



**Editorial: On the Occasion of a Meeting Long Planned**

....Bill Jenkins, Ph.D., M.P.H.

In the summer of 1970 four young Black men met in Toronto at the American Statistical Association Meetings following a session on Black health issues to lament the fact that there was only one Black presenter. It was observed that at that time there were less than five Black Americans with doctorate degrees in Epidemiology or Biostatistics. After much debate, anger and anguish there was a commitment made to develop those of us who were already committed to the fields, to bring new people in, and to look at these health issues from a black perspective. After only twenty years of frustrations, disappointments, rejections, and some success we are about to embark on the final phase of this commitment.

All of the formerly young, but still black men completed their doctorates in eleven years. But, in that time more than forty blacks trained in the fields at the masters level. Some succeeded, others did not: waylaid by barriers, traps, weaknesses, and fate. But through the efforts of those relatively few who survived, the number of younger people coming into the field exploded so that today there are more than two hundred Black Americans with some training and/or experience in the fields of Biostatistics or Epidemiology. Together with other Black Americans from the medical and social sciences applying their skills to the public health issues, there is now a critical mass of African-American Public Health scholars to look at the public health problems of African-American communities from a Black perspective.

This is the calling of SAAPHI.

Through SAAPHI we will continue the training efforts made at the National Center for Health Statistics, the University of North Carolina and the Centers for Disease Control. We have learned that a few people with commitment can make a real difference.

While continuing the efforts in human resource development, we also look forward to expanding activities in research and policy development. There remain many questions to study, including:  
0 To what extent is the difference in health status a function of race and culture.  
0 To what extent is racism a continuing factor in determining health status?

On November tenth at Spelman College we will have an opportunity to set a research agenda for the next few years. On November the eleventh we will initiate the structure to achieve these goals.

We look forward to the largest gathering of African American public health scientists in American history and look with even greater anticipation to the future work.

See you in Atlanta.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The premiere organizational meeting of the **Society for the Analysis of African-American Public Health Issues (SAAPHI)** will be held during the week of the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, in Atlanta, Georgia. Please note:

The date -- Monday, November 11, 1991

The time -- At 5:00 o'clock p.m.

The Place -- First Congregational Church, Houston and Courtland Streets

This is a critical meeting for **SAAPHI** as the meeting will provide the foundation for the future growth and development of this organization. The agenda items will be as follows:

1. Adoption of Bylaws
2. Election of Officers
3. Nominations for Board of Directors

Please plan to attend.

## A Contemporary Definition of "Death" by Na'im Akbar from the book :Visions for Black Men

Let us understand that "death" is only in part the fact that African-American (black) males have the least life expectancy of any group in this country; that we are more likely to die before the age of twenty and least likely to reach sixty than anybody else in this country; that we are most likely to be killed before we reach the age of thirty; that we are most likely to die from a drug overdose; that we are most likely to commit suicide; that increasingly we represent not only the greatest likelihood of physical casualties in this society but we also represent the most self-destructive group in this society. Consider the phenomena that you observe—the drug abuse, the self-destructive alcoholism, the self-destructive diets. We don't even concern ourselves with the possibility of what we need to preserve our lives. We don't teach our young children, particularly our male children, what is necessary for their survival. They have internalized self-destructive ideas before they reach the age of ten and, by the time they reach the age of ten, they are geared towards destruction. Let us understand that it is not a cause. This is a reaction.

But that's not the only "death." There is the "death" that removes you from productive opportunities to operate in a society where balance becomes possible. So the vast majority of the creative black minds in America who are males are locked up in prisons during their most productive years. In the years when most Euro-American males are present in universities, colleges, and training institutes, gaining the skills that are necessary to ensure that they can run the world the way they have been running the world, our future leaders, future learners, future advocates, future directors can be found in the jails of America locked away, unable to think, under the daily watchful eye of sick minds who would rather see them dead than learning. Those that show the greatest promise of thinking, self-direction, understanding, comprehension are the least likely to ever get paroled. When they get paroled, they are stigmatized in such a way that they can never get the effectiveness in this society they need to utilize what they know. They have been essentially removed, not by physical death, but by institutional death. They have been eliminated as agents to change the society. I am confident that if these confined men want freedom they must free their minds and start not being "prisoners" and start redefining what their situation is. Let their protest be for books, for information and for programs that will develop them as men. Incarcerated men should begin to use this as an opportunity to develop "think tanks." Rather than sitting around and getting high and trying to get off on some type of substitute sexual gratification, let them instead use their energies to say, "We're going to make this a think tank. We have nothing to do for ten years so we're going to study." If we on the outside would send them books on a regular basis, and if they begin to start using those books and start developing study groups and think tanks, they'd start letting these brothers out of prison wholesale. "Get out of here. We don't want you in jail. Get on back in the street. Go find you a needle or get high—anything. We don't want you around here." But as long as they act like prisoners and accept the definition of prisoners, they will keep them as prisoners. No one wants real men in prison, particularly working together rather than trying to destroy each other. This is a "death" too. It's an institutionalized death to kill off the young male children.

The unemployment situation that we face is far from accidental. Inactivity stagnates and eventually destroys the human mind.

The way you debilitate men is to make them incapable of operating as economic animals within the confines of a society. When they are put into a situation where men can't control their lives and are unable to provide direction for their families or to secure institutions for their growth, their very humanity revolts! By blocking their access to resources necessary for life you stimulate a revolt of desperation.

Then, of course, we have our best minds killed off by turning them against themselves: through a miseducational process. They should be our best, our strongest, our brightest—the ones we should look to for our leadership, our strategizing. But they have become our biggest enemy because they are dead—killed, destroyed. Their minds are dead. They want a white woman, a white job, a white piece of money, a white neighborhood, a white BMW and that's all they want. They don't want anything else. That is "death." Even though they look like they are alive, they're dead; they're zombies. They're ghosts. They're beyond help. They are worse off than those in the cemetery. At least the ones in the cemetery know very well that they're dead. These miseducated souls have learned to confuse life with death. They are a serious problem because they don't know that their skills are useless, that all that they have matters only if it is used in the service of their communities. "Pharaoh" did it. Pharaoh goes around to the high schools in this country and identifies the brightest youth and says to them: You don't want to go to a black college. Come on over here to my predominantly white university. We're going to give you a scholarship. You want to be a physicist? We'll help you to become a physicist. You want to be a lawyer? Come on over here to our law school. We've got some minority development programs, and you don't have to take any of the black history stuff. You don't have to see any black teachers. We're going to give you the best education in the world."

By ensuring that African-American students do not have the opportunity to be exposed to anything like themselves, or thinking of themselves to remind them of themselves—they know that at the end of four years or eight years or ten years our students will be rendered absolutely impotent and dead. Our students come out with "degrees." They ought to wear black (the color worn in funerals) because they are absolutely dead. They are of no help to us and no help to themselves. This is a problem because these people are looked upon and identified as our leaders, our brilliant minds, our bright thinkers, our scholars—these aren't "our" scholars. They are "their" scholars. We've got the Association of Black Psychologists—the only and the largest group of black mental health professionals in the world, and we have to try to convince black folks that they ought to be a member there. "Ninety dollars a year for membership. Oh, that's so much!" They'll pay the white folks three times that much to get one tenth of the results because they are as excited about the opportunity of being accepted by white folks. They love to go to the American Psychological Association. White folks will look at them like they're dirt and they'll just grin, "Yessa, Boss—I'm glad, Boss—yessa, Boss. I got a Ph.D. I went to your school. I'm from the University of such and such, Boss." And Boss still sees them as a "nigger."

Bylaws of the: **SOCIETY FOR THE ANALYSIS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES**

Article I – NAME

The name of the organization shall be the **SOCIETY FOR ANALYSIS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES**, herein referred to as **SAAPHI**.

Article II – MISSION

**SAAPHI** is established to promote the health of African American individuals and communities through scientifically-based interventions, sponsored research, and health policy advocacy.

Article III – TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

**SAAPHI** shall be established as a private, non-profit membership organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article IV – PURPOSE

**SAAPHI** is a research-oriented, national public health organization whose purposes are:

- to develop and promote a well-defined and articulated research agenda for improving the health of African Americans.
- to initiate and assist in the development, improvement, maintenance and utilization of appropriate databases for understanding the health problems and needs of African American communities
- to promote the utilization of appropriate data and methods in making program and policy decisions related to the health of African Americans.
- to formulate and advocate appropriate public policies for health promotion and disease prevention among African Americans
- to foster health promotion behavior and disease prevention activities in individuals and communities that will improve personal health and allow persons to maximize their potential
- to increase public awareness of and solutions of health problems in African American communities through education and information
- to promote scholarship and cooperative research among public health professionals, university faculty and students
- to increase the number of African Americans receiving training in epidemiology, biostatistics, and other quantitative disciplines of public health
- to foster coalitions with other organizations and groups with similar missions and commonalities
- to initiate and assist in the coordination of various investigative, educational and program planning efforts which may have an impact on the health of African Americans
- to facilitate professional development, social welfare and leadership skills among its members

Article V – MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership in **SAAPHI** shall be open to persons with substantial interest in research focused on the health issues on the African Americans.
- B. Public health scientists, health professionals, students of the health sciences, and other persons interested in public health research shall be eligible for membership.
- C. The dues of all members shall be payable at the beginning of the calendar year.
- D. The Executive Committee, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, shall establish a schedule of dues for membership in **SAAPHI**.
- E. Nonpayment of dues shall be a cause for discontinuance of membership provided that members in arrears have been notified by mail prior to the expiration of the grace period by the Secretary. Individuals or group members discontinued for

nonpayment of dues may be reinstated provided such individuals or groups comply with the eligibility requirements then effective and as determined by the Executive Committee.

Article VI – GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The responsibility of governing the organization and the general planning of its work shall be vested in the Governing Board of Directors.
- B. The Governing Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Committee, Chairpersons of the Standing Committees and community leaders elected by the membership, to number no more than seventeen (17) members, with members serving for no more than three (3) years.
- C. The functions of the Governing Board of Directors shall be to:
  1. establish and amend the by-laws of **SAAPHI**.
  2. adopt rules for the conduct of its own business.
  3. establish policies for the organization and for the guidance of the Executive Committee.
  4. make available to the general membership an abstract of the minutes of each of its meetings.
  5. establish procedures and guidelines for the relationship with other related organizations.
  6. receive and act upon reports and recommendations of the Executive Committee, Standing Committees, and any constituent of the organization.

Article VII – THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council shall consist of leaders in the public health sciences, in other related fields, and in the African American communities.

The Advisory Council shall provide advice to **SAAPHI** in its program planning, development and implementation. All recommendations of the Advisory Council must be approved by the Governing Board of Directors. The Advisory Council shall consist of no more than nine (9) members serving for no more than three (3) YEARS. The Advisory Council shall be self-governing.

Article VIII – THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers: President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of **SAAPHI** and in the interim between meetings. All actions of the Executive Committee must be in accordance with the by-laws and general policies of **SAAPHI** and must be approved by the Governing Board of Directors. Actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be reported to the members.
- C. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President, or upon request of at least four members.
- D. Any vacancy shall be filled by the President with the approval of the Governing Board of Directors.

Article IX – OFFICERS

- A. The officers of **SAAPHI** shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They may be elected by the membership through mail voting.
- B. All officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) calendar years by the members of **SAAPHI**. The Secretary and the Treasurer may be elected by the membership for two consecutive

terms or may serve longer periods of time at the pleasure of the Governing Board of Directors.

C. The President shall not succeed himself unless the Vice President/President-Elect is unable to assume the responsibilities of President.

D. The Vice President shall also serve as President-Elect and, after the end of his/her term, shall become the President of SAAPHI.

E. If for any reason the President is unable to complete a term, the Vice President shall at once succeed to the duties of President and complete the unexpired term.

F. Past Presidents are eligible for the candidacy of Vice President or any other office of SAAPHI.

#### H. THE PRESIDENT

The President is the chief executive officer of SAAPHI and shall:

1. preside at all meetings of the association.
2. serve as Chair of the Executive Committee.
3. serve as chief spokesperson for SAAPHI.
4. appoint all chairpersons and members of the committees unless otherwise provided in the by-laws.
5. serve, ex-officio, on all committees.
6. authorize expenditures and have the authority, in addition to the Treasurer, to pay bills of the SAAPHI.
7. submit an annual report to the membership.

#### I. THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall cooperate with the President in promoting the general interest and welfare of the SAAPHI and shall:

1. perform all duties as designated by the President.
2. serve as Chair of the Membership Committee.
3. serve on other committees as appointed by the President.
4. perform all duties of the President in his/her absence.
5. succeed to the office of President in the event of vacancy and serve until the term expires.
6. succeed to the office of the President at the end of his/her two-year term.

#### J. THE SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep record of all proceedings of the SAAPHI and shall:

1. send out notices of all meetings of the organization.
2. perform other duties pertaining to the office and as assigned by the President.
3. serve on other committees as appointed by the President.

#### K. THE TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds and securities belonging to the organization and shall:

1. keep regular accounts which shall be open to inspection at all times by officers or board members.
2. pay the bills of the SAAPHI as authorized by the President.
3. serve on other committees as appointed by the President.

#### Article ~~X~~ - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A. There shall be a Nominating Committee for organizational officers composed of at least three (3) members appointed by the Governing Board of Directors.

B. Not less than sixty (60) days prior to the general meeting, the Nominating Committee shall submit to the membership, by mail, the names of two or more nominees for each of the offices of President-Elect/Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and for each vacancy of the Governing Board of Directors.

C. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a ballot suggesting names of candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and each vacancy of the Governing Board of Directors.

D. At least 120 days prior to the general meeting, the Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of at least two names for each position which shall be mailed to the voting members at least sixty (60) days prior to the general meeting. On petition signed by at least fifteen voting members and received at least 90 days prior to the general meeting, additional names may be added to this list. All names added to the list must be mailed to the membership at least 60 days prior to the general meeting.

E. The Nominating Committee members shall be appointed for a period of one (1) year.

#### Article ~~XI~~ - STANDING COMMITTEES

A. The Executive Committee shall establish and define the responsibilities, duties and size of the Standing Committees.

B. Unless otherwise provided in the by-laws, all other committees of the SAAPHI shall be authorized and appointed by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Governing Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall define the responsibilities, determine the size of membership and their terms of appointment, and establish the period of activity of such committees.

#### Article ~~XII~~ - MEETINGS

A. There shall be at least two (2) annual meetings of the Governing Board of Directors. There shall be at least one meeting of the general membership to be held annually. Special meetings of the SAAPHI may be called by a majority vote of the Governing Board. In all proceedings of SAAPHI Robert's Rules of Order shall be official.

B. Meetings of the Governing Board of Directors, Advisory Council, Executive Committee and other committees shall be the responsibility of the chairperson.

#### Article ~~XII~~ - AMENDMENTS

A. The by-laws may be repealed, altered or amended by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of SAAPHI members present at any meeting of SAAPHI duly constituted for the conduct of business or affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the mail ballots which are returned by members of SAAPHI.

B. The amendments to be considered must receive the approval of the Governing Board of Directors and made known to the membership through mail at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting or in event of mail ballot, the members shall be allowed at least thirty (30) days for return of such ballots.

#### Article ~~XIII~~ - DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of SAAPHI and termination of all not-for-profit activities and upon the discretion of the Governing Board of Directors, all funds and other assets shall be distributed to an organization or organizations having similar purposes and carrying on similar activities.

## A COORDINATED AGENDA OF AFROCENTRIC EVENTS: ATLANTA/NOVEMBER 1991 PUBLIC HEALTH MEETINGS

### Thursday, November 7

#### National Minority Health Association – Westin Peachtree Hotel

8:30am Plenary Panel: The Case of National Health Reforms: Raymond Howard, Frederick Foard, Leroy Schwartz

12:00pm Luncheon: Reuben Warren

2:00pm Concurrent Workshops

6:30pm Open Forum at Morehouse School of Medicine

#### American College of Epidemiology 10th Annual Scientific Meeting – CDC

8:30am Welcome/Introduction: Ray Greenberg, Reuben Warren, Louis Sullivan

9:00am Plenary Speakers: Sherman James, James Mason

10:45am Lifestyle: Shiriki Kumanyika, C. Onwuachi-Saunders, Kenneth Castro, Paul Wiesner

2:00pm Addiction: Eva Smith, Vivian Chen, Elaine Johnson, Benny Primm

4:00pm Poster Session

### Friday, November 8

#### National Minority Health Association – Westin Peachtree Hotel

8:30am Plenary Session II: Frederick Foard

1:30pm Concurrent Workshops: Carl Bell

6:00pm Reception/Awards Banquet

#### American College of Epidemiology 10th Annual Scientific Meeting – CDC

8:30am Environment: Barry Johnson, Richard Cooper, Cynthia Telles, Harold Freeman

10:45am Future Recommendations for Research/Action: Manning Feinleib, Mary Guinan, D.A. Henderson

2:00pm Contributed Paper Sessions

4:00pm Poster Sessions

### Saturday, November 9

#### National Minority Health Association – Westin Peachtree Hotel

8:30am Plenary Session III

10:45am Conference Wrap-Up: Frederick Foard, Leroy Robinson, Jr.

#### "Closing the Gap Through Community Intervention" – CDC

8:30am Opening Session: Defining the Problem, Establishing the Significance: Bill Jenkins

9:00am Planning the Intervention: Dan Blumenthal

10:30am Monitoring the Intervention: Stephen Blount

11:30am Assessing the Outcomes: Shiriki Kumanyika

1:30pm Concurrent Workshops:

Immunization in Africa: Marguerite Pappaioanou  
HIV Prevention in the South: Jennifer Friday, Gene McCray, Brian Lindsey

Substance Abuse in Atlanta: Imani Thompson, Fred Murphy

Cardiovascular Disease Prevention: Leandris Liburd, Letishia Cantrell

Injuries in Philadelphia: Rudolph Sutton, Christine Branch-Dorsey, C. Onwachi-Saunders

3:30pm Closing Session: Mary Guinan

#### Society for Public Health Education – Westin Peachtree Hotel

7:00am Breakfast Meetings

8:30am Opening General Session: Nell Gottlieb, Dennis Jarvis, Cynthia Jorgensen

8:45am Keynote Address: Marshall Kreuter

9:15am Three Perspectives of AIDS: Researcher, Practitioner, and Person Living with AIDS: Kevin O'Reilly

10:30am Breakout Sessions

1:45pm Special Interest Sessions/Workshops

6:00pm SOPHE Awards Banquet

### Sunday, November 10

#### "Closing the Gap Through Community Intervention" – Spelman College

9:30am Ecumenical Service: Elder Walter Pearson, Fred Murphy, Lynette Stokes

10:30am Brunch/Forum: Reed Tuckson, Helene Gayle

12:30pm Concurrent Workshops:

Developing Public Health Professionals: Emma Frazier, Johnetta Holcombe, Bill Jenkins

Data: What Do We Have? What Do We Need?: Patricia Golden, Ron Aubert, Wilma Johnson

Minority Health Programs: Present and Future: Juanita Blount-Clark, Reuben Warren, Jacob Gayle, Teresa Rogers

Socio-Economics as a Determinant of Health: Noble Maseru, Camara Jones, Russell Irvine, Jennie Trotter, Perry Hall

Race vs. Racism as a Determinant of Health: Diane Rowley, Cheryl Blackmore, Juarlyn Gaiter

Alcohol/Tobacco Interests & Black Organizations: Robert Robinson, Robert Mayberry

AIDS & Famine: Twin Perils to Development in Africa?: Helene Gayle, Chokwe Lumumba, James Steele, Earl Pickard

3:30pm Closing: Deborah Prothrow-Stith

#### Society for Public Health Education – Westin Peachtree Hotel

8:30am Plenary Session: Putting the Public Back into Public Health  
9:15am National Commission for Health Education Credentialing: Barbara Ware, Barbara Giloth, Cheryl Contines Lackey  
10:15am Closing the Gap Between Theory and Practice: Noreen Clark  
11:45am Presidential Address: Nell Gottlieb

National Black Women's Health Project – Atlanta Apparel Mart

4:00pm "Politics of Black Women's Health": Angela Davis, Billye Avery

**Monday, November 11**

American Public Health Association

2:00pm HIV/AIDS: Emerging Issues in the African-American Community: Vicki Mays, Paul B. Simms, Bill Jenkins  
2:30pm Minority Group Health Issues  
7:00pm Concurrent Workshops:  
Alcohol and Tobacco Products: Marketing to Youth: James F. Mosher  
AIDS and Substance Use: Surveillance and Intervention with Hard-to-Reach Populations: David Mulligan  
Chronic Disease Conditions Among Racial and Ethnic Populations in the U.S.: Jillson-Boostrom  
8:30pm Access to Health Care in Communities of Color: Minorities and Women in Public Health: Nancy O. Gonzalez

Society for Analysis of Public Health Issues – First Congregational Church

5:15pm Business Meeting  
7:30pm Reception for Members of Statistics and Epidemiology Sections

**Tuesday, November 12**

American Public Health Association

8:30am Erosions in Affirmative Action: Impact and Implications of the Backlash: Steven McKane  
8:30am The Politics of Public Health Data: If You Don't Ask, You Don't Know: Marilyn Aguirre-Molina  
12:30pm Prescription Drugs and Minority Health Issues: Barry Bleidt  
12:30pm National Seminar on Black Women in the Health Professions: Rose Green Thomas  
12:30pm Women's Health in Africa: From Rhetoric to Reality: Naomi Baumslag  
2:00pm Newborn Screening for Sickle Cell Disease and Other Hemoglobinopathies: Allan Noonan  
4:00pm Smoking Reduction Interventions in African-American Communities: William A. Darity  
7:00pm Our Black Men Are Dying and Nobody Seems to Care: James Chapman

7:00pm AIDS Programs for Special Populations: Edward Matibach  
7:00pm Health Education and Health Promotion for Prevention of Cancer in the Black Population: Claudia R. Baquet  
7:00pm Urban Poverty and Health: A Multi-disciplinary Approach to Data Needs and Use: Seth Foldy

**Wednesday, November 13**

American Public Health Association

8:30am Perinatal Care Issues and Infant Mortality Reduction in African-American Communities: Paul B. Simms  
12:30pm Emerging and Continuing Health Concerns in the African-American Community: David Allen  
12:30pm Effects of Socioeconomic Variables on Health: Yasmin Neggess  
2:00pm Promoting Public Health Through Equal Health Opportunity: Andrew B. James, Clarinda Valentine  
2:00pm HIV/AIDS: Prevention and Education in Communities of Color: Lawrence S. Brown  
2:00pm Health Summit on Minority Access Revisited: How Mentoring Works: L.W. Figgs  
4:00pm Overcoming Barriers of Early Cancer Detection in African-Americans  
7:00pm Hildrus A. Poindexter Award Dinner

**Thursday, November 14**

American Public Health Association

8:30am Health Status Issues of African-American Children: Sylvia Wallace  
8:30am Violence To and By Children and Families: Patricia Schloesser  
10:30am 119th Closing General Session: C. William Keck