

Partnering with the Faith Community to Address Health Disparities: The **FAITH** Network

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Objective

At the conclusion of this presentation attendees will:

- Recognize the importance of developing a network that supports community engaged health research with faith communities.
- Recognize the importance of partnering with faith communities to address health disparities in Arkansas.

Overview

- Social Determinants of Health & Health Disparities
- Religiosity in Arkansas
- Engaging the Faith Community
- The Arkansas FAITH Network
- The Arkansas FAITH Network Future Direction

*Social Determinants
of Health & Health
Disparities*

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which we are born, we grow and age, and in which we live and work. The factors below impact on our health and wellbeing.



Childhood experiences



Housing



Education



Social support



Family income



Employment



Our communities



Access to health services

Source: NHS Health Scotland

Social Determinants in Arkansas

POVERTY

- 44th in nation with median household income \$ 42, 336
- 17.2% of Arkansans live in poverty
- 42% of Arkansans live in rural areas
- Arkansas Delta is characterized by severe poverty

*Poverty is linked to psychological distress

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2016; UALR Rural Profile of Arkansas, 2017)

Social Determinants in Arkansas

EDUCATION

- 85.2% of Arkansans age 25+ have completed high school
- 2017 Arkansans high school graduation rate was 87.97
- 21.5% of Arkansans age 25+ have a Bachelors or higher degree

*Low levels of education are linked to poverty and poor health

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2016; Arkansas Department of Education, 2018)

Health Disparities in Arkansas

	Arkansas * Rate of diagnoses per 100,000
Low Birth Rates	8.9% (Rank 41)
Infant Mortality (per 100,000)	7.6
Cancer Deaths (per 100,000)	218.1 (Rank 46)
Cardiovascular Deaths (per 100,000)	317.3 (Rank 47)
Diabetes Deaths (per 100,000)	24.2 (Rank 41)
Obesity	34.5%
Frequent Mental Distress	14.9% (Rank 48)
HIV Infection*	10.4
Uninsured rates for non-elderly	11% (Rank 30)

Arkansas is ranked 48th in the nation in overall health.

(United Health Foundation, 2017)

Religiosity in
Arkansas

Religiosity in Arkansas

- Tied for 5th in nation in terms of religiosity
- 77% of Arkansans believe in God
- 70% of Arkansans believe religion is important
- 41% of Arkansans attend church at least twice a week
- 65% of Arkansans pray daily
- Approximately 7,500 religious congregations in Arkansas

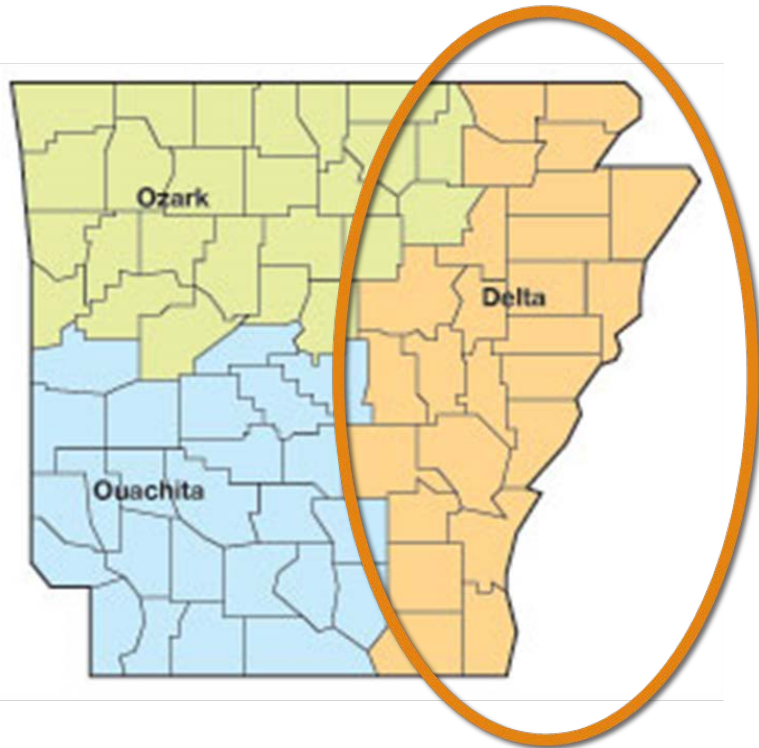
(Pew Research, 2014)

Religion + Poor Health = Non-Traditional Approaches

- The church is a long-standing trusted institution
- The church has a history of shaping community values and norms
- The church is an organization that is present in every community
- Establish partnerships and engage a diverse groups of clergy and congregants across denominations
- Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
- Evidence-based research projects and health promotion programs

Engaging the Faith
Community in Health
Research

Focus: 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

Trinity Life Management: A Faith-Based Stress Management Intervention



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



Renewed and Empowered for the Journey to Overcome in Christ Everyday (REJOICE)



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

The WORD

PHILLIPS COUNTY TASK FORCE





Despite the success of partnering with faith leaders and congregations, barriers exist that limit sustainability

Faith Leader Focus Groups



- Purpose to elicit beliefs, attitude and opinions about:
 - The faith community's role in addressing health
 - What the faith community is currently doing
 - Developing a network of faith organizations to address health
- Seven focus groups: Springdale, Dumas, Pine Bluff, North Little Rock, Marvell, Arkadelphia and Blytheville

Faith Leader Focus Groups

Characteristics of the Participants:

- Average age 57 years
- 50% male; 44% female
- 44% employed full-time; 30% retired
- 30% some college/trade school
- 70% married
- 60% pastors
- 76% African-American/Black; 20% Pacific Islander; 4% Caucasian/White

Religious Affiliation	
Baptist	16 (32.0%)
Pentecostal	5 (10.0%)
Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME)	1(2.0%)
African Methodist Episcopal (AME)	7 (14.0%)
Apostolic/Pentecostal	4 (8.0%)
Non-denominational	1 (2.0%)
Other	6 (12.0%)
Unanswered	10(20.0%)

Recommended Services and Resources

- Health Education
 - Trainings
- Connection to Services within the Community

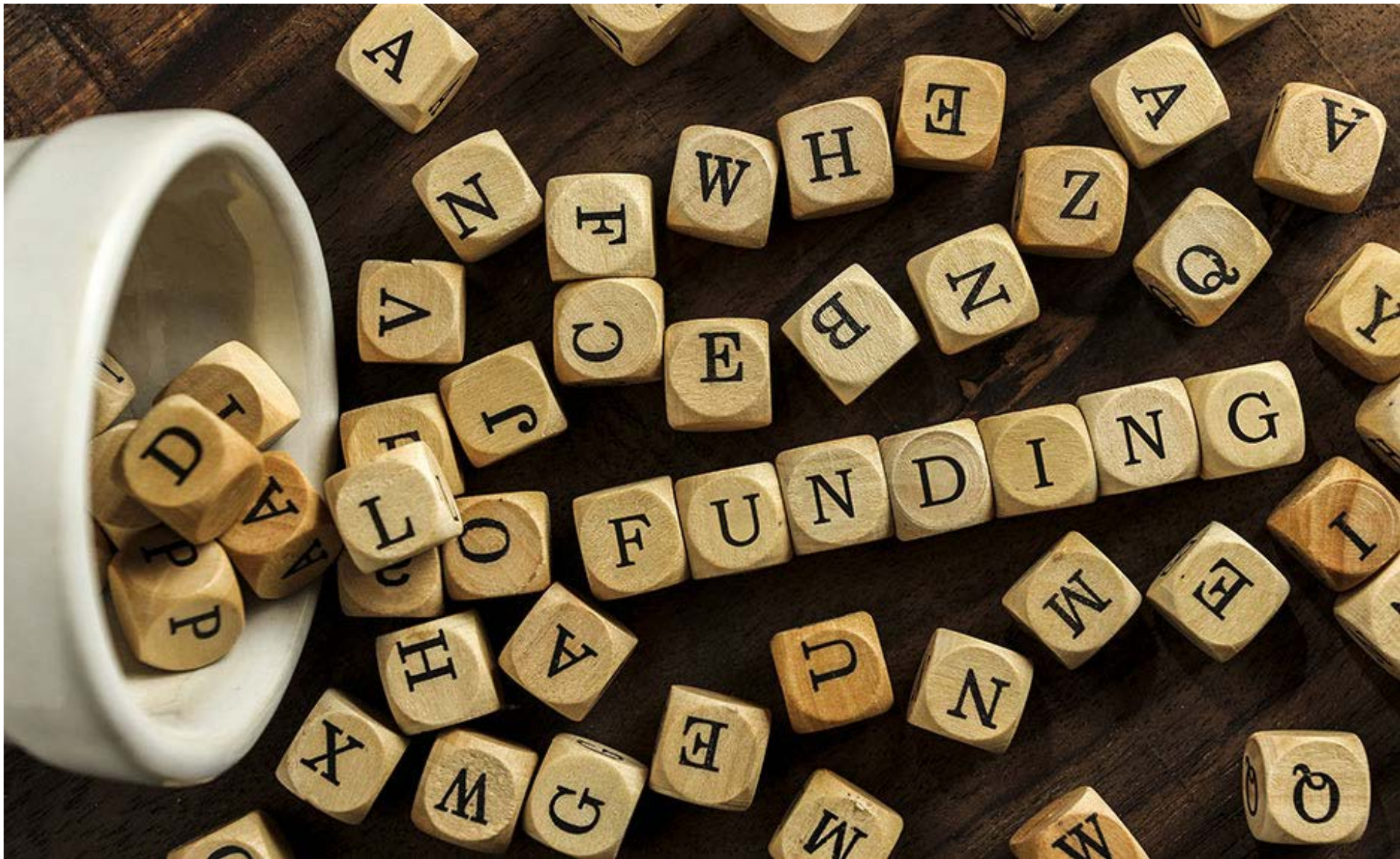


Barriers to Building a Network

- Pastors do not share information
- Church more invested in congregations than community
- Opposing views of the church's role in addressing health

Solutions to Barriers

- Community Health Coordinator





FAITH Network

The FAITH (Faith-Academic Initiatives for Transforming Health) Network is a partnership between communities of faith, community-based organizations, and researchers that focuses on improving the health of underserved communities in Arkansas.

The FAITH Network supports scientific faith-based research, as well as provides resources, educational trainings and mentorship to faith communities across Arkansas regardless of geographic location, race/ethnicity, religious beliefs, socioeconomic status or congregation size.

FAITH Network Community Advisory Board



Rev. William Givens, Sr., LR



Dr. Khiela Holmes, LR



Pastor Gregory Nettles, Camden



Pastor Edward Richardson, Jr., Osceola



Dr. Cemeka Agugbuem Smith, LR



Rev. William Robinson, Jr., LR



Chaplain Steve Sullivan, LR



Dr. April Shepard, LR



Pastor Bryant Whitted, Osceola

Research

Education

Unity

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 researcher nationwide

FAITH Network Advocates

Training Program Contents:

Health Disparities

Research/Research Process

Community Needs Assessments/Asset
Mapping

Funding

Leadership

Internship

Cohort 1: Pulaski County



From left to right:

Pastor Ulysses Washington, Theresa Hoover Memorial United Methodist Church; Ms.

Cassandra Norman-McGhee, New Hope Baptist Church;

Rev. William Givens, Sr., St. John Missionary Baptist Church; Pastor Marcia Burns, Lee Chapel

African Methodist Episcopal Church; Minister Fred Graham, St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church

Educational Outreach

The FAITH Networks 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

FAITH Network Summit:

Healthy People, Healthy Congregations, Healthy Communities

Saturday, September 9, 2017
Centre at University Park
6401 W. 12th St., Little Rock, AR 72204

- Target Audience:
- Faith Leaders
 - Community Leaders
 - Students
 - Educators
 - Researchers
 - Health Care Workers
 - Stakeholders
 - Social Workers

To convene UAMS faculty, staff and students with faith leaders, community leaders and colleagues throughout Arkansas to promote strategies that enhance the development and sustainability of community-campus partnerships in an effort to eliminate health disparities in Arkansas.

Registration is NOW OPEN.
<https://faithnetworksummit2017.eventbrite.com>

Sponsored by:



This conference was partially funded through a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award (EAN 2975)

For more information please contact
Kimberly Hayman at (501) 526-7858
or KHayman@uams.edu



For More Information
Contact:
Dr. Keneshla Bryant-Moore
(501) 526-6698 or
KJBryant@uams.edu



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

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.

EMOTIONAL WELLNESS SUMMIT IN THE DELTA

Presented by
The Faith Task Forces of Phillips and
Jefferson Counties

Saturday, April 28, 2018
9:00 am-3:00 pm

MARVELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1018 Hwy. 49
Marvell, AR 72366

Registration is now open at the following link:

emotionalwellnessinthedelta.eventbrite.com

For more information please contact
Pastor Jerome Turner at (870) 413-2553 or
jturner@suddenlinkmail.com

SPONSORS:



SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, September 14, 2018

“Reimagining Wellness within the
Faith Community”

THE FAITH TASK FORCE OF THE
ARKANSAS DELTA
Phillips County
Jefferson County



DYNAMIC GUEST
SPEAKERS

FREE HEALTH
SCREENINGS

EXHIBITOR
BOOTHS

NETWORKING
OPPORTUNITIES

REGISTRATION IS
FREE! LUNCH IS
INCLUDED!

SPACE LIMITED
TO 100 PEOPLE

Unity

The FAITH Network commits to:

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

Covenants

With Community Organization:

- No Cost
- Work through your existing programs and initiatives or
- Donate time and resources to meet your objectives

With Places of Worship

- No Cost
- Committed to making communities better



<DATE>

Dear _____,

We would like to invite you to be a partner with the *Faith Academic Initiatives for Transforming Health (FAITH) Network*. The FAITH Network was established in 2016 to combat health inequities and disparities, particularly among racial/ethnic minorities and vulnerable populations in Arkansas through partnerships with the faith community, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and other organizations/institutions. Being a part of this network will provide you and your organization the opportunity to learn about and address health issues within your community, partner in research activities and promote a healthy way of life for those in the community.

To become involved with the FAITH Network is easy. There is no cost to you to join. Our goal is to bring people together from every corner of Arkansas to improve the everyday lives of its people. By signing the attached covenant you are simply saying you are committed to making a change in Arkansas, to make it one of the healthiest states in the nation. You can do this through programs and initiatives currently offered by your organization or by donating time and resources to the FAITH Network in an effort to meet your objectives.

Future Plans.....

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

Arkansas FAITH Network

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