



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

NEWS ADVISORY

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HEALTH CARE REFORM: THE HALTING PROGRESS IN AN ONWARD MARCH

April 4, 2011. Washington, D.C. — In its 2011 Health Care Symposium, scheduled for May 11 in Washington, “Dialogue on Diversity spotlights the many fronts in the vast enterprise of health care in America,” states **M^a. Cristina Caballero**, President/CEO of the Dialogue on Diversity organization, now entering its twentieth year. “While the most noise and heat are generated by the still, and ever, strident disputations over the federal health care reform legislation now one year on from the date of enactment [the ponderously named Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or PPACA (which, to be sure, is often otherwise designated by its critics)], it is nevertheless the orderly brigades of health care workers, administrators, insurers, economists, nutritionists, and biological scientists that quietly carry forward the steady advance against acute illness, chronic disorders, and the insidious forces of our decadent lifestyles that steadily vitiate ‘wellness’. Their labors are as often as not quite prosaic — but often again they exhibit the sharp insights of a restlessly inquiring science and the acumen of an innovating engineering profession.”

- **WHEN?** Wednesday, May 11, 2011, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Reception following.
- **WHERE?** 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., American Federation of Teachers, Fourth Floor
- **WHAT?** Expert panelists discuss the salient health care developments on the legislative scene; prevention as a pillar of health care; cultural competency in the effective and humane delivery of health care services to women, children, and the socially marginalized; and the psychological and domestic relations dimensions of the healthy life.
- **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?** Women entrepreneurs and professionals, medical and health care professionals; staff of health-related civil society organizations and governmental agencies, and interested persons at large!

The Symposium agenda gets underway with greetings from members of the Congress, followed by remarks of **Randi Weingarten**, President of the 2011 Symposium host, the American Federation of Teachers.

PPACA: The opening panel offers a spirited review of the current discourse on the health care reform act, a conversation giving voice to a notable range of views, from the insistent calls for outright repeal to the modest but persistent voices still urging the “public option” or even a “single payer” schema.

PREVENTION: A succeeding panel, however, examines the day by day practices, most quite low-tech, that are calculated to keep a national population trim, sharp-witted, and vigorous. Nutrition is a foremost element in this regimen, which can be viewed as the essence of the preventive dimension of health care. Nutrition, again, is a national concern in two phases: first the production of healthful comestibles, and then the distribution of these, often by public policy action, to the disadvantaged and marginalized – a profoundly significant form of investment by the society in its own “human capital” base. The other side of prevention is its high-tech medical aspect. A representative of the American Kidney Fund will outline that organization’s widespread screening program – a cogent example of the proliferating high-tech facets of the larger “preventive” enterprise. Attendees at the Symposium should note that the AKF will provide screening tests, at no cost, for hypertension, diabetes, and other serious conditions – this has been an attractive feature of these Symposia for the last half dozen years.

PSYCHOLOGY OF THE FAMILY CIRCLE: Dr. Ana Nogales, heading a large staff of mental health professionals based in Los Angeles, discusses a cluster of concerns in the psychological field, among these the elusive key to managing the sometimes intractable strains of domestic life, with reference to her recent book *When Parents Cheat*, an exploration of the melancholy backlash of parents’ infidelity on the well-being of the kids.