



OAA News

December 2009

Remembering Dr. Robert C. Scott

H1N1 and HIV

Prevention Town Hall Meeting

OAA Community Service Awards

Chart Reviews

East Oakland Community Project

Request for Proposals

Diana Dupree

OAA Staff Updates

Immigration and HIV Training

...and other OAA News



Remembering Dr. Robert C. Scott By Kabir Hypolite

During Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. eulogy for our beloved Dr. Robert C. Scott the Allen Temple Pastor Emeritus told a story that Dr. Scott told me over a decade ago. He spoke eloquently and humorously of how Bob called him for a meeting along with two other African American church community leaders and pushed them to become compassionately and actively engaged in the fight against the spread of HIV in their congregations. "I'm tired of doing your work," Dr. Scott told them.

In the midst of nearly 3,000 other members of his extended family – and that is what we all were to Bob, family – I was up in the balcony of the sanctuary celebrating his extraordinary life of dedicated service to Allen Temple and to people living with HIV/AIDS. Among Dr. Scott's many wonderful qualities he understood the power of discretion. He was a man skilled in the knowledge of how to say just enough but not too much, at the right time, and to the right audience. Bob never named any minister in his own telling of the story to me so long ago. So Pastor Smith's sermon simultaneously confirmed Bob's discretion and paid tribute to his courage to speak up on behalf of those were too intimidated by the power of the pulpit to speak for themselves. Dr. Scott never embarrassed or criticized these African American clergy. Instead, he challenged them individually and collectively to act in a manner consistent

with the highest qualities and most profound nature of spirituality: love and compassion.

Happily Pastor Smith and Allen Temple's congregation enthusiastically responded to Dr. Scott's call by establishing an active HIV/AIDS Ministry long ago. Today, the Allen Temple HIV/AIDS Ministry's work is providing HIV education and outreach services to the East Oakland community, funded in part by the Alameda County Office of AIDS, and to the Mother of Peace Community in Zimbabwe.

If Dr. Scott had been an ordinary man, he might have been content to rest on his many laurels as a father, physician, congregant, and leader. Over the course of the past 25 years, I watched Dr. Scott parent a son, lead a highly successful and respected internal medicine practice with over 3,000 patients (including me), found and lead the AIDS Project East Bay as board President, serve as a core physician for the Bay Area Consortium for Quality Health Care. Most of all I remember renting a room in his home on China Hill in the late 1980s as the fear of AIDS rippled through our East Bay community. I saw him leave the house every day before sunrise to treat patients when there were no medications and few answers. No matter how weary, he never faltered in his dedication to his patients. Throughout the darkest days he soldiered on and he grew with the advances in medicine and research to become a tireless HIV educator and researcher. Yet he continued to find the time to make house calls even if the call took him to Santa Rita Jail. How many physicians exhibit such commitment!

Certainly, Dr. Scott could have rested on his many credits and the love and admiration of his community. Yet at his core, Bob was a trailblazing activist. To the very end of his incredible life he was still urging African American clergy members to engage in the fight against HIV.

On September 26, 2009, less than two weeks before he was felled by a heart attack, Dr. Scott and the members of Allen

Temple AIDS Ministry he helped establish and direct hosted "A Clergy Dialogue: Hope, Humanity, Education an Urgency" in which Bay Area members of the clergy were invited to gather to have "relevant and meaningful dialogue on the topic of HIV/AIDS in our community." This time Dr. Scott was joined by Pastor Leon Baccus, Rev. Cheryl Ward, Bishop Anthony Willis, Rev. Dr. Mark Wilson, Rev. Anne Jefferson, Rev. Rhonda Warner, and Rev. Toni Dunbar. Bob noted that many more clergy were invited. Some reportedly declined because the topic was AIDS. Yet, as I sat in the audience listening, Dr. Scott was as uncritical as ever.

He knew to let the ministers speak about breaking our silence, allowing our people to be honest and open about their identities and their pain. They spoke about their belief in the healing power of spiritual practices. They acknowledged the need to dispel sexual stereotypes and constructively engage our youth about the risks of sexual activities. Some acknowledged the danger of speaking out in the 'wrong' churches and the 'hard soil' wherein the seeds of HIV education have yet to take root. They asked their listeners for tools that they could use to teach and to reach out to overcome the stigma associated with sex, incarceration, and substance abuse. All of which are associated with the spread of HIV.

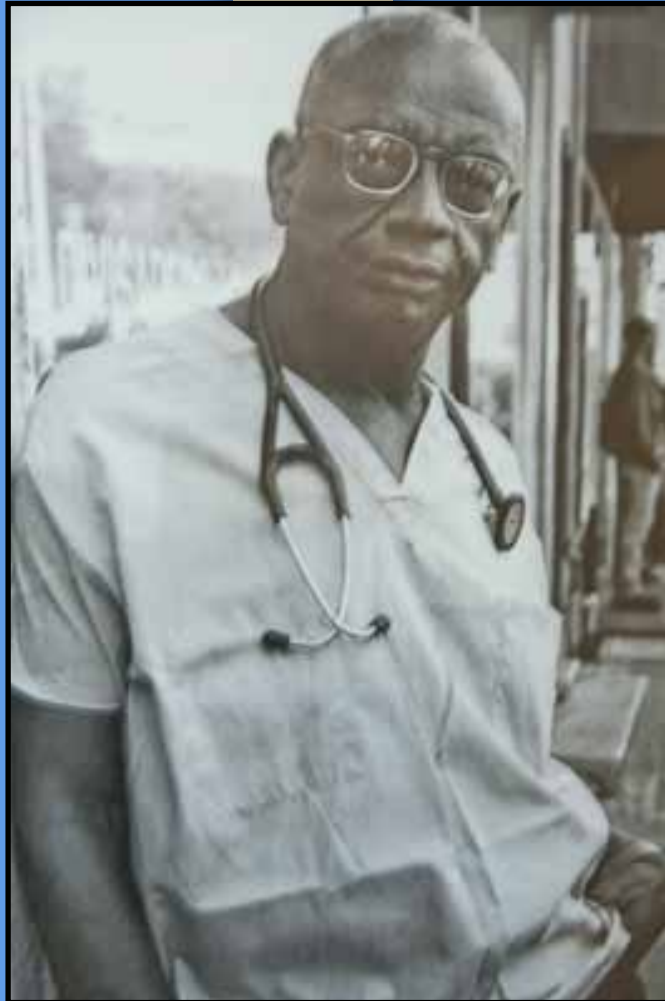
And then it was the audience's turn. One woman cried out in anguish for messages from the pulpit to be directed towards HIV+ women who are fearful, angry, and depressed because 'they did nothing wrong'. "What do you tell them? What do you tell their children?" She demanded.

In response to their request for tools they could use I offered this true story: On the night of Marlon Riggs' powerful funeral at McGee Avenue Baptist Church over which Rev. Wilson officiated, a group of African American gay men joined Rev. Wilson at his home for dinner. Our hearts were heavy for we had just lost a promising African American gay voice to AIDS. During dinner I sat across the table from a twenty-something

young man who seemed particularly emotionally burdened. He had sat silently all evening. Finally, I asked him his name and why he was so quiet. "I am a Muslim," he responded, "and I have been told that I cannot be Muslim and be gay." The table fell silent for a long moment. All of our hearts were aching and so I shared with the young man that I had received a similar message growing up Catholic so that he would know that he was not alone. And I tried to reassure him that the message he had received was not true. No one, be they ordained or not, has the power or the right to separate someone else from God. I have always hoped that my words gave some solace to that young

man. And so I pointed out to the assembled ministers that they are uniquely qualified to teach that truth.

All the while the community continued to dialogue with the clergy Dr. Scott watched from the back of the room. He seemed content to quietly lay the groundwork for further progress and let spiritual healing do the rest.





H1N1 Influenza and HIV

People living with HIV infection, especially if they have AIDS or have low CD4 cell counts (sometimes called T-cell counts), can develop severe complications from influenza. They are one of the initial target group for the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine and should be vaccinated with the inactivated form of the vaccine (flu shot). They should also be vaccinated against seasonal flu with the seasonal flu shot. People with HIV infection who develop flu-like symptoms should consult their health care provider right away to determine if they need treatment. Along with everyone else, people with HIV infection should take everyday precautions to protect themselves from the flu this season.

For more information on the H1N1 and HIV, visit:

CDC's Guidance for Clinicians: <http://sn.im/tlmow>

The Body (resource website): <http://sn.im/tlmro>

National Minority AIDS Center (NMAC): <http://sn.im/tlmti>



Prevention Town Hall Meeting

The Community Collaborative Planning Council's (CCPC) Prevention Committee is holding the first of two Town Hall meetings to ask for community input on prevention services in Alameda County.



Monday, December 14th
6 PM to 8 PM
Allen Temple Baptist Church
8501 International Blvd.
Oakland CA. 94621

***Prizes and food will be provided!
Come play a community version of Family Feud***

The second Town Hall will be scheduled for January 2010 at a location to be determined in South County.

Both Town Hall meetings will be followed by a Prevention Summit in February.

Please RSVP to Shelley Stinson at (510) 268-7647 or shelley.stinson@acgov.org

OAA Community Service Awards



On December 1, 2009, the Office of AIDS Administration held its 15th annual World AIDS Day Community Service Awards Program. This year, the office presented its first Trailblazer Award to Dr. Robert C. Scott. In future years, it will be called the Dr Robert Scott Trailblazer Award.

To see pictures of the event, go to:
<http://sn.im/tlhvs>

Other awardees were:

Yamini Bhtnagar
EBAC
Youth Award

Alberto Contreras
Community Member
Volunteer Award

Nathaleen Jones
Business Owner
Non-Traditional Community Partner Award

Kathleen Clanon M.D.
AETC/ACMC
Caregiver Award

Sharyn Grayson
VOABA
Prevention Award

Deborah Royal R.N.
EBAC
Care & Treatment Award

It's Time For Chart Reviews

One of the quality management activities conducted by the OAA are annual chart reviews. Collecting data from client charts is one of the ways to monitor processes within our health care delivery system and to measure progress toward established standards. Several nurses have been hired to conduct the chart reviews. The OAA Quality Assurance Coordinator will be contacting agencies to schedule reviews throughout December and January. The data will be compiled and analyzed and shared with funded agencies during the first quarter of 2010.



East Oakland Community Project

East Oakland Community Project's Emergency Housing Program (Crossroads) is the largest 24-hour facility of its kind in Alameda County. Crossroads offers a holistic approach to help residents rebuild their self reliance. Some of the features include a family wing, a community room, kitchenette, laundry facilities, and an outdoor play area.

Case management services are mandatory and help residents establish priorities to work toward obtaining permanent housing and employment. Residents are connected with various health-related services and there is on-site mental health and substance abuse counseling.

Life skills training is offered twice per week to help clients develop or improve on the skills necessary to be self sufficient. Residents learn anger management and how to budget their money. Volunteerism is also promoted and encouraged.

A weekly resident meeting allows residents to give suggestions on how to improve services. A women's group was already in existence at Crossroads, but there is now a newly established men's group as a result of suggestions made during one of these meetings.

For more information about services at Crossroads you may contact the Program Director, Kim Parrish at (510) 532-3211.

ECOP



Ryan White Care and Treatment Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Office of AIDS Administration recently announced two RFP for the following services:

- Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) - This includes Utilities, Food and Housing
 - Congregate Meals
 - Medical Transportation - Van
- and
- Planning Council Support

Proposals for EFA, Congregate Meals and Transportation are due by Thursday January 7, 2010 12:00 noon.

Proposals for Planning Council Support are due by Wednesday January 20, 2010 12:00 Noon

For more information, including due dates for Planning Council Support proposals please contact Michael Lee at (510) 268-7641 or Michael.Lee@acgov.org



Community Spotlight

Diana Dupree

While a student at Laney College in 1996, Diana and a friend decided to step aboard a Cal-PEP van and get tested for HIV. Diana was shocked with the results. She entered into care and began treatment. Two months later came more shocking news when she was hospitalized for PCP, a sign that the disease had progressed to AIDS. Diana left the hospital with an oxygen tank. She had to eventually move in with her parents because she could no longer take care of herself and her two children.

Diana's next hurdle was disclosing her status to her family. Her mother had already sensed that there was something wrong. Her father took it very hard. "Both of my children acted out when they found out". Once her family knew what Diana needed, they all jumped in to help and all took turns looking after her children.

Diana takes care of herself by keeping her medical appointments and taking her medication regularly. "I know

I need more work on my diet", she says.

She also believes in having a support system in place.

Her family was a tremendous source of help to her, but she also advises those living with HIV/AIDS to seek help through support groups. She is very grateful for organizations like WORLD and CAL-PEP for their information and emotional support during the rough times. "I couldn't talk to my family at first. It really helped to speak to a peer advocate...someone who was in my shoes to help me get through this."



Diana is a former board member of WORLD and has been a member of the Oakland TGA Community Collaborative Planning Council for the last two years. One of her main goals is to encourage more women to join. Diana currently lives with her daughter and spends her time doing crossword puzzles, going to movies and going off on her electric-powered wheelchair to the flea market. Her absolute favorite thing to do is to spend time with her two grandchildren.

OAA Contractor Announcements

- **Care and Treatment Budget Revision deadline is December 31, 2009**
- **Careware Training!** Date and location still to be determined. The training is expected sometime during the first quarter of calendar 2010.
- **Site Visits.** OAA Care and Treatment contract monitors will be contacting Agency Program Managers to arrange for final site visits for this current contract year.
- **Provider Quality Management Conference.** January 21, 2010. 9 AM to 1 PM at the Eastmont Town Center Conference Room 2. Free Parking. Lunch will be provided. Mandatory meeting for Care and Treatment Contractors. For more information contact Pam Aziz at (510) 268-7651 or Pam.Aziz@acgov.org.
- **Ryan White Care Program Progress Reports are due March 15, 2010**



Al Lugtu



Al has been with OAA since 1994. He is an Administrative Assistant working in the fiscal and contracts unit. He is responsible for Contracts and Grants administration, tracking all expenditures and making sure that all contracts are executed in a timely fashion. He also acts as the fiscal liaison between the OAA, our contractors, and other County departments.

When Al is away from the office, he spends time keeping up with his daughter's busy basketball schedule and playing golf whenever possible.

The OAA Welcomes New Staff Member

Edward Kierklo is our new Information System Specialist. He will manage CAREWare, which is our data management system, and will assist providers and staff in their reporting requirements.



East Bay Community Law Center Presents a workshop on...

Monday, December 14th, 2009
3 PM to 5 PM

New Immigration Laws for People Living with HIV/AIDS

- What are these new laws regarding the immigration of PLWHA to the U.S.?
- When will they go into effect?
- How will these laws affect my clients?
- Plus a review of major immigration programs

Office of AIDS Administration
3rd Floor Conference Room
1000 Broadway
Oakland California 94607





Grupo Fremont VIP

Is a County-funded Program dedicated to Spanish Speaking persons living with HIV/AIDS
They provide support groups, educational forums, advocacy, HIV Prevention and Awareness programs and 24/7 peer counseling including information and referral.

For more information please call:

Antonio Osuna, Program Manager, (510) 943-2557

Ron Chavez, Executive Director, (510) 593-1045

Upcoming Events

Sunday December 13, 2009

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Orientation for newly diagnosed clients

This session will be limited to 12 participants

RSVP: Ron or Antonio (510) 593-1045

Group conducted in Spanish

Sunday,, January 31, 2001

12:00 - 5:00,

Special Guests

Fernando Quinones, Attorney

Forum on HIV and Immigration
and Dr Ruben Gamundi, Gilead Services

Open to HIV Poz Clients

RSVP: Ron or Antonio (510) 593-1045

Program conducted in Spanish



HIV Denti-Cal Program Notice

Due to State Budget cuts in July 2009, the Denti-CAL program was eliminated.

If you have a client who was eligible for Denti-CAL and has HIV/AIDS, s/he may be eligible to receive dental services through the HIV Dental Care Program.

Please call (510) 297-0248 for a recorded message of the eligibility requirements and a list of participating Clinic Sites.

For additional incormation, please conact Tom Mosmiller at (510) 268-7646 or
Tom.Mosmiller@acgov.org

Article or Announcement Submissions

The Office of AIDS Administration encourages community members to submit articles relevant to HIV/AIDS in Alameda County

- Approximately 250 words (one double spaced page)
- Include contact information
- Submitted by email only
- Submit as word document or in the body of email
- Due to space constraints, not all submitted articles will be published.
- For more specific guidelines, contact Daniela Torres at Daniela.Torres@acgov.org

**For a subscription to the OAA Quarterly Newsletter,
please send email to Daniela.Torres@acgov.org**



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