She studied Modern Languages and Cultural Management in Venezuela, and earned a Masters of Arts in Technical & Specialized Translation from the University of Westminster in the United Kingdom.

She is also a storyteller, poet, dramatist and songwriter who wrote the lyrics for the winning song at the 1995 Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) Song Festival in Havana, Cuba, and was crowned her nation's first Calypso Queen the same year in honor of her performance of "Fashion Police." In 2003, Henry-Martin published a book of poetry, *Dancing in Bondage*. She and her husband, Michael Martin, have three sons.

### Charles D. Howell, MD, AGAF, Department of Medicine Howard University Hospital

Dr. Charles D. Howell is Professor of Medicine and Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the Howard University College of Medicine and Howard University Hospital. A native of Alabama, Dr. Howell received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Tuskegee Institute and the Doctor of Medicine degree with honors from Howard University. He completed an Internal Medicine residency at the Baylor College of Medicine Affiliated Hospitals in Houston, TX (1982-85) and a Gastroenterology and Hepatology fellowship at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCHSC) in Denver, CO (1985-88). He is board certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology.

In 1988, Dr. Howell joined the faculty at the UCHSC as an Assistant Professor of Medicine. During his tenure at Colorado, Dr. Howell was a recipient of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Minority Medical Faculty Development Program fellowship and the NIH FIRST awards. In 1994, Howell joined the University of Maryland School of Medicine faculty as Associate Professor. As the founding Director of Hepatology and Medical Director of Liver Transplantation, he was instrumental in building a successful transplant hepatology program. Dr. Howell has

published more than 60 journal articles, book chapters and reviews and is recognized nationally for his medical expertise and research accomplishments. In addition, he has been a frequent lecturer at national meetings. Moreover, he has mentored many students, residents, fellows and junior faculty members during his career. He is a fellow of American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) and a member of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), American Transplantation Society, and Association for Academic Minority Physicians. Dr. Howell has served on many professional society committees, and previously chaired the AGA Committee on Under-represented Minorities and the AASLD Public Policy Committee. He has been a member of numerous National Institutes of Health research study sections and the editorial boards of *Hepatology*, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, *Current Hepatology Reports*, and the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Dr. Howell has had a long-standing research interest in racial disparities in liver diseases, with a focus on chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection and primary liver cancer. He will direct a new interdisciplinary viral hepatitis program at Howard University that will work to reduce the burden of hepatitis in the Washington metropolitan area through high-quality patient care, education, research, and community service.

Dr. Howell's research activity has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, private foundations, and private corporations since 1988. From 2000-2007, Howell chaired the Steering Committee for the study of viral resistance to antiviral therapy for chronic hepatitis C (VIRAHEP-C). He was one of eight principal investigators for this NIH-sponsored, multicenter study, which investigated the basis for the lower efficacy of interferon and ribavirin therapy for hepatitis C in African Americans compared to White Americans. From 2011-2013, he co-chaired the National Medical Association's Task Force on Hepatitis C in African Americans.

### Reverend Alexine Mendscole-Howard, Alpha & Omega Ministries International, Inc.

Rev. Alexine Mendscole-Howard is a native of the Republic of Liberia located in West Africa. Currently Rev. Howard lives in Caldwell, Montserrado County, Liberia. She completed high school at the College of West Africa in Monrovia, Liberia. While attending Syracuse University in New York, she pursued course work in mass communications and worked in radio and television at ELBC, the Liberian Broadcasting Corporation. She was the owner of a child development home in Montgomery County Maryland and obtained an early childhood development certification from Montgomery College.

She and her late husband, Rev. Richard Howard, founded the African American Central Baptist Church in 1983 in Silver Spring, MD. Their work in Maryland was with the homeless and girls. As a result of this work they created the Moms program. Rev. Mendscole-Howard was licensed and ordained in 1987. Her first mission assignment was in Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa from 1990-1991 where she and her husband serviced Liberian refugees who resided in the Wellington Camp outside Freetown. While in Sierra Leone, the Howards started a school for refugees, conducted church services and bible study and assisted the refugees with paying bills.

Rev. Howard became an associate member of Faith United Church of Christ in 2010. She was married to Alvin Eastman and from this union were six girls three of whom live in Maryland, one in Virginia, one in Tennessee and the sixth returned to Liberia in 2010. This marriage ended in divorce. The Alpha and Omega ministry in Caldwell involves services to destitute men, women, children and the aged; feeding, teaching the word, developing a community center and planning to repair and reopen the health clinic. Currently there is no health clinic in Caldwell. On holidays the



Alpha and Omega Ministry feeds approximately 100 children and adults. Pastor Rick Howard joined the ancestors in April 2011.

### Lilian Agwu Ibeh. We Refuse Abuse, Magazine

We Refuse Inc., is a registered business and 501(c)3 organization established by the Founder and President, Lilian Agwu Ibeh since 2010. We Refuse Inc. is located in the State of Maryland for the purposes of "Empowerment, Inspiration and Education" by the survivors of abuse to the victims, on how to be a survivor, how to seek help and be safe from Abuse. The Organization has Board Members who are supportive of the initiative through volunteer work. We have since published magazine which is distributed in libraries and homeless shelters in collaboration with Montgomery County who funded the publication and our initiative in 2011 and 2013. We are seeking to include other members of the public, men and women, who can help with this cause.

### Drew De Los Reyes, Public Health Advisor, HHS

Drew De Los Reyes currently serves as a Project Officer within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Region III. Previously, he served at the Centers for Disease Control in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention with a focus on the Southern United States and was also assigned as a Public Health Advisor to the City of Philadelphia's STD Control Program as the Assistant Program Manager and Director for Special Projects where he developed and launched "Take Control Philly" - a teen specific social marketing and media campaign designed to raise awareness of the rise of STDs and HIV among young people in Philadelphia, promote an ongoing dialogue about healthy sexual decision making practices, and increase the availability of condoms. Additionally, he served as the Project Director for the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation's HIV Testing Expansion Initiative where he oversaw the increase of HIV testing in hospital and clinic-based settings from 90,000 to over 200,000 unique HIV tests annually. Drew has presented at local, state, national, and international forums on HIV outreach, recruitment, testing, and linkage to care strategies. He has authored HIV testing policies and procedures manuals which have been used as model documents by the New York AIDS Institute, the Israel AIDS Task Force, and the National AIDS Program of Chile. Previous positions include: Assistant Director of the David Geffen Center at Gay Men's Health Crisis and Senior Worker on the CDC/University of Southern California's Collaborative Injection Drug Users Study II in Los Angeles. He is a proud United States Marine Corps veteran, and was honorably discharged after having served combat tours during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

### Joshua Sharfstein, MD. Secretary of the Maryland DHMH

Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein was appointed by Governor Martin O'Malley as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in January 2011. The Department includes Medicaid, public health, behavioral health, and services for the developmentally disabled, with an annual budget of approximately \$10 billion.

In March 2009, President Obama appointed Dr. Sharfstein to serve as the Principal Deputy Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the agency's second highest-ranking position. He served as the Acting Commissioner from March 2009 through May 2009 and as Principal Deputy Commissioner through January 2011.

From December 2005 through March 2009, Dr. Sharfstein served as the Commissioner of Health for the City of Baltimore, Maryland.

From July 2001 to December 2005, Dr. Sharfstein served as minority professional staff of the Government Reform Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives for Congressman Henry A. Waxman.

Dr. Sharfstein is a 1991 graduate of Harvard College, a 1996 graduate of Harvard Medical School, a 1999 graduate of the combined residency program in pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center, and a 2001 graduate of the fellowship in general pediatrics at the Boston University School of Medicine.

In 2008, Dr. Sharfstein was named a Public Official of the Year by *Governing Magazine*. Dr. Sharfstein now serves on the Health Information Technology Policy Committee, an advisory committee of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and is a member of the editorial board of the Journal for the American Medical Association.

### Lyn Twyman, L.A.S.E.R.S.

L.A.S.E.R.S., Leaving Abuse, Supporting Everyone, Restoring Survivors, or simply LASERS, - Targeting Domestic Violence Holistically, is an intimate partner violence/family violence program. Stemming from her ongoing activist work nationally, LASERS was established in 2013 and is the vision of national domestic violence advocate, survivor, activist, speaker, and consultant Ms. Lyn Twyman. Since 2009, Lyn has been vigorously fighting to save this generation and the next from domestic violence. In 2010, Lyn lobbied at The International Violence Against Women Act Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. Among her years of consulting and activism, she was integral in drafting domestic violence legislation in several states and was instrumental in the passage of the internationally historic Public Domestic Violence Registry of Guam. Lyn has twice met with advisors of President Obama to discuss domestic violence programming and privacy protection for crime victims. She also serves on The State of Maryland Governor's Office of Community Initiatives Interfaith Domestic Violence Coalition. Lyn has also has been a featured guest on several media outlets including WJLA ABC News, WFMY CBS News, WPGC CBS Radio, CBS Radio Los Angeles, Fox News, and Michael Baisden. As a survivor of psychological child abuse and intimate partner violence, Lyn is passionate about helping those who suffer from abuse or with its traumatic effects. LASERS was created to give the community a holistic approach to domestic violence.

## Contact the Commission

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[Iman.Awad@maryland.gov](mailto:Iman.Awad@maryland.gov)



### Staff Information:

Izzy Patoka, Executive Director  
Jimmy Kwak, Director  
Iman Awad, Administrative Director

For More Information about the Commission and about  
today's program, visit:

[www.african.maryland.gov](http://www.african.maryland.gov)