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Request for Coverage

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African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania
Conducting Diabetes Workshops on Awareness, Prevention, and Treatment/Management
Options to Help Small Business Owners and Professionals

(Pittsburgh, PA – May 27, 2011) The Western Pennsylvania region now has the highest incidence of diabetes among African Americans in the nation? One in ten Pennsylvanians were diagnosed with diabetes, and in the African American community the number is one in seven. According to the American Diabetes Association in Western PA, one in three African Americans have diabetes and may not know it. Diabetes currently is the fourth-leading cause of death by disease among African-Americans and it is the leading cause of blindness, kidney failure and amputation, affecting nearly 15% of the U.S. non Hispanic and African American population. Clearly, diabetes is at an epidemic level and the economic implications cannot be ignored!

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA is conducting a two year demonstration project entitled "Diabetes: The Silent Killer, Self Management of a Chronic Disease". The project consists of 8 quarterly Workshops on the awareness, prevention, and treatment/management options to help small business owners and professionals help themselves. The Workshops are planned to benefit all small business owners and professionals.

The first Workshop was held on March 10, 2011 at Manchester Bidwell Corporation. The project's planning team presented during the first Workshop: Calvin B. Johnson, MD, MPH, former Secretary of Health for the Commonwealth; Dr. Rhonda Moore Johnson, Medical Director, Health Equity & Quality Services, Highmark; Terri Seidman, Associate Director, American Diabetes Association of W. PA., and Otis L. Story, Sr., Fellow, American College of Healthcare Executives, and National Healthcare Consultant.

Major firms are aware that this epidemic has economic implications, and are preparing to undertake combative strategies. As a resident of Western PA, we can do no less. Healthier lives make for a more productive workplace and a more productive region.

The second Workshop is scheduled for June 29, 2011 at Allegheny General Hospital. Free testing for Diabetes will be offered to all who attend.

The Workshops are free, and open to the public with free parking. The sites will be throughout the city with healthy refreshments served. For more information call 412-392-0610.