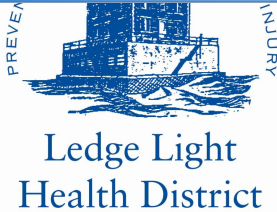


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August 13, 2009

African American Health Council Celebrates 2nd Anniversary **Community Leaders Awarded for Health Initiatives**

GROTON — Over 90 people were in attendance as the African American Health Council of Southeastern Connecticut honored Dr. Joseph Gadbow, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and The Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut at the Council's second anniversary celebration on August 11. Council members, joined by honored guests including Representative Betsy Ritter, Representative Kevin Ryan and Mayor Wade Hyslop, enjoyed performances from local music and dance troupes and Waterford Poetess Attallah Shepard. Miss Black Rhode Island USA 2009 gave a talk on cardiovascular disease and Director of Health Baker Salisbury spoke on the current local efforts to eliminate health disparities.

Gadbow, a doctor at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, was awarded the Ondray Owens Memorial Award for Outstanding Community Leadership. Ondray Owens was a founding member of the African American Health Council and dedicated to the optimal health and well-being of African Americans and the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities for all residents. The award acknowledged Gadbow's leadership as one of the first physicians in Southeastern Connecticut to treat HIV-positive patients.

Laurel Holmes accepted the Institutional Partnership Award on behalf of Lawrence & Memorial Hospital. The award acknowledged the hospital as a leading private sector institution with a diverse workforce that is reflective of the community. The Distinguished Community Support Award was presented to The Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut for funding projects that enhance and strengthen efforts to improve health outcomes.

Established in 2006 through a grant awarded to Ledge Light Health District from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the African American Health Council of Southeastern Connecticut is a community-based coalition whose vision is a healthier Black community.

Ledge Light Health District provides professionally managed comprehensive public health services designed to improve the quality of life and health and safety of our service population. The District service area consists of East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, New London and Waterford, with a service population of over 120,000.



Council Co-Chair Rev. Kenn Harris and Representative Betsy Ritter discuss health inequities at the 2nd Anniversary Celebration of the African American Health Council.



Mayor Wade Hyslop and Director of Health Baker Salsbury talk about local efforts to eliminate health disparities.