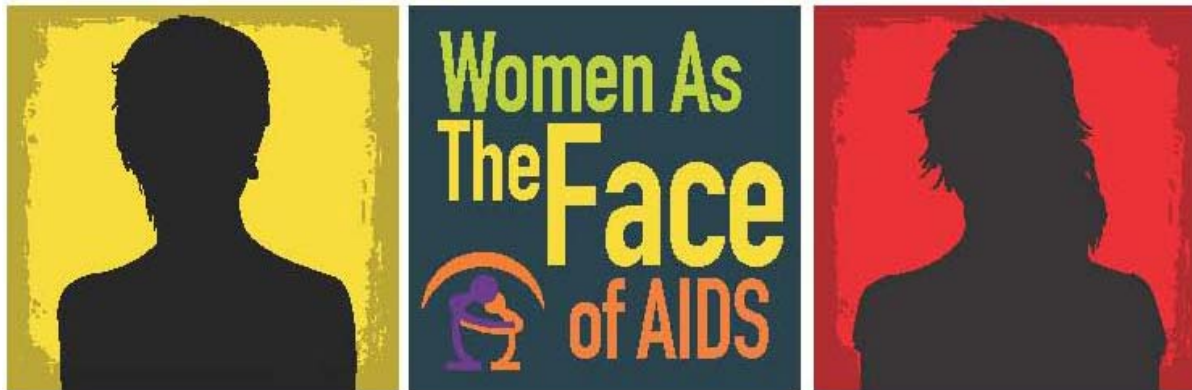


7th ANNUAL IRIS HOUSE SUMMIT

May 4, 2012



One Conversation

*Public Education, HIV Prevention and Community
Action Initiative*

Deloris Dockrey, MPH

Rev. Gerald Bailey

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation



Iris House



**The New York
Academy of Medicine**

At the heart of urban health since 1847



OUR PURPOSE

One Conversation seeks to expand public discourse beyond the basic facts of HIV to include an understanding of the social, economic and political threads that place black people at risk for HIV infection.





Because there *is* only.....

ONE
CONVERSATION

...our community's life depends on us to have it.





One Conversation

- o Designed to raise awareness and encourage action to address the social crisis caused by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- o The campaign addresses:
 - The absence of an organized response to AIDS in the communities most impacted
 - Stigma and shame which are so ingrained in our social fabric and create the greatest barriers to prevention, care, and treatment.





Blacks Americans: Truly Left Behind in the global fight against HIV/AIDS

African Americans with HIV/AIDS are...

- More likely to postpone medical care
- More likely to become hospitalized
- More likely to die from HIV-related causes
 - 14% of the US population
 - 44% of all new infections
 - 47% of people with HIV/AIDS
 - 57% of people who die from AIDS



Why?

One Conversation facilitates a shared dialogue that encourages

- More people to get involved;
- Everyone to get tested and know their HIV status;
- Participants to reduce the impact of the stigma and shame;
- Faith communities to create safe community space for people living with HIV/AIDS and to share with friends, neighbors and family.



Stories in the Community

(Group Activity)

George and Francis





My Story





What does One Conversation Do?

- o Community forums, presentations and training sessions, in communities with high rates of HIV/AIDS
- o Participants are engaged and encouraged to participate in educational and community wide discussions.
- o The discussions include frank conversations about **sexuality, addiction, medical treatment, mental health issues, and Hepatitis**



Community Action

- o *One Conversation* believes that stakeholders cannot move on to address the complex HIV/AIDS epidemic from a public health perspective until these matters are fully aired.
- o Community involvement and action demonstrate to policy makers that AIDS prevention policy is still a public concern.



Community Partnerships for Impact

- o Community forums in faith-based organizations, fraternities and sororities and traditional Black organizations. (25 – 100 participants on average)
- o Forums targeting young people (12 – 19 years) in these settings.
- o Trainings for ministry leaders and church champions using a five session curriculum.





Accomplishments

- o Clergy Advisory Board
- o One Conversation reaches more than 1,500 individuals in 40 churches.
- o Session activities are repeated in many churches and we receive more requests for *One Conversation* programs than we can respond to.
- o 90% of participants respond favorably to the sessions' content and presenters.
- o A Manual and Handbook for Clergy



What Does Our Faith Say?



Rev. Gerald Bailey
Pastor
Friendship AME Church



Café Question?

(Group Activities)

As people of faith, what can you do to reduce stigma and fear in your community?



Life with HIV

A choice of two paths

One path

- Be diagnosed, access care and treatment
- Expected a normal lifespan
- Spend your life preserving your health

Or the other.....

- Don't assess risk
- Be diagnosed with symptoms
- Treat and prevent illness, rebuild the immune system
- Expected lifespan is questionable





Social Justice

The HIV epidemic
is fueled by social injustice.

We must address the disease as a part of a larger problem of inequality, poverty, discrimination and stigma, as well as health.



Unfinished business –



Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Resources

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
732-246-0204

ddockrey@hyacinth.org
gbailey@hyacinth.org
www.hyacinth.org

Hotline:
800.433.0254

