

BLACK HEALTH SUMMIT



OCTOBER 2024

SUMMARY REPORT

OUR MISSION

To invest in and be a catalyst for collaborations, policy, and systems change that improve the health of South Florida communities, with a focus on vulnerable, low- to moderate-income populations.

OUR VISION

All South Floridians have an equal opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.

OUR PURPOSE

The Health Foundation has consistently prioritized addressing healthcare disparities the Black community faces in South Florida. **The Black Health Summit has been a vital part of our efforts, bringing together health equity experts, advocates, private and public sectors, and community-based organizations** to explore critical topics such as Black maternal health, climate change, community trauma and violence, political determinants of health and Black men's health.

Recognizing the urgency of focusing on the root causes of poor health in our communities, the Health Foundation firmly believes that tackling specific issues, including increasing access to care, improving Black maternal health outcomes, and establishing collaborations between health systems and community-based organizations, will better address health disparities in our community.

Over the past three years, **the Health Foundation's Black Health Summit has been at the forefront of leading meaningful discussions, informing our community, serving as a catalyst, and driving substantial improvements each year.** None of this would have been possible without the dedicated efforts of all involved.

We have aimed to build relationships and uncover opportunities for the Health Foundation and stakeholders to invest in impactful solutions and actionable strategies to narrow the healthcare gaps faced by the Black community. As a result, the Health Foundation has made significant

investments in initiatives focused on advancing health equity for Black residents in the region, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to effecting lasting change.

Focused on fostering collaboration and driving systemic change, the Summits have facilitated partnerships between various stakeholders committed to addressing the root causes of inequities. Through these efforts, the Health Foundation strives to inform, encourage, and empower local and philanthropic organizations to contribute to more inclusive and equitable communities for all South Floridians.

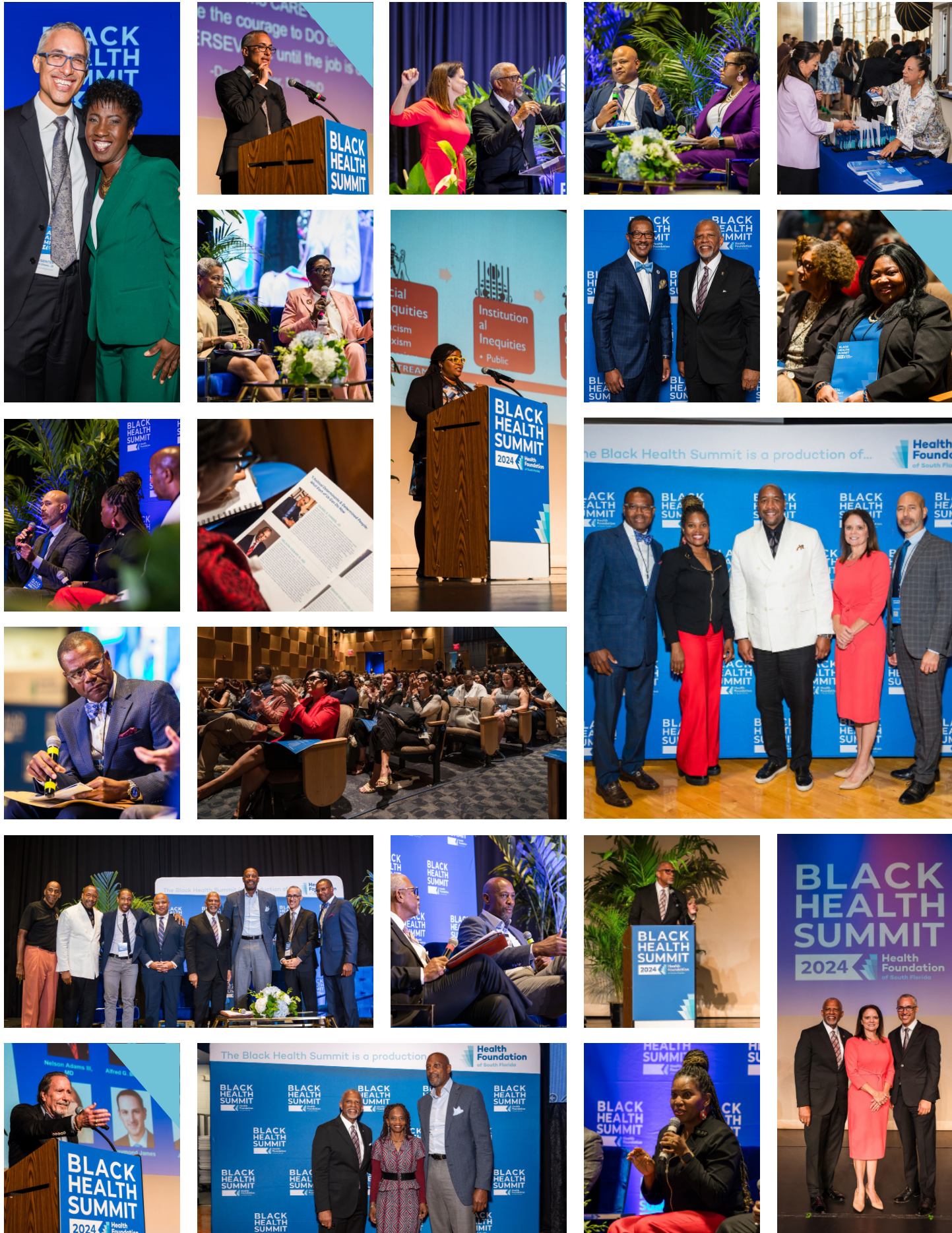
We plan to convene and engage community stakeholders in 2025 on the priorities and issues explored at the first three Summits. While we will not convene a Summit in 2025, I want to reassure you that **the Black Health Summit will return in 2026**, renewed and prepared to continue hosting, having taken the opportunity to engage and address crucial health issues within our community.

Sincerely,



LOREEN CHANT
President and CEO
Health Foundation of South Florida





2024 BLACK HEALTH SUMMIT OVERVIEW

On June 4, the Health Foundation brought together a formidable slate of thought leaders, national health equity experts, community-based trailblazers, and advocates to address critical issues and root causes of the significant gaps in Black health outcomes in South Florida. **The Black Health Summit 2024 aimed to spark meaningful conversations and collective action to help dismantle systemic barriers that impede equitable outcomes.**

Nearly 400 participants attended the powerful Summit held at Florida Memorial University. It provided a platform for in-depth discussions and a vision focused on collective strategies and solutions for advancing Black health equity. This year's key themes were the Political Drivers of Health and Black Men's Health.

The Summit's goal of engaging participants in identifying solutions for progress was evident in the rich discussions and actionable insights shared throughout the day. Distinguished speakers, such as Daniel Dawes, JD, Founding Dean of the School of Global Health at Meharry Medical College, and Zinzi Bailey, ScD, MSPH, Associate Professor, Division of Epidemiology & Community Health, University of Minnesota, enriched the Summit with an inspiring keynote and comprehensive analysis of the political and social determinants of health.

The Summit featured **panels and dialogue on driving "Big P" policy and "little p" organizational change.** The lunchtime conversation with

Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH, Chief Purpose Officer, Headspace, and Luther Brewster, PhD, General Partner, WellUP, prioritized the importance of radical healing, building trust, and ensuring adequate care in the context of Black men's health.

The day ended with convening a "dream team" of community leaders accompanied by NBA Hall-of-Famer Alonzo Mourning, who invited attendees to pledge support for Black men's health and well-being. The diverse audience showed a strong commitment to a more equitable future. Participants were encouraged to continue advancing partnerships and establishing deeper collaborations to maintain the momentum generated during the Summit.

The Summit addressed Black health disparities while instilling a sense of urgency and motivation to create a more equitable and healthy future for South Florida. The Health Foundation remains committed to using the knowledge, insights, and relationships gained to advocate for social and systems change over the long term and encourages all who attended the Summit to do the same. While the community navigates the complexities of working to advance policy solutions that will address disparities, we can individually and collectively work toward equitable health outcomes, building a future that prioritizes individual and community well-being.



HOW HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF THROUGH THE SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH

At the opening of the Summit, **Zinzi Bailey, ScD, MSPH**, a social epidemiologist and Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota, presented “How History Repeats Itself & the Social Drivers of Health.”

Dr. Bailey explored the social context of health inequities, focusing on how structural determinants, particularly structural racism, contribute to the development of these disparities in Black communities. Her talk illuminated the structural and institutional factors affecting health outcomes, emphasizing the impact of structural racism and historical inequities on Black communities. Despite some progress, significant health disparities observed in life expectancy between Black and White Americans persist, as evidenced by the pandemic.

She highlighted stark contrasts in life expectancy within Miami-Dade County, such as between Overtown, a historically predominantly Black neighborhood, and Bayside, with luxury high rises. For example, residents of Overtown, a predominantly Black neighborhood, have a life expectancy of around 71 years, which is among the lowest in the county. In contrast, predominantly White neighborhoods tend to have much higher life expectancies, contributing to the overall county average of 80.2 years. This gap highlights the ongoing health inequities and the need for targeted interventions to address the social determinants of health in these communities.

Dr. Bailey stressed the need to look for health equity in outcomes and the processes that lead to those outcomes. She shared that, historically, those in power have used their influence to limit resources to groups deemed inferior, perpetuating cycles of devaluation and inequality.

She underscored **the importance of distinguishing between health equity and health disparities, advocating for a comprehensive approach that addresses both downstream (individual-level) and upstream (societal-level) determinants of health.** Her vision of health equity emphasizes that every individual should be able to achieve their full health potential.

Dr. Bailey’s presentation aligns with the Health Foundation’s strategy to address social determinants of health through initiatives targeting economic stability, housing, and education. For instance, the Health Foundation’s South Florida Anchor Alliance (SFAA) focuses on creating a more inclusive economy through collective equitable procurement and workforce development initiatives. SFAA is a crucial pillar that addresses and positively impacts the social and economic conditions that affect community health and well-being. Additionally, Miami Homes for All, in collaboration with the Health Foundation, brings together stakeholders in Miami-Dade County in the spirit of working toward a shared goal of equity in health and housing for our diverse and dynamic community – “the least affordable city in the nation.”

Dr. Bailey’s insights call for sustained efforts to dismantle systemic barriers and advance health equity, resonating with the Health Foundation’s dedication to creating a more equitable South Florida.

THE POLITICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: HOPE FOR A BRAVE & BETTER FUTURE



Health equity was the central focus of a keynote address at the Summit delivered by **Daniel E. Dawes, Founding Dean of the School of Global Health at Meharry Medical College**. Dawes, a national figure in the health equity movement, emphasized the impact of historical and current policies on health disparities and stressed the urgency of advocacy to address these inequities.

His presentation illustrated the impact of “bad policies” on health disparities and emphasized how these political determinants are crucial to advancing health equity. The Health Foundation’s efforts align with this framework, recognizing the need for policy changes to address the root causes of health disparities and the long-term view required to change the systems that have created these inequities.

Dawes pointed out a comprehensive list of healthcare problems linked to policy action and inaction, emphasizing the issue’s systemic nature. He shared that our political system has not valued each group equally nor understood the long-term implications of policies. Dawes provided examples such as the exclusion of domestic workers from the coverage of the Social Security Act in 1935 and the construction of highways through predominantly African American communities, like Overtown in Miami, demonstrating the enduring consequences of government actions on marginalized communities.

These examples, and others shared during the keynote, highlight the interconnectedness of policy decisions and healthcare disparities, emphasizing the critical need for policy changes that prioritize equity and address the systemic social and economic inequalities maintained by historical and current policies.

Dawes shared that **“only policy can fix what policy broke in the first place.”** His keynote underscored the critical need for policy changes to address the root causes of health disparities, emphasizing that policies have the unique power to distribute resources, structure relationships, and allocate power within a society. He underlined the fundamental pursuit of justice and fairness through policy changes, stressing the potential to work toward a more just and fair society for all. Dawes said that he felt “closer to health equity than ever.”

 **WATCH VIDEO**

THE POLITICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: HOPE FOR A BRAVE & BETTER FUTURE

He emphasized the importance of addressing two core questions to enhance our understanding of the political determinants of health:

1.
What limitations and barriers can be identified for the community on which your project or program focuses?

2.
Does the project identify and uplift populations that have been historically marginalized, under-resourced, and vulnerable?

He advised the audience to utilize these questions as a framework to encourage the community to use political determinants of health to address critical issues. By systematically examining the limitations and barriers faced by the community, stakeholders can identify critical areas for intervention and support. Additionally, the audience can promote equity and inclusion within the community by ensuring that the project specifically targets and uplifts historically marginalized, under-resourced, and vulnerable populations. Encouraging the community to adopt the political determinants of health framework can lead to more targeted, effective, and equitable health interventions and programs.

Overall, **Dawes’s presentation was a call to action, emphasizing the importance of voting as the single most important thing people can do to affect systemic change.** He shared it’s essential to stay informed about current policies and carry out our civic responsibilities. He also urged the audience to engage in advocacy efforts that address political determinants of health inequities and work towards a healthier, more equitable future.

Dawes left the audience with the powerful words of former Surgeon General David Satcher, MD, PhD:

“We need leaders who CARE enough, KNOW enough, have the courage to DO enough, and who will PERSEVERE until the job is done.” These inspiring words remind us of the qualities needed to make a lasting impact and drive positive change.





INTRODUCING THE ISSUES

Several interconnected issues emerged throughout the day across the keynote addresses, panel discussions, and audience engagement.

1

**The Urgency of
Health Equity
Advocacy in the
State of Florida**

2

**An Imperative for
Improving Health
Access for Black
Men**

3

**The Necessity
of Designing
Organizational
Practices that
Build Trust**

The following pages share the current challenges and opportunities associated with these issues and spotlight relevant Health Foundation of South Florida-funded projects. In the same way, the challenges are interconnected; the solutions are likewise intertwined. Each issue calls for exploration, collaboration, and investment—and each provides an opportunity for all of us to take individual and collective steps to bring the future we envision to life.

THE URGENCY OF HEALTH EQUITY ADVOCACY IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Moderator:
Alexander Rundlet, JD, Partner, Rundlet Advisory, PLLC

Panelists:
Linda Elam, PhD, MPH, Managing Director of Manatt Health Strategies
Yolanda Cash Jackson, JD, Government Lawyer-Lobbyist, Becker and Poliakoff, PA
Erica Monet Li, MPH, CHES®, Health Policy Analyst, Florida Policy Institute
Avareena Schools-Cropper, DrPH, MPH, Public Health Expert, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of Minority Health

Public health policies are crucial for improving health equity, dismantling socioeconomic barriers, and ensuring more comprehensive access to healthcare. These policies can regulate natural resources to prevent harm, establish requirements and mandates to protect citizens and provide direct support that impacts health determinants. Furthermore, public policies proactively work to reduce barriers, create opportunities, and offer incentives that influence health choices.

During our morning panel, “Where Are We Now? ‘Big P’ Policy and Health Equity in the State of Florida,” our moderator and panelists offered the following public policy insights.

Dr. Linda Elam emphasized that Medicaid offers the most significant potential for promoting health equity. However, Florida is one of ten states that have yet to expand Medicaid, resulting in 1.3 million Floridians losing access to the program, more than half due to procedural dis-enrollment or redetermination. Expanding Medicaid in Florida is a pressing issue and a significant step towards a healthier and more equitable future.

Erica Monet Li added that the Florida Policy Institute collects state-level data to hold agencies accountable, advocates for increased funding, has quantified the impact of Medicaid expansion, and advances policy implementation. She encouraged the audience to support the upcoming ballot initiative to expand Medicaid in Florida.

Yolanda Cash Jackson amplified the importance of engaging directly with elected officials, noting “they listen” and encouraging participants to align requests with current political priorities to increase the likelihood of securing legislative support, recommending that advocates “sell what they are buying.”

Dr. Avareena Schools-Cropper highlighted the imperative of consistent data collection in advancing health equity. She shared that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have provided resources for stakeholders to understand health equity data definitions, standards, and population impacts, enabling alignment across programs.



THE URGENCY OF HEALTH EQUITY ADVOCACY IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

*In closing, panel moderator **Alexander Rundlet** shared that, ultimately, elections have consequences, with a direct link between voting, advocacy, and future community health outcomes. Citizens are not just passive recipients of policies but active participants in shaping their health outcomes. They have the obligation and the power to communicate the real-life impacts of policies to influence state agencies and commercial interests. It is not just essential but empowering for individuals and communities to actively engage in politics and voting, as this is the most effective way to ensure that governments prioritize their interests at the local, state, and federal levels.*

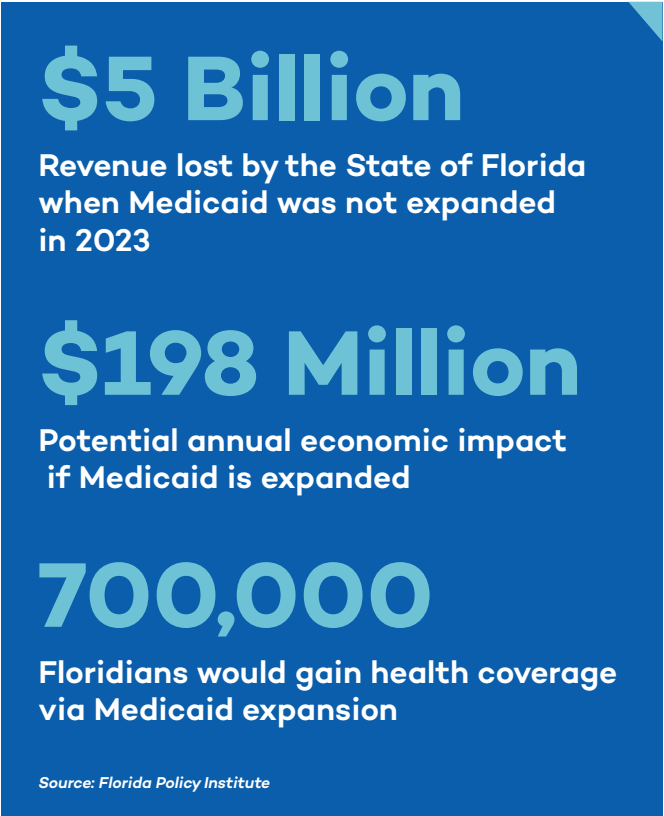
Opportunities for Collaboration, Exploration, and Investment

- > **Voter Education:** Support programs and events to educate voters about candidates and the specific issues within campaign platforms
- > **Civic Engagement:** Collaborate with community organizations to enhance voter registrations and turnout
- > **Advocacy Training:** Conduct sessions to equip citizens to engage with elected officials and advocate for issues that affect their health

Health Foundation Investment Spotlight

With Health Foundation funding, Florida Health Justice Project has assisted individuals who have lost Medicaid, brought litigation to challenge State Medicaid termination notices, sought models from across Florida to expand coverage, and conducted a public awareness campaign to encourage Floridians to complete their Medicaid renewals.

To learn more about the Florida Health Justice Project or to get involved, visit <https://www.floridahealthjustice.org/>.



AN IMPERATIVE FOR IMPROVING HEALTH ACCESS FOR BLACK MEN

The Status of Black Men’s Health in Florida (1)

Cheryl Holder, MD, Executive Director, Florida Clinicians for Climate Action

When We See Them: How We Rise Up to Meet Black Men and Boys in Their Intentions for Radical Healing (2)

Lunch Conversation Moderator:

Luther Brewster, Jr., PhD, General Partner at WellUp, Sr. Executive Dean, Community Health Innovation at Roseman University of Health Sciences

Lunch Conversation Speaker:

Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH, Chief Purpose Officer, Headspace

Faith, Hope, Love, and Resilience (3)

Conversation Moderator:

Nelson Adams III, MD, Physician-leader and Black Health Summit Co-Chair

Conversation Speaker:

Alonzo Mourning, Founder, Overtown Youth Center, NBA Champion & Hall-of-Famer, Vice President of Player Programs & Development, Miami Heat

Current Challenges and Opportunities

Focusing on Black men’s health is imperative due to stark disparities in life expectancy and disease outcomes. Black men in the United States have a significantly lower life expectancy compared

to White men, primarily driven by higher rates of prostate cancer, kidney disease, hypertension, and diabetes. Despite the severe impact of these diseases, Black men often avoid the healthcare system due to trauma and deep-seated mistrust. In response to these challenges, healthcare and public health leaders must approach and engage the community directly, recognizing their capacity for solutions and building a healthcare system tailored to their needs from an early stage.

During the Summit, NBA Hall-of-Famer **Alonzo Mourning** shared a personal story with attendees and Black Health Summit Co-Chair **Nelson Adams III, MD**, highlighting many Black men’s mistrust towards the healthcare system. Despite his wealth and status, Mourning admitted to avoiding a prostate cancer biopsy out of fear and because his doctors “did not look like him.” This fear and mistrust resonate across the Black community, indicating that even prominent individuals face barriers that hinder their access to necessary medical care.

Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH, Chief Purpose Officer, Headspace, and **Luther Brewster, PhD**, General Partner, WellUP, echoed the concerns about mistrust and offered hope and practical steps for moving forward. Dr. Powell spoke about serving others, suggesting that healthcare providers must be well-resourced and empathetic to build trust and provide adequate care. Brewster emphasized that understanding and addressing the roots of mistrust can lead to more equitable healthcare outcomes.



AN IMPERATIVE FOR IMPROVING HEALTH ACCESS FOR BLACK MEN

Health outcomes for Black men in key disease categories are alarmingly worse than for White men. Black men have higher incidence and mortality rates for prostate cancer and kidney disease and are more likely to suffer from diabetes-related complications. **Cheryl Holder, MD**, emphasized the critical importance of health screenings, citing statistics that reveal significant gaps in screening rates for Black men. **Despite these alarming figures, data on Black men’s health remains incomplete and inadequate, complicating efforts to address these disparities effectively. Dr. Holder pointed out the statistics underscore the urgent need for targeted health interventions in regions with significant Black populations.**

Highlighting prostate cancer is particularly crucial, as it is a leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Black men, stressing the need for increased awareness and early screening. Improving health outcomes for Black men requires a multifaceted approach that includes better access to screenings, building trust in the healthcare system, and addressing systemic inequities. By taking these actions, stakeholders can work towards a future where

> Black men are 1.7 times more likely to be diagnosed with—and 2.1 times more likely to die from—prostate cancer than White men. Black men are also slightly more likely than women to be diagnosed with advanced disease.

> According to FLHealthCHARTS, in 2022, the life expectancy for Black men in Florida was 76.4 years, while the life expectancy for White, Hispanic, and Asian men was 79.0, 81.4, and 82.1 years, respectively

Black men receive the care they need and deserve, ultimately reducing health disparities and fostering a more equitable society. The experiences shared at the Summit by Drs. Adams and Holder, Alonzo Mourning, and experts Powell and Brewster underscore the urgency of this work and provide insights for communities to achieve meaningful change.

Opportunities for Collaboration, Exploration, and Investment

- > Improve Access to Care:** Develop and pilot innovative models of care that consider the cultural and social barriers Black men face
- > Increase Access to Screenings:** Ensure that Black men have better access to health screenings for prostate cancer, kidney disease, Diabetes, and others
- > Policy Advocacy:** Advocate for policies that increase access to care for Black populations and remove barriers to care

Health Foundation Investment Spotlight

With support from the Health Foundation in 2023, including investments in infrastructure, operations, and programmatic needs, Armen Henderson, MD, MBA, successfully relocated and reopened his free urgent clinic in Liberty City. Dr. Henderson’s clinic provides free urgent care, disaster relief, and patient advocacy, serving as a vital resource for Miami-Dade County’s most vulnerable populations. As a general internal medicine physician and faculty member at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Dr. Henderson and his team of healthcare heroes go beyond conventional care, offering home visits, education, counseling, and compassionate care to neighbors from Liberty City to Overtown.

THE NECESSITY OF DESIGNING ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICES THAT BUILD TRUST

How We All Win Together, Cultural Barriers & Organizational Practices That Impact Access to Care and Black Men's Health

Moderator:

O'Neil Pyke, MD, MBA, SFHM, Chief Medical Officer, Jackson North Medical Center

Panelists:

Luther Brewster, Jr., PhD, General Partner, WellUp
Gabriel Ochoa, Senior VP, Community Health Advancement, YMCA

Kelli Tice, MD, VP, Medical Affairs, Chief Health Equity Officer, GuideWell.

Organizational practices contribute to advancing health equity, facilitating engagement with the healthcare system, and building trust with patients. These practices can effectively utilize data to allocate resources and evaluate programs, leverage technology to reflect patient-centric design as the standard of care and engage community members to enhance access to care.

Dr. O'Neil Pyke facilitated our afternoon panel, "How We All Win Together: Cultural Barriers & Organizational Practices that Impact Access to Care & Black Men's Health," during which our panelists offered the following organizational practices insights.

Dr. Kelly Tice shared that Florida Blue has built a repeatable framework to analyze and standardize all the healthcare data gathered about plan members, from building relationships with her data analytics team to being intentional about how data governs the allocation of resources and the evaluation of programs. Florida Blue knows members expect their health plan to have processes that remove barriers and help members get their healthcare. Dr. Tice also indicated that how payors reimburse providers needs to change so that contracts support solutions developed by

the community experts doing the work. **Dr. Luther Brewster** highlighted the transformative role of technology in the hospital or healthcare setting. He emphasized that technology is a powerful tool that can profoundly influence care and is indispensable for modern healthcare in our digital age. For instance, tailoring the standard of care for each medical diagnosis within technologies such as the Electronic Medical Record to meet the needs of Black men will lead to better health outcomes, alleviate fear, and foster trust.

Gabriel Ochoa emphasized the importance of trust in the relationships between YMCA health navigators and their patients and between funders and community-based organizations (CBOs) actively addressing health disparities. He highlighted the significance of person-centered, community-based support that utilizes community health workers from the neighborhoods they serve to build trust in the healthcare system. Ochoa also pointed out that funders often invest in short-term increments while health inequities are deeply rooted and widespread. This short-term funding approach makes it difficult to effectively tackle long-standing challenges, ultimately eroding trust between CBOs, funders, and the communities they serve.

In conclusion, our moderator, Dr. O'Neil Pyke, reflected on the fragmented nature of the system to improve access to care. He stressed that standardized data, thoughtful use of technology, patient-centered design, long-term funding, and collaborations among community-based organizations (CBOs), payors, and providers are all vital components of building trust across the healthcare ecosystem.

THE NECESSITY OF DESIGNING ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICES THAT BUILD TRUST

Health Foundation Investment Spotlight

The Health Foundation invested \$1.8 million in two newly established black maternal health equity collaboratives, which today include ten organizations working together to effectively address the social drivers of health and treat health-related social needs as part of effective clinical care. These initiatives bridge the gap between healthcare providers and community-based organizations, supporting organizational change by integrating social risk screening tools into clinical care delivery, changing workflows to partner with CBOs addressing the social needs of patients, and piloting the use of technology to track patient experience from referral to linkage to services to resolution of patient need.

Opportunities for Collaboration, Exploration, and Investment

- > **Patient-Centered Design:** Identify community-based organizations to amplify the call for Black men to participate in the design of these new approaches to care and to share the availability of these new models when implemented
- > **Safety Net Support:** Provide operating support to safety net clinics and other healthcare access points to develop new, trusted models of care that will improve services by engaging Black men in the design of these new approaches
- > **Utilize Healthcare Technology:** Ensure electronic medical record systems document the new, patient-centered models as the standard of care and that the data collected informs targeted interventions





RESOURCES SHARED

As we navigate the complexities of advancing policy solutions to address disparities at both the system and organizational levels, we recognize the importance of seizing immediate opportunities for action.

We look forward to staying connected and believe in the immense potential of what we can and must achieve together. Our collective efforts can bring about significant change in addressing health disparities.

Here, you will find a collection of valuable references and resources that will empower you to educate yourself about disease screening and civic engagement—two of the primary topics at Black Health Summit 2024*.

[Black Health Summit 2024 | Health Foundation of South Florida \(hfsf.org\)](https://hfsf.org)

*Access to Dr. Wizdom Powell's Headspace App and Code will be available until December 31, 2024.



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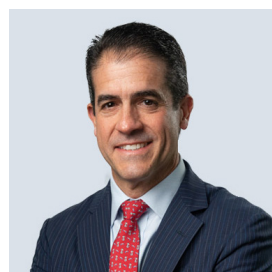
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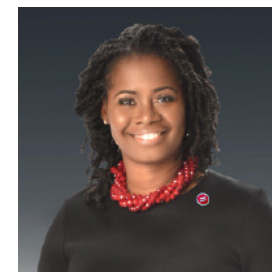
O'Neil J. Pyke, MD, MBA, SFHAM

Jackson North Medical Center, Chief Medical Officer



Alexander Rundlet, JD

Rundlet Advisory, PLLC
Partner



Germaine Smith-Baugh, EdD

Urban League of Broward County,
President & CEO

SPEAKERS

HOW HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF THROUGH THE SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH

SPEAKER



ZINZI BAILEY, ScD, MSPH

Associate Professor, Division of Epidemiology & Community Health University of Minnesota

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THE POLITICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: HOPE FOR A BRAVE & BETTER FUTURE

SPEAKER



DANIEL E. DAWES, JD

Founding Dean of the School of Global Health; Senior Vice President of Global Health Meharry Medical College

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WHEN WE SEE THEM: HOW WE RISE UP TO MEET BLACK MEN AND BOYS IN THEIR INTENTIONS FOR RADICAL HEALING

PANELISTS



LUTHER BREWSTER, Jr., PhD

General Partner, WellUp; Senior Executive Dean, Community Health Innovation, Roseman University of Health Sciences



WIZDOM POWELL, PhD, MPH

Chief Purpose Officer Headspace

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WHERE ARE WE NOW? “BIG P” POLICY & HEALTH EQUITY IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

MODERATOR



ALEXANDER RUNDLET, JD

Partner, Rundlet Advisory PLLC and Public Policy Consultant

PANELISTS



YOLANDA CASH JACKSON, JD

Government Lawyer-Lobbyist at Becker and Poliakoff, P.A..



ERICA MONET LI, MPH, CHES®

Health Policy Analyst Florida Policy Institute



LINDA ELAM, PhD, MPH

Managing Director Manatt Health Strategies



AVAREENA SCHOOLS-CROPPER, DrPH, MPH

Public Health Expert, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of Minority Health

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HOW WE ALL WIN TOGETHER: CULTURAL BARRIERS & ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICES THAT IMPACT ACCESS TO CARE AND BLACK MEN’S HEALTH

MODERATOR



O’NEIL PYKE, MD, MBA, SFHM

Chief Medical Officer Jackson North Medical Center

PANELISTS



LUTHER BREWSTER, Jr., PhD

General Partner, WellUp; Senior Executive Dean, Community Health Innovation, Roseman University of Health Sciences



GABRIEL OCHOA

Senior Vice President of Community Health Advancement at YMCA South Florida.



KELLI TICE, MD

Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Health Equity Officer of GuideWell

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THE STATUS OF BLACK MEN’S HEALTH IN FLORIDA

SPEAKER



CHERYL HOLDER, MD

Co-Chair, Black Health Summit Host Committee; Executive Director, Florida Clinicians for Climate Action

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FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, AND RESILIENCE

PANELISTS



NELSON ADAMS III, MD

Co-Chair, Black Health Summit Host Committee; Board Member, Health Foundation of South Florida; Founder, Metro-Miami OBGYN Associates



ALONZO MOURNING

Founder, Overtown Youth Center; NBA Champion and Hall-of-Famer; Vice President of Player Programs and Development, Miami Heat

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PLEDGE FOR BLACK MEN'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Today's Pledge for Black Men's Health and Well-Being was authored by Brother Lyle Muhammad, Executive Director, Circle of Brotherhood. We thank him for this thoughtful contribution.

I **(Say Your Name)** pledge from this day forward to value my health as a core part of my wealth.

I **(Say Your Name)** will be an example and promoter of health and wellness for my family, my community, and our world.

We, as Black Men and the supporters of Black Men's health and wellness, pledge to study and discipline ourselves; to increase our awareness and practices that create holistic well-being – spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially.

I/we deserve the best of treatment available when we are sick; the best of care when needed to be well; and this we will achieve with the same love, honor, and respect given by those who came before us, so that we may have long life, healthy communities, and health-conscious children and families.

THOUGHTS FROM SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

The Health Foundation of South Florida is grateful for the participants' insights, engagement, and energy at the Black Health Summit 2024. As thought leaders and conveners, we are committed to facilitating connections and knowledge sharing, providing outstanding programming with purposeful content and speakers, and meaningfully connecting the people and organizations focused on health equity.

We heard from Summit attendees about their overall experience, the relevance of the program and presentations, and opportunities for advancing health equity within their organizations or communities.



*One key takeaway
that resonated with me was,
'Advocacy does NOT exist in silos.'
This theme echoed
throughout the summit."*



*"I thoroughly enjoyed the
2024 Black Health Summit
and found it to be a valuable experience.
The presentations were impactful,
and I am committed to implementing the
actionable solutions discussed at the Summit.
The opportunity to connect with community
members was satisfying, and I am very likely
to attend next year's summit.
One key takeaway for me was the importance
of advocating for health equity beyond silos."*

THOUGHTS FROM SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS



*"The 2024 Black Health Summit was
enlightening and empowering.
The statistics on how zip codes determine
life expectancy highlighted the urgency of
addressing health disparities. I look forward
to attending future summits."*

*"I was impressed by the emphasis on
investing in the health of individuals, families,
and communities at the 2024 Black Health
Summit. It was a wake-up call to understand
the economic benefits of such investments.
I am dedicated to bringing more educational
opportunities to our community and actively
contributing to advancing health equity.
The summit has motivated me to take
meaningful action."*

*"I left having experienced an array of feelings
and thoughts. No matter how often I hear the
statistics, I am shocked and horrified.
I also felt hopeful and inspired to continue
to do this work."*

■ SUMMARY OF RECENT HEALTH FOUNDATION INVESTMENTS IN BLACK HEALTH

The Health Foundation is committed to investing in increasing access to care, addressing health and social needs, and building thriving communities. In keeping with the Health Foundation's commitment to resolving health disparities and supporting the well-being of Black communities, and in response to the identified issues and the collaborations that emerged from the three Black Health Summits, we share details about the investments made to date to advance Black health.

► Improving Doula Access and Integration in Miami-Dade

Informed by the region's first Black Health Summit, the Health Foundation invested in Black maternal health initiatives, creating the Miami-Dade Black Maternal Health and Infant Health Equity Collaborative led by Jackson Health System, including Southern Birth Justice Network, Metro Mommy Agency, Magnolia Birth House, and YWCA South Florida to incorporate community-based doulas into prenatal and postpartum care and to support Jackson Health System's journey of becoming a doula-friendly hospital. The funding helps build the doula workforce, improves doula access and integration in Miami-Dade County, and builds the infrastructure to incorporate community-based doulas into the prenatal, birthing, and postpartum process. The goal is to reduce Black maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.

► Supporting a new OB/GYN Clinic and Community Resource Center in a Maternity Care Desert in Broward

The Foundation also invested significant funding and support to increase healthcare access in a major maternity care desert in Lauderdale Lakes and the surrounding cities of Oakland Park, Sunrise, and Lauderhill. With only two practicing OB-GYN doctors in this area, these communities were experiencing the worst maternal health outcomes in the County. In response, the Health Foundation awarded funding for the Broward Black Maternal Health Collaborative, including Community Care Plan, Broward Health, Urban League of Broward County, and Broward Healthy Start Coalition. Community Care Plan's new Maternity Care & Heart Community Resource Center opened in Lauderdale Lakes in May 2024, expanding access to services and providing much-needed resources for pregnant and postpartum people. A Health Foundation grant helps to establish stronger community collaboration, bringing together one of our public safety net hospitals, a health plan, and community-based organizations to address and meet the mothers' healthcare and social needs holistically.

► Implementing Trauma-Informed, Community-Based Violence Prevention in Liberty City and Overtown

The Circle of Brotherhood (COB), a nonprofit organization primarily of Black men committed to crime reduction, violence prevention, economic empowerment, and youth mentorship, received a Health Foundation grant for its Peacemakers program, which supports community safety by connecting neighborhood residents to services like employment training, housing, food, and health care access. Peacemakers are non-traditional community-based workers who monitor and support community safety by strengthening community relationships and connecting neighborhood residents to services like employment training, housing, food, healthcare access, and other social drivers of health. COB also addresses neighborhood violence and trauma in Liberty City. The Health Foundation is incredibly proud to support Circle of Brotherhood's Peacemakers program, which addresses the health and safety needs of some of our most vulnerable communities.

► Funding Training for Climate Action

The Health Foundation provided funding support for Florida Clinicians for Climate Action (FCCA), which trains clinicians and provides educational resources on the risks and solutions for heat illness prevention. Launched in 2018, FCCA educates and engages other Florida clinicians to protect communities against the health harms of climate change and advocate for equitable public health solutions.

► Investing in Safety Net Clinics

In 2023, with the support of the Health Foundation, Dr. Armen Henderson, MD, MBA, successfully relocated and reopened his free urgent clinic in Liberty City. The clinic, led by Dr. Henderson, a general internal medicine physician and faculty member at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, offers free urgent care, disaster relief, and patient advocacy, catering to the most vulnerable populations in Miami-Dade County. Dr. Henderson and his team of healthcare professionals provide conventional care, home visits, education, counseling, and compassionate care to residents from Liberty City to Overtown.

► Building the Capacity of Grassroots Leaders

The Health Foundation increased its support for Black-led organizations by investing in programs and capacity-building to support leaders and organizations tackling health, social, and economic justice issues that are barriers to community health and well-being. Direct funding supported community-driven initiatives addressing neighborhood violence and trauma, serving recently homeless families, creating a powerful peace and prosperity program, and practicing street medicine. Additional funding supported 15 grassroots organizations with leadership development and coaching to increase fundraising capacity. Supporting and growing grassroots leaders and organizations is essential to ensuring meaningful community engagement, as they are the driving force behind local change and the bridge between community needs and sustainable solutions.

FINAL REFLECTIONS BY NELSON ADAMS III, M.D.

I am genuinely grateful for the tremendous support and active participation we received at the Black Health Summit 2024. The Summit's success was made possible by the invaluable contributions of our host committee, the engagement of our attendees, the warm hospitality of our host, Florida Memorial University, the expertise of our esteemed speakers, and the dedication of the Health Foundation of South Florida's staff and board.

The Summit served as a powerful call to action, and I am deeply inspired by your eagerness to contribute to the journey toward better health equity in South Florida. As practitioners, advocates, volunteers, and community organizers, your roles are crucial in our collective responsibility to ensure accessible and affordable healthcare for everyone, especially those in marginalized communities. I urge you to reflect on how you can further contribute to this vital work.

As we contemplate the specific actions, advocacy, and resources needed to achieve health equity in South Florida, we must carefully consider practical steps that can be taken. Effecting change requires both “little p” champions within organizations and “Big P” champions in policy at the state, federal, and local levels. Each of us has a role in championing change and working towards health equity, whether personally, professionally, or politically.

This reminds us of the importance of climbing and maintaining as we work towards change. The social determinants of health—how our environments impact our health—significantly predict overall well-being. As we heard in the Summit, your zip code is more influential in determining your health outcomes than your genetic code.

Why wait to improve health outcomes? We are the ones we've been waiting for. We must act, maintain hope, persevere, and embrace the ongoing journey towards improvement. I implore you to continue your efforts in contributing to health equity in South Florida. Your continued commitment is not just important, it's crucial, and together, we can make a significant difference.

Reflecting on the past three years, from the first Black Health Summit to this one, it's incredible to see the cumulative effort leading to meaningful changes across the community. **The progress made since the inaugural summit is a testament to the dedication and passion of everyone involved.**

Our collective forces have truly made a difference in advancing health equity in South Florida. It's inspiring to witness the impact of our ongoing work and the positive change we've been able to foster in the community. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of this journey and look forward to continuing our collaborative energy in the years to come.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to health equity. Your feedback, as expressed in the event survey, is invaluable. It demonstrates your commitment to growth and learning from the Summit and provides us with crucial insights for shaping our future initiatives.

I leave you with this lasting thought. “To Whom Much is Given, Much is Required.” It's a mighty reminder that our blessings and gifts come with a responsibility to use them wisely and generously.

Peace and Blessings,



NELSON L. ADAMS III, MD

Black Health Summit, Co-Chair
Health Foundation of South Florida, Board Member
Sunshine Health Board of Directors, Chair
National Medical Association, Past President & Chair
Metro-Miami OBGYN Associates, Founder

