



News Release

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Community of Heroes Celebration

Changing Health & Healthcare: A Tribute to Our Community Heroes

Center at Cathedral Plaza ▪ 555 W Temple Street, Los Angeles 90012

Thursday, November 10, 2011 ▪ 6-9pm

LOS ANGELES, CA — A ballroom filled with supporters, advocates and leaders from the fields of health and healthcare, the environment and nutrition will gather in Los Angeles on November 10th to honor five community heroes who have made lasting and continuing contributions to improving the health of underserved communities.

Each community hero being honored has changed the course of healthcare in Los Angeles County, the state and the country. “They are architects, visionaries and intellectuals with a passion for social justice and quality,” says Lark Galloway-Gilliam, executive director of Community Health Councils.

- Dr. David Carlisle, *President*, Charles Drew University of Medicine & Science, for improving the quality of care across California through innovation in data collection and analysis
- Dr. Hector Flores, *Medical Director*, White Memorial Medical Center, for his visionary work in creating an integrated system of care for low-income and uninsured populations
- Sylvia Drew Ivie, Esq, *Founder*, South Los Angeles Community Kitchen for her pioneering work in a full range of challenges from HIV/AIDS to healthy nutrition
- Kenneth Kutcher, Esq, *Principal*, Harding Larmore Kutcher & Kozal, for his courage and leadership in advancing environmental regulations to protect the health and safety of the community
- Dr. Robert Tranquada, *Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Public Policy*, University of Southern California, a leader and architect for quality healthcare for the uninsured.

The event will also mark the almost twenty years since Community Health Councils was established. Community Health Councils is dedicated to health equity and increasing access to quality

healthcare, improving the health of communities and eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. For nearly two decades, CHC has been working to improve public policy, increase public and private investment in the built environment, the healthcare delivery system and public coverage programs to enable families to live, work, play, grow and age in good health. Among our accomplishments are:

- Advocating for \$100 million in funding for healthcare in South Los Angeles after the closure of Martin Luther King Hospital and for redirecting \$45 million in healthcare funding to underserved areas of LA County.
- Campaigning successfully for environmental standards for the Baldwin Hills oil field and expansion of open space.
- Outreaching to more than 90,000 individuals on low- cost and no-cost health insurance programs, providing application assistance to over 26,000 children and families.
- Promoting the adoption of an amendment to City of Los Angeles zoning regulations to control fast-food development in South LA.

Dr. Diana Bontá, vice president of Public Affairs for Kaiser Permanente Southern California and formerly director of the California Department of Health Services, and Robert Splawn, MD, PriceWaterhouseCoopers will emcee. The California Endowment and Kaiser Permanente are major sponsors for the event.

Community Health Councils is a non-profit, community-based health promotion, advocacy and policy organization. Established in 1992, CHC's mission is to improve health and increase access to quality healthcare for uninsured, under-resourced, and underserved populations.

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