



## National Minority Health Month Began 100 Years Ago as National Negro Health Week

In April 1915, Dr. Booker T. Washington dispatched a letter to the leading African American newspapers, proposing the observance of “National Negro Health Week.” Health was the key to progress and equity in all other things, he argued: “Without health and long life, all else fails.”

Washington called on local health departments, schools, churches, businesses, professional associations, and the most influential organizations in the African American community to “pull together” and “unite... in one great National Health Movement.” That observance grew into what is today a month-long initiative to advance health equity across the country, on behalf of all racial and ethnic minorities – National Minority Health Month.



# April is National Minority Health Month!

The Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health leads the observance of National Minority Health month each year, and joins with federal, state, tribal, local, and territorial partners across the country in

calling for a renewed commitment to eliminate health disparities and achieve health equity.

In Buncombe County, community-based organizations have come together to address minority health disparities

through the Community Focused Elimination Health Disparities Initiatives (CFEHI) grant. Buncombe County Health and Human Services is focused on ongoing efforts to improve health by collaborating with Community Based Organization to provide effective, equitable understanding and respectful quality care.

Minority populations in Buncombe County,



along with faith-based organizations and diversity champions in the community, continue to look for ways to develop equitable opportunities that support health for all.

The Minority Health Grant received from the North Carolina Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities is a part of a new division that focuses on community engagement and navigation of individuals to receive medical and social services.



**Rasheeda McDaniels,  
Social Work Supervisor  
and Community Service  
Navigation Coordinator**



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Health & Human Services**

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# Accelerating Health Equity for the Nation



## The Community Service Navigation Program

The Minority Health Equity Grant is a service provided under the Family and Community Connections Division.



### Under Six Programs

**GOAL:** Make children under the age 6 have a viable, safe and healthy life growing up in Buncombe County. Referrals come from screened out Child Protective Services reports with children 6 and under in the home.

Coordinators contact the family and offer an assessment of needs and linkage to resources. Families are referred to on-going case management services, when needed.

### Community Health Nurse

**GOAL:** Community health nurses provide care in many settings, including comprehensive care to patients within their homes, at organized events such as health fairs, and at agencies and institutions serving people who have particular health needs.

The CHN will review educational materials with families, and connect families to medical insurance, if lapsed and reconnect families with current medical providers. CHN will review medical records and medication logs to discuss medication interactions and the importance of medication compliance. CHN will have a health promoting role for Adult and Children Services.

### Minority Health Grant

**GOAL:** Close the gap in health disparities amongst African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and American Indians as compared to the white population.

BCHHS subcontracts with local agencies to implement and evaluate an evidence-based medical home model in pursuit of providing minority communities access to a medical home, and receive prevention education, testing, screening, and referral services relating to heart disease, stroke, diabetes, obesity, asthma, HIV/AIDS/STDs, cancer and infant mortality.

### Community Service Navigator program

**GOAL:** To connect citizens and communities with Health and Human Services and increase access to opportunities and choices which can promote safety, health and wellbeing.

Target population: Citizens with multiple or complex needs who are struggling to get by and have significant barriers to accessing health or social services available to address these needs.

**Alma Atkins,  
Minority Health  
Equity Project  
Coordinator  
with Buncombe  
County Health and  
Human Services**



### Community Service Navigation Program Key Partners

**ABIPA**

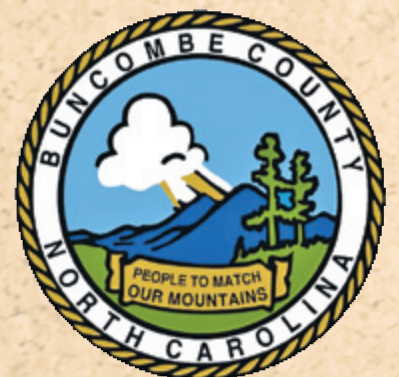
**Land of Sky  
Regional Council**

**YWCA**

**North Carolina  
Center for Health  
& Wellness**

**North Carolina  
Alliance of Public  
Health Agencies**

**Community Service  
Navigators**



**Minority Health  
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