

NHAHA

National Haitian American Health Alliance

NHAHA "Healthy Haitians 2010" Initiative Framework

In 2004, NHAHA launched its "Healthy Haitians 2010 initiative" to investigate specific health disparities for Haitians in the areas of Cancer, Mental Health, Infant Mortality, HIV and Physical Health (cardiovascular disease, obesity) and facilitate the development of an action plan to improve Haitian health outcomes by 2010. The initiative is adapted from "Healthy People 2010" which is a set of health objectives for the nation that includes two overarching goals of increasing the quality and years of life, and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health by the first decade of the new century*(see healthypeople.gov).

NHAHA's selected four indicators are perceived to be the most critical to the Haitian community. In line with its Community Health Planning goal, NHAHA plans to conduct related activities that would help establish a baseline of health status in the Haitian community, identify barriers and gaps and formulate an action plan to address them. This could be accomplished through assessment surveys, focus groups, community forums, and from conferences.

The information gather from these activities will be used in the organization's Action plan and in the development of goals and objectives to shape community interventions. The primary goals of these activities would be:

- To gauge community's knowledge, and attitudes towards health disparities
- To raise awareness on these selected health issues
- To gather baseline data on Haitians for the selected health indicators
- To identify barriers and challenges to addressing these issues
- To survey available resources and identify gaps in services
- To discuss possible solutions to address identified gaps
- To empower, inform, educate, organize and begin to mobilize the Haitian community around these specific health issues
- To plan a course of action for addressing these health disparities in the community

VIII. PROJECTED OUTCOMES

- Mobilize the community to break the silence about the critical health issues in the community
- Disseminate accurate information on these health indicators
- Do priority setting and determine resource allocation.
- Promote and support appropriate health education, advocacy, research and provision of care to Haitians.
- Planning for an appropriate and appropriately located continuum of care.