National Eye Health Education Program

NEHEP

Partnership Directory

NEHEP Partner Organizations

A

Administration on Aging (AoA)

AMD Alliance International

American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO)

American Academy of Optometry (AAO)

American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)

American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE)

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)

American Diabetes Association (ADA)

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)

American Optometric Association (AOA)

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)

Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)

Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO)

C

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Chi Eta Phi

Council of Citizens with Low Vision International

D

Delta Gamma Foundation

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

E

EyeCare America

G

The Glaucoma Foundation

Glaucoma Research Foundation (GRF)

H

Helen Keller International (HKI)

I

Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness (ISPB)

Indian Health Service (IHS)

J

Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO)

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF)

L

Lighthouse International

Lions Clubs International

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)

M

Macular Degeneration Partnership (MDP)

Maryland Society for Sight

N

National Accreditation Council (NAC)

National Alliance for Hispanic Health

National Association for Hispanic Elderly (NAHE)

National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Inc. (NAPVI)

National Association for Visually Handicapped (NAVH)

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NCADD)

National Association of Vision Professionals (NAVP)

National Black Nurses Association, Inc. (NBNA)

National Caucus and Center of Black Aged, Inc.

National Community Pharmacists Association

National Council of La Raza (NCLR)

National Council of Urban Indian Health

National Council on the Aging, Inc. (NCOA)

National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP)

National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)

National Indian Council on Aging

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

National Institute on Aging (NIA)

National Medical Association (NMA)

National Optometric Association (NOA)

National Rural Health Association (NRHA)

O

Office of Minority Health (OMH)

P

Prevent Blindness America

Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington

R

Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education

Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB)

V

The Vision Council

VisionServe Alliance

Administration on Aging

Administration on Aging

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
One Massachusetts Ave., NW Room 5712
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202–357–3583
Fax: 202–357–3549
E-mail: aoainfo@aoa.hhs.gov
Website: www.aoa.gov

Regular Mailing Address:

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
Administration on Aging
Washington, DC 20201

Representative:

Jose L. Velasco, MSW
Aging Programs Specialist
E-mail: joseluis.velasco@aoa.hhs.gov

Description

- **Mission:**

  Under the Older Americans Act, the Administration on Aging (AoA) is designated as the Federal focal point and advocate agency for older persons. AoA works closely with a nationwide network of tribal, state, and local programs on aging to plan, coordinate, and develop community-level systems of services that meet the unique needs of older persons and their caregivers. Programs are targeted to older Americans in the greatest economic and social need, with particular attention to low-income minorities and individuals residing in rural areas. The Aging Service Provider Network includes 56 state and territorial units on aging, 655 area agencies on aging, 243 tribal organizations, and 29,000 service providers. The health promotion and disease prevention goals of AoA are the following:

  - Make it easier for older people to access an integrated array of health and social supports
  - Help older people stay active and healthy
  - Support families in their efforts to care for their loved ones at home and in the community.

  The health-related programs include the national Elderly Nutrition Program that provides congregate and home-delivered meals to more than 2.7 million elderly participants aged 60 and older. The program is intended to improve the dietary intakes of participants and to offer opportunities to form new friendships and to create informal support networks. The program also provides nutrition screening, assessment, education, and counseling to help older participants meet their health and nutrition needs, which may include special health assessments for such diseases as hypertension and diabetes.

  The preventive health service program targets the medically underserved areas of each state where large numbers of elderly with the greatest economic need for services reside. Services

include health risk assessments and screenings (e.g., glaucoma and vision), health promotion, fitness and exercise, injury control, mental health, medication management, and other education and counseling efforts.

The National Family Caregiver Support Program has reached out to more than 3.8 million individuals with information about caregiver programs and services. The program provided assistance in accessing services to approximately 436,000 caregivers, significantly exceeding the agency target of 250,000 caregivers. It served almost 180,000 caregivers with counseling and training services and provided respite to more than 70,000 caregivers. Also, the Native American and American Indian tribal organizations have a program where at least 4,230 caregivers received one or more caregiver support services.

AoA, through the National Resource Center on Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Aging, funded a multisite demonstration project to implement and evaluate the “Eat Better, Move More” Community Guide. Ten grantees were selected, and these sites represented local programs that were large and small; were urban, rural, and suburban; were racially and ethnically diverse; and included individuals with mobility problems. Programs were implemented in a variety of settings, such as senior centers, senior housing, and community centers. Approximately 500 to 600 older adults finished the program. The Center is in the final stages of data compilation and analysis. Preliminary results indicate that there were significant changes in nutrition, physical activity, and stages of change.

AoA awarded Evidence-Based Prevention Program for the Elderly grants totaling more than $2 million as part of a public/private partnership to increase access for older people to programs that have proven to be effective in reducing the risk of disease, injury, and disability. The partnership involves a variety of Federal agencies and private foundations that are coordinating their efforts to help implement evidence-based prevention programs through aging services providers at the community level. The areas of focus include disease self-management, nutrition, physical activity, falls prevention, and medication management. The Evidence-Based Prevention Program for the Elderly grants are in their second year of a three-year cycle.

Area agencies on aging also fund a wide range of home- and community-based services that are non-health-related, such as access, in-home, and home repair, which assist older persons in their efforts to remain in their own homes. AoA funds a toll-free service (1–800–677–1116) to assist callers with information about programs and services in their own community. AoA maintains a website that contains information for professionals and consumers: www.aoa.gov.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  To access state and local aging organizations serving your area, call the AoA National Elder Care Locator at 1–800–677–1116.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  See the description above on programs and services.

Publications

For information about available printed materials, as well as other resources, contact the Aging Information and Resource Services Library. They house an extensive collection of current and historical aging-related resource and reference materials. The library can be reached at 202–357–3565, or by e-mail at library@aoa.gov.

Date Last Updated

November 2007

AMD Alliance International

AMD Alliance International

1929 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4G 3E8
Phone: 416–486–2500 ext. 7505
Fax: 416–486–8574
Website: www.amdalliance.org

Representative:

Wanda S. Hamilton
Executive Director
E-mail: Wanda.Hamilton@amdalliance.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  AMD Alliance International is the only international organization in the world dedicated exclusively to promoting awareness, treatment, and research into macular degeneration, the leading cause of vision loss in the developed world. With 55 members in 21 countries, we are a membership organization comprising the world's leading vision and research organizations.

  About the Alliance and the Science Board

  AMD Alliance International is a nonprofit coalition of vision, research, and seniors organizations working to raise awareness of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), of treatment and rehabilitation options, and of the importance of early detection. Alliance membership currently includes 55 nonprofit organizations from 21 countries, including world-renowned leaders in ophthalmology, vision rehabilitation, patient and senior's advocacy, and research.

  With its growing international network, influence, and organizational capacity, AMD Alliance International is frequently looked to as a reliable, independent source of information about macular degeneration.

  Our mission is the following:

  - Generating awareness and understanding of AMD.
  - Increasing the number of people over age 50 who receive regular eye examinations by promoting the importance of education, early detection, and knowledge of treatment and rehabilitation options.
  - Preserving vision and improving the quality of life of individuals affected by AMD and increasing the percentage of people with AMD who receive treatment and rehabilitation.

  Every two years, AMD Alliance International produces a global research report on AMD awareness levels, which we use in several ways (i.e., as a source of reference for media, as a public education tool, and as a valuable tool for member organizations around the world), to use in advocacy efforts to influence government decisions on AMD-related social and health policy.

One of our most prominent public education tools is our website, www.amdalliance.org. We continually update and refine our website to continue to provide visitors with comprehensive information about prevention, warning signs, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of AMD, as well as about our organization and worldwide resources for vision care information. Since its launch in September 1999, more than 13 million visitors, more than 70 percent of them from the United States, have accessed our website.

AMD Alliance International is honored to be advised by a Scientific Advisory Panel consisting of internationally renowned clinicians and researchers. We are able to access expertise and insight to the latest medical findings and formulate responses for the public and media. The participation of the Panel members enables AMD Alliance International to provide up-to-date, scientifically sound information.

We also maintain a toll-free AMD Info hotline for North America: 1–877–AMD–7171. Visitors to our website or hotline are able to request written information about AMD from us. We have educational materials in several languages.

The Alliance is the originator of AMD Week, an international week dedicated to promoting awareness of AMD. A comprehensive list of global activities for AMD Week is available on our website, www.amdalliance.org.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Academy of Ophthalmology

655 Beach Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: 415–561–8500
Fax: 415–561–8533
E-mail: comm@aoa.org
Website: www.aao.org

Representative:

Rebecca Jean Hyder, M.A.
Manager, Public Health and Manpower
American Academy of Ophthalmology
1101 Vermont Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005–3570
Phone: 202–737–6662
Fax: 202–737–7061
Email: rhyder@accodc.org

Alternate:

Cathy Cohen
Governmental Affairs Division
E-mail: cgcohen@aaodc.org
Georgia Alward
Communications Administrative Manager
E-mail: galward@aao.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The mission of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) is to advance the lifelong learning and professional interests of ophthalmologists to ensure that the public can obtain the best possible eye care.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  28,000 members

- **Programs/Activities:**

  AAO provides professional and public education as well as ophthalmic advocacy, practice, and relations for its members.

  AAO supports EyeCare America, a public service foundation (listed below).

Meetings

Annual meeting

Publications

EyeNet: trusted clinical magazine

Ophthalmology: monthly journal

Professional and patient education materials are available by request from eyemd@aao.org.

Date Last Updated

February 2009

American Academy of Optometry

American Academy of Optometry

6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 506
Bethesda, MD 20852
Phone: 301–984–1441
Fax: 301–984–4737
E-mail: aaoptom@aaoptom.org
Website: www.aaopt.org

Representative:

Lois Schoenbrun, C.A.E., F.A.A.O.
Executive Director
Phone: 301–984–1441, ext. 3806
E-mail: loiss@aaoptom.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The American Academy of Optometry (AAO) is a professional society of optometrists, vision scientists, and optometric students in more than 40 countries. The mission of AAO is to promote the art, science, and research of vision care by supporting research and educational programs in optometry and related sciences.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  AAO has more than 5,000 members in local chapters in 20 geographic regions around the world.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  AAO provides continuing education to member and nonmember optometrists and vision scientists.

  AAO fosters research and disseminates knowledge in vision science internationally. In addition to admitting Fellows through demonstrated competence, AAO provides earned Diplomate programs in seven fields. The sister organization of AAO is the American Optometric Foundation.

Meetings

Annual meeting in October/November every year

Publications

Newsletter: published three times a year

Eye-Mail Monthly®: e-mail newsletter available to members and nonmembers

Student Eye-Mail®

Optometry and Vision Science: monthly peer-reviewed journal

Annual Report

President's Calling: monthly communication from the President

Date Last Updated

February 2009

American Academy of Physician Assistants

American Academy of Physician Assistants

950 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703–836–2272
Fax: 703–684–1924
E-mail: aapa@aapa.org
Website: www.aapa.org

Representative:

Bob McNellis, M.P.H., P.A.-C.
Director, Clinical Affairs and Education
E-mail: BMcNellis@aapa.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The mission of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) is to promote quality, cost-effective, and accessible health care and to promote the professional and personal development of physician assistants (PAs).

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  As of February 2007, the membership of AAPA totaled 40,865. Of these, 33,334 were Fellow members (graduate PAs) and 6,567 were student members. The Academy has a federated structure of 57 chartered chapters representing PAs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Federal services. Distinct, but affiliated organizations include the PA Foundation, the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), and the Student Academy of the AAPA. There are also 23 PA specialty organizations and 12 caucuses and special interest groups.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  The Academy sponsors numerous activities for PAs, including many Continuing Medical Education programs. The Academy engages in research on the PA profession and health workforce issues in general. The Academy develops policy for the PA profession, responds to state and Federal health issues, assists state organizations on legislative and regulatory issues, offers employment assistance services, and sponsors leadership development opportunities. AAPA works jointly with many physician organizations on issues of mutual interest.

Meetings

The national Annual Conference is typically held on Memorial Day weekend. Future meeting sites are San Antonio (2008), San Diego (2009), and Atlanta (2010). Approximately 6,000 to 8,000 PAs attend each year. Each chapter holds its own meetings. Other meetings include a Leadership Summit in July and a constituent organization meeting in February. The PAEA has its annual education forum in October.

Publications

AAPA News: biweekly newsletter

Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (JAAPA): monthly, peer-reviewed, clinical journal

PA Education Journal: peer-reviewed educational journal of PAEA

Publications on regulatory, legislative, and reimbursement issues, as well as statistics are available.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

American Association of Diabetes Educators

American Association of Diabetes Educators

100 West Monroe Street, Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312–424–2426
Fax: 312–424–2427
E-mail: aade@aadenet.org
Website: www.diabeteseducator.org

Representative:

Debbie Sokol-McKay
E-mail: dasmot@rcn.com

Alternate:

Diana Pihos
Director of Public Affairs
E-mail: dpihos@aadenet.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  Founded in 1973, the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) is a professional membership organization dedicated to promoting the professional expertise of the diabetes educator, ensuring the delivery of quality diabetes self-management training to the patient, and influencing and contributing to the future content and direction of the profession.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  The 11,000 members of AADE are health care professionals who specialize in helping people with diabetes self-manage their disease. They include nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, physicians, social workers, exercise physiologists, and other members of the diabetes care team. AADE currently has 104 local chapters and 19 specialty practice groups.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Annual Meeting: A four-day event that draws nearly 4,000 educators, it offers the opportunity to hear experts in diabetes self-management training, participate in educational sessions, and network with colleagues. The program also includes exhibits of diabetes-related products and services.

  Core Concepts Course, The Art and Science of Diabetes Education: Designed to complement AADE's "A Core Curriculum for Diabetes Education," this course provides an in-depth review of the fundamental concepts that support diabetes self-management training.

  Online Courses and Audio Seminars: This is an opportunity to earn continuing education credit from home or the office. Courses cover the latest issues in diabetes self-management training and give diabetes educators the opportunity to learn new skills and sharpen existing ones.

Awards, Grants, and Scholarships: Awards and grants are given for a variety of projects, including the development of patient education tools and research in diabetes education.

AADE Education and Research Foundation: Established in 1988, the foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of education and care for persons with diabetes by supporting activities in the areas of continuing education for health professionals, research in diabetes education, and public education about diabetes management.

Publications

The Diabetes Educator: A bimonthly journal (online and hard copy) that presents patient education research, lesson plan ideas, management strategies, book reviews, practical columns, and self-study offerings with continuing education credit.

AADE e-FYI: A monthly newsletter providing members with relevant AADE news.

The Art and Science of Diabetes Self-Management Education, A Desk Reference for Healthcare Professionals, 2006: A single-volume desk reference guide representing the most comprehensive compilation of diabetes self-management education training information.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

1114 North Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
Phone: 847–818–1800
Fax: 847–818–9266
Website: www.acoem.org

Representative:

Bernard R. Blais, F.A.C.O.E.M., F.A.C.S., F.A.A.O.
Blais Consulting, Lmtd.
4 Innisbrook Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065–2909
Phone: 518–371–8147
E-mail: BBlais@nycap.rr.com

Description

- **Mission:**

  The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) provides leadership to promote optimal health and safety of workers, workplaces, and environments by educating health professionals and the public; stimulating research; enhancing quality of practice; guiding public policy; and advancing the field of occupational and environmental medicine.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  Physicians and other health care professionals practicing occupational and environmental medicine.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Health professional education, worksite health promotion, legislative.

Meetings

Two national meetings held annually in the spring and fall.

Publications

Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Two quarterly newsletters

Date Last Updated

March 2007

American Diabetes Association

American Diabetes Association

1701 North Beauregard Street
Alexandria, VA 22311
Phone: 703–549–1500
Fax: 703–549–1715
E-mail: AskADA@diabetes.org
Website: www.diabetes.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The American Diabetes Association (ADA) is the Nation's leading voluntary health organization providing diabetes research, information, and advocacy. We are working to prevent and cure diabetes; provide information and other services to people with diabetes, health professionals, and the general public; and lead advocacy efforts on behalf of people with diabetes. Founded in 1904, ADA provides services in communities nationwide.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  ADA has more than 1 million volunteers, including a membership of 390,000 diabetes patients and their families, as well as a professional society of more than 14,000 health and medical professionals.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Research activities involve learning more about the causes of diabetes, treatment, factors leading to complications, and, ultimately, a cure.

  Information activities address improving the quality of life for people with diabetes by providing educational programs and publications; informing the public about the risk factors, the warning signs, and the seriousness of diabetes; and keeping health professionals up-to-date on the latest developments in diabetes treatment.

  Advocacy efforts involve increasing public awareness and aiming to improve health care and the lives of everyone affected by diabetes.

Meetings

Annual Scientific Sessions (June), Postgraduate Course (January), and other symposia provide opportunities for diabetes specialists and researchers to share information.

Publications

Professional and health educational materials are available. Contact ADA for a complete listing.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

American Foundation for the Blind

American Foundation for the Blind

11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212–352–7222, 212–502–7600
Fax: 212–502–7773
E-mail: afbinfo@afb.net
Website: www.afb.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is a national nonprofit organization that expands possibilities for people with vision loss. The priorities of AFB include broadening access to technology; elevating the quality of information and tools for the professionals who serve people with vision loss; and promoting independent and healthy living for people with vision loss by providing them and their families with relevant and timely resources. The AFB Website also serves as a gateway to a wealth of vision loss information and services. AFB is proud to house the Helen Keller Archives and honor the more than 40 years that Helen Keller worked tirelessly with AFB. For more information, visit us online at www.afb.org.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  Atlanta: National Literacy Center

  Dallas: AFB Center on Vision Loss

  Washington, DC: Public Policy Center

  San Francisco: National Employment Center

  Huntington, VA: AFB Technology and Employment Center

Meetings

Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute: Annual national leadership conference

Publications

Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness: monthly

Access World: monthly

AFB News: monthly newsletter

AFB Directory of Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Persons in the U.S. and Canada (hardcover and CD-ROM). Patient education materials are available.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

American Optometric Association

American Optometric Association

243 North Lindberg Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63141
Phone: 314–991–4100
Website: www.aoa.org

Representative:

Kelly Hipp
Director, Professional Relations
American Optometric Association
1505 Prince Street, Suite 300
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-837-1346
Fax: 703–739–9497
E-mail: khipp@aoa.org

Alternate:

Edwin C. Marshall, O.D., M.S., M.P.H.
Professor of Optometry
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Administration
School of Optometry
Indiana University
800 East Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405
Phone: 812–855–6682
Fax: 812–855–7045
E-mail: marshall@indiana.edu

Description

- **Mission:**

  The American Optometric Association (AOA) seeks to advance the availability and accessibility of quality eye, vision, and related health care; to represent the profession of optometry; to enhance and promote the independent and ethical decision-making of its members; and to assist doctors of optometry in practicing successfully in accordance with the highest standards of patient care. AOA supports year-round programming to educate Americans about their vision and eye health and encourages people to take steps to preserve and protect their vision.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  AOA has 33,000 members with affiliates in 50 states and the District of Columbia. The American Optometric Student Association and the Armed Forces Optometric Society are affiliated with AOA.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  AOA administers the Healthy Eyes Healthy People™ initiative with a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help implement the objectives of Healthy People 2010.

  AOA supports year-round programming to educate Americans about their vision and eye health and to encourage people to take steps to preserve and protect their vision.

  AOA creates eye care awareness among the public during Save Your Vision Week each March.

  AOA develops clinical practice guidelines, which include guidelines on diabetes and glaucoma, to define the appropriateness and quality of optometric care.

  AOA supports the coordination and development of research proposals to improve eye care through the Council on Research.

  AOA offers quality continuing education for eye care providers.

  AOA sponsors a Seal of Certification and Acceptance Program to impartially evaluate ophthalmic-related products voluntarily submitted by manufacturers.

Meetings

June 25 to June 29, 2008, Seattle

June 24 to June 28, 2009, Washington, DC

Publications

AOA News: semimonthly newsletter

Journal of the American Optometric Association: monthly clinical reference articles

Professional and patient education materials are available. Contact the Order Department.

Date Last Updated

November 2007

American Pharmacists Association

American Pharmacists Association

1100 15th Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202–628–4410
Fax: 202–783–2351
E-mail: infocenter@aphanet.org
Website: www.pharmacist.com

Representative:

Elizabeth Keyes, R.Ph.
Vice President, Strategic Alliances & Business Development
E-mail: ekeyes@mail.aphanet.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  Improving medication use. Advancing patient care.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) has 60,000 pharmacist members.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  APhA provides various education and training programs and materials, advocacy, and information to pharmacists throughout the United States and internationally.

Meetings

Annual conference, always in March

Eight regional meetings per year for student pharmacists, always in October/November

Regional certificate training program, all year

Publications

Journal of the American Pharmacists Association: bimonthly professional practice journal

Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences: monthly scientific and research journal

Student Pharmacist: quarterly journal

Pharmacy Today: monthly profession-wide newspaper (circulation 127,000)

Pharmaceutical Care Profiles: quarterly APhA Foundation newsletter

Professional, scientific, and patient education materials are available (e.g., *The One-Minute Counselor, Your Medicine, Your Pharmacist and You*).

For a catalog, call the Order Fulfillment Department at 1–800–878–0729.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

7272 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: 301–664–8684
Fax: 301–634–5784
E-mail: publicinfo@ashp.org
Website: www.ashp.com

Representative:

David Chen
Professional Practice & Scientific Affairs Division
E-mail: dchen@ashp.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) is a national professional association that represents pharmacists who practice in hospitals, health maintenance organizations, long-term care facilities, home care agencies, and other components of healthcare systems. ASHP believes that the mission of pharmacists is to help people make the best use of medications. Helping pharmacists fulfill this mission is the primary objective of ASHP.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  ASHP has 30,000 members in 50 state chapters.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  ASHP provides continuing education, information on drugs, practice standards, and accreditation of professional training sites to its members.

  ASHP supports research.

Meetings

Annual meeting

Midyear clinical meeting

Publications

American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AJHP): bimonthly peer-reviewed journal

ASHP News and Views: monthly newsletter

ASHP Push News Services: weekly and biweekly

Numerous professional education materials are available.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

1703 N. Beauregard Street, Suite 440
Alexandria, VA 22311
Phone: 703–671–4500
Toll-free: 1–877–492–2708
Fax: 703–671–6391
E-mail: aer@aerbvi.org
Website: www.aerbvi.org

Representative:

Jim Deremeik
AER Low Vision Division
Phone: 410–502–6431
E-mail: jderemeik@jhmi.edu

Description

- **Mission:**

  The mission of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) is to develop and promote professional excellence through support of those who provide services to people with visual impairments.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  AER has six geographical districts and 15 typical divisions.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  AER organizes professional conferences and seminars; publishes journals and other publications; provides certification of professionals, with accompanying codes of ethics and standards of service; and promotes legislative efforts for vision issues.

Meetings

International conferences in even-numbered years

Annual training meetings for chapter and division leaders

Teleconference seminars

Publications

Re-View: quarterly professional publication

AER Report: bimonthly newsletter

Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness: published 10 times a year and sent to all AER members as a benefit of membership

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 250
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: 240–221–2923
Fax: 240–221–0355
E-mail: arvo@arvo.org
Website: www.arvo.org

Representative:

Elinore L. Tibbetts
Marketing and Communications Manager
E-mail: etibbetts@arvo.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  Established in 1928, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) is a membership organization of more than 11,700 eye and vision researchers from more than 74 countries. ARVO encourages and assists its members and others in research, training, publication, and dissemination of knowledge in vision and ophthalmology. The ARVO headquarters is located in Rockville, Maryland.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 510
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: 301–231–5944
Fax: 301–770–1828
E-mail: lewisa@ne-optometry.edu
Website: www.opted.org

Representative:

Melvin D. Shipp, O.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.
Dean and Professor
The Ohio State University
College of Optometry
338 West 10th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210–1240
Phone: 614–292–8820
Fax: 614–247–8355
E-mail: mshipp@optometry.osu.edu

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) is a nonprofit educational association representing the interests of optometric education. ASCO is committed to achieving excellence in optometric education and to helping its member schools prepare well-qualified graduates for entrance into the profession of optometry.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  ASCO has 17 optometric schools and colleges of optometry in the United States, two Canadian schools, and a number of foreign schools and associations.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  ASCO coordinates linkages with social service agencies and health care providers; develops provider networks at many of the schools and colleges of optometry; and helps develop community outreach programs that include health education and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Meetings

Annual meeting, always in June

Board meetings, three times a year

Publications

Optometric Education: peer-reviewed journal published three times a year

Eye on Education: online newsletter available at www.opted.org/newsletternew

Date Last Updated

November 2007

Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology

Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology

655 Beach Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: 415–561–8548
Fax: 415–561–8575
Website: www.aupo.org

Representative:

Bartley Mondino, M.D.
Executive Vice President
E-mail: aupo@aao.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The mission of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology is to serve, strengthen, and represent departments of ophthalmology; to provide support and information to departmental chairs and other faculty members; to promote excellence in ophthalmic education; to foster vision research; and to promote excellence in eye care in order to ensure the best possible vision for the public.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

C

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Vision Health Initiative
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Division of Diabetes Translation

Contact Information:

The Vision Health Initiative
4770 Buford Highway
Mail Stop K-10
Atlanta, GA 30341–3724
1–800–CDC–INFO
Fax: 770–488–1148
E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov
Website: www.cdc.gov/diabetes/projects/vision.htm

Representatives:

Jinan Saaddine, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Epidemiologist/Team Leader
NCCDPHP/DDT/VHI
4770 Buford Highway, NE (K-68)
Atlanta, GA 30341–3724
Phone: 770–488–1274
Fax: 770–488–1148
E-mail: jsaaddine@cdc.gov

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Vision Health Initiative (VHI) is designed to improve our Nation's vision health through a coordinated public health approach organized around assessment, application, and action principles aimed at preventing and controlling eye disease, eye injury, and vision loss, thereby improving quality of life and reducing disability for all populations during all life stages.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  Data indicates that vision loss and eye diseases disproportionately affect specific population subgroups within the United States. Therefore, VHI will continue forming new partnerships to identify and target populations at greater risk of preventable vision loss. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/VHI stands ready to join with others committed to vision health to create a multilevel network for vision loss prevention through collaborating, convening, and leading the efforts.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  The core elements of the VHI coordinated public health approach to improving the Nation's vision health include the following: engaging key national partners, collaborating with state and local health departments, implementing vision surveillance and evaluation systems, eliminating eye health disparities by focusing on at-risk populations, integrating vision health

interventions into existing public health programs (e.g., systems and policy changes that support vision health), addressing the role of behavior in protecting and optimizing vision health, ensuring professional workforce development, and establishing an applied public health research agenda for vision health.

C

Highlights of current VHI activities:

Assessment

VHI has been active in the pursuit of national data collection, including the assembly of key vision and eye health measures. VHI has supported the eye evaluation component of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey that will provide current, nationally representative data. VHI developed the first optional Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System vision module and introduced it into state use in 2005 to gather information about access to eye care and prevalence of eye disease and eye injury. Five states implemented the module in 2005 and 11 states used the module in 2006. These efforts are critical to identifying data gaps among subgroups requiring special attention and to tracking outcomes.

Applied Public Health Research

VHI uses applied public health research to address the economic costs of vision disorders and develop cost-effectiveness models for eye diseases among various populations. Estimating the true economic burden is essential for informing policymakers and for obtaining necessary resources to develop and implement effective interventions. Other VHI work that informs future planning efforts includes data analyses and systematic reviews of critical topics.

Programs and Policy

In the area of programs and policy, VHI works collaboratively with the National Eye Institute and other government agencies, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations. As an example, our work with Prevent Blindness America, the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and Federal, state, and local agencies has sought to improve and expand health systems and provide solutions in the delivery and quality of effective interventions. This work has led to support for vision surveillance systems, enhanced design of future health information technologies, enhanced vision screening programs, and new collaborative modalities as exemplified by the formation of a new NACDD Vision Health Interest Group.

Meetings

Annual Division of Diabetes Translation Conference

Annual National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Meeting

Publications

Professional and public education materials are available.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Chi Eta Phi

C

Chi Eta Phi

5501 Hampton Woods Way
Tallahassee, FL 32311
Phone: 850–385–1042
Fax: 850–385–8895
E-mail: stokes@iupui.edu
Website: www.chietaphi.com

Representative:

Mildred D. Fennal, Ph.D., R.N., C.C.R.N.
E-mail: teacheriimil@aol.com

Description

- **Mission:**

  Chi Eta Phi is an international organization of registered professional nurses and nursing students that seeks to encourage the pursuit of continuing education, to maintain excellence in nursing practice, to stimulate a close and friendly relationship among members, and to network and develop working relationships with allied and other professional groups for the improvement and delivery of quality healthcare services, both nationally and internationally.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  Chi Eta Phi has more than 8,000 members in 110 chapters (85 graduate and 25 undergraduate), located in 30 states and the District of Columbia; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; and Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Chi Eta Phi coordinates health screening and consumer health education programs.

  Chi Eta Phi sponsors special programs designated to improve care of youth and the elderly.

  Chi Eta Phi sponsors special health promotion events in conjunction with National Nurses Week (May).

  Chi Eta Phi sponsors leadership development programs.

  Chi Eta Phi provides educational scholarships to nursing students who meet established criteria.

  Chi Eta Phi maintains a speakers' bureau on health education and issues related to the role of nursing in healthcare delivery services.

  Chi Eta Phi sponsors nursing conferences in collaboration with other nurses and health care providers.

Meetings

Biannual meeting, always in July

Yearly regional meetings, usually March through April

Publications

Chi Line: semiannual newsletter

Glowing Lamp: annual

Journal of Chi Eta Phi Sorority (JOCEPS): annual

Professional and patient education materials are available.

Date Last Updated

November 2008

Council of Citizens with Low Vision International

C

Council of Citizens with Low Vision International

1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 1004
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 1–800–733–2258
Website: www.cclvi.org

Representative:

Joyce Kleiber, L.S.W.
Editor
E-mail: jmkleiber@hotmail.com

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Council of Citizens with Low Vision International is a nonprofit, all-volunteer network that addresses the needs of people with low vision. The Council is affiliated with the American Council of the Blind. The mission of the Council is to establish the right of people with low vision to make full use of their vision through all necessary aids, services, and technology; to provide a means through which people with low vision can express their individual needs, interests, and preferences; to educate the public, professionals, and people with low vision themselves about the potentialities, capabilities, and needs of people with low vision; to establish outreach programs to ensure that everyone with low vision has access to necessary services; to promote needed research to prevent loss of vision and improve maximum use of sight; and to support the development of preservice and in-service professional training programs to expand comprehensive low vision services throughout the country.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  The Council has about 300 members and five active chapters.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  The Council sponsors Project Insight, a peer-support network that offers outreach to people experiencing vision loss by members throughout the country who volunteer to offer information and support to people who call the Council's toll-free number.

  The Council provides scholarships to college and graduate students who have low vision or who are preparing for careers in which they will offer services to people who are visually impaired.

  The Council focuses on advocacy.

Meetings

Annual convention in July

State and local affiliates schedule meetings and conferences

Publications

Vision Access: published quarterly, available in large-print, cassette, or e-mail.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Delta Gamma Foundation

D

Delta Gamma Foundation

3250 Riverside Drive
P.O. Box 21397
Columbus, OH 43221
Phone: 614–481–8169
Fax: 614–481–0133
Website: www.deltagamma.org/foundation.shtml

Representatives:

Kathi Coles
Delta Gamma Foundation
22 Kingscotte Way
The Woodlands, TX 77382
Phone: 281–364–0120
E-mail: kathicoles@sbcglobal.net

Susan Crucq
Director of Service
1811 Huron Trail
Maitland, FL 32751
Phone: 407–628–5224

Description

- **Mission:**

  Incorporated in 1951, Delta Gamma Foundation continues its long history of providing a means through which members may work together to further charitable, scientific, literary, and educational objectives. Delta Gamma Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Delta Gamma Fraternity, which was founded in 1873.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  Delta Gamma Foundation has 138 chapters on college campuses and approximately 300 organized alumnae groups in cities across the United States, Canada, and Great Britain.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Delta Gamma Foundation provides assistance to those who are blind or visually impaired and sponsors sight-preservation activities.

  Delta Gamma Foundation coordinates community service projects.

  Delta Gamma Foundation promotes eye exams through its own groups and through collaboration with other groups.

Meetings

Biennial meeting, always in June and held in various cities in the United States and Canada

Publications

Anchora: quarterly magazine

Insight: biannual newsletter

Delta Gamma Foundation Electronic Newsletter: monthly newsletter

Date Last Updated

November 2007

D

Department of Veterans Affairs

D

Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Office of Public Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420
Phone: 202–233–2843
Website: www.va.gov

Representative:

Rosemary Pries, Dr.Ph., CHES
Program Manager – Patient Health Education
EES/St. Louis Employee Education Resourace Center
St. Louis center (14B/JB)
VA Medical Center
St. Louis, MO 63125
E-mail: rose_mary.pries@va.gov

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the Federal agency that provides benefits to veterans of military service and their dependents.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  VA compensates veterans for disabilities related to military service and their families for death related to military service.

  VA administers programs that include educational assistance, vocational rehabilitation, home loan guarantees, insurance, and comprehensive dental and medical care in outpatient clinics, medical centers, and nursing homes for eligible veterans.

  VA trains some 100,000 health professionals yearly in VA medical centers through affiliations with the Nation's medical schools.

  VA maintains a national clinic research program based in 172 VA medical centers.

  VA sponsors a network of diabetes educators who coordinate patient education programs.

  VA manages programs of special benefits, health care, and informational outreach to meet the needs of particular groups of veterans such as former prisoners of war, Vietnam veterans, Gulf War veterans, women veterans, and homeless veterans.

  VA operates the National Cemetery System, which provides internment for veterans and their spouses.

Publications

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents: This document describes the eligibility requirements and application procedures for current Federal benefits programs for veterans and it lists all VA facilities.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

D

EyeCare America

EyeCare America

655 Beach Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: 1–877–887–6327
Fax: 415–561–8567
E-mail: pubserv@aao.org
Website: www.eyecareamerica.org

Representative:

Betty Lucas
Director, EyeCare America
E-mail: blucas@aao.org

E

Description

- **Mission:**

  The mission of EyeCare America is to prevent avoidable blindness and severe visual impairment by raising awareness, educating, and facilitating eye care for the public. Since its inception, EyeCare America has helped more than 900,000 people.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  EyeCare America operates the following five public service programs:

  The Seniors EyeCare Program ensures that every senior has access to medical eye care and promotes annual, dilated eye exams. The program raises awareness about age-related eye disease, provides free eye care educational materials, and facilitates access to eye care. People eligible for a referral to an ophthalmologist through the program receive a comprehensive medical eye exam and up to one year of treatment at no out-of-pocket expense for any condition diagnosed during the initial exam.

  The toll-free helpline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call 1–800–222–EYES (3937).

  The Diabetes EyeCare Program promotes annual dilated exams for people with diabetes. It raises awareness of diabetic eye disease, including diabetic retinopathy, provides free diabetic eye disease educational materials, and facilitates access to eye care. People eligible for a referral to an ophthalmologist through the program receive a comprehensive medical exam and up to one year of treatment at no out-of-pocket expense for any condition diagnosed during the initial exam.

  The toll-free helpline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call 1–800–272–EYES (3937).

  The Glaucoma EyeCare Program promotes early detection and treatment of glaucoma, raises awareness of glaucoma risk factors (family history, race, age), provides free glaucoma educational materials and facilitates access to eye care. People eligible for a referral to an ophthalmologist through the program receive a glaucoma eye exam.

The toll-free helpline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call 1–800–391–EYES (3937).

The AMD EyeCare Program promotes annual eye exams for people 65 and older. It raises awareness of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), provides the latest information about treatment options and low vision services, offers free AMD educational materials, and facilitates access to eye care.

The Children's EyeCare Program is designed to educate parents on how to recognize the symptoms of eye disease and disorders in their children up to 36 months of age. The program encourages parents who think their child has a vision or eye problem to have their child's eyes examined by their pediatrician, family physician, or, if necessary, an ophthalmologist.

Call the toll-free helpline, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 1–800–628–6733 for more information on children's eye health information.

EyeCare America is a public service program of the foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

The Glaucoma Foundation

The Glaucoma Foundation

80 Maiden Lane, Suite #700
New York, NY 10038
Phone: 212-285-0080
Fax: 212–651–1888
E-mail: info@glaucomafoundation.org
Website: www.glaucomafoundation.org

Representative:

Scott Christensen
President
E-mail: scott@glaucomafoundation.org

Alternate:

Clara Cullen
E-mail: ccullen@glaucomafoundation.org

G

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Glaucoma Foundation is the premier international nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating glaucoma, the leading cause of preventable blindness affecting 3 million Americans. The mission of the Foundation is to raise public awareness about the need for regular, comprehensive eye exams and to fund critical research seeking new treatments and cures for glaucoma.

  The Glaucoma Foundation is ready with resources to partner with other organizations and community groups that share our vision of a world without blindness. Together we can help eradicate blindness from glaucoma.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  The International Think Tank on Optic Nerve Rescue and Restoration.

  Scientific grants, awarded semiannually for innovative research to improve the diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

  Glaucoma Awareness Month in January. Poster, literature, media press kits.

Publications

Glaucoma at a Glance: a statistical fact sheet providing an overview of the disease and those whom it affects.

Glaucoma. What You Need to Know: a trifold brochure detailing risk factors, diagnoses, procedures, and treatments.

Creating a World Without Blindness: a trifold brochure explaining the programs and free services of the Foundation that can be accessed worldwide.

Doctor, I Have a Question: a 20-page patient brochure outlining aspects of the disease, medications and treatments, and surgical procedures.

You and Your Glaucoma Medication: a how-to-guide on taking eye drops most effectively, with diagrams and patient tips.

Eye to Eye: quarterly newsletter providing updates on medical news and research, treatment information, and answers to commonly asked hotline questions.

Compliance Series: three articles devoted to the patient's role in the treatment of glaucoma.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

G

Glaucoma Research Foundation

Glaucoma Research Foundation

251 Post Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94108
Phone: 1–800–826–6693, 415–986–3162
Fax: 415–986–3763
E-mail: info@glaucoma.org
Website: www.glaucoma.org

Representative:

Thomas M. Brunner
President & CEO
E-mail: tbrunner@glaucoma.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Glaucoma Research Foundation (GRF) is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the sight and independence of people with glaucoma. The ultimate goal of GRF is to find a cure.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  GRF offers education and support for people with glaucoma and their families through *Gleams,* a newsletter filled with regular research updates, treatment news, success stories, and more. *Gleams* comes out three times a year.

  GRF has an award-winning website located at www.glaucoma.org. The GRF Website provides information and resources on GRF programs, glaucoma, and glaucoma-related issues.

  GRF publishes *Understanding & Living with Glaucoma*, a helpful guidebook that provides easy-to-read facts and answers for people with glaucoma and their families.

  The Scientific Advisory Committee is composed of world-renowned researchers. This committee is responsible for reviewing proposals for new research and making decisions with regard to funding for innovative pilot projects worldwide. Larger funding sources may pass over a creative new research project if there is no precedent set. However, GRF has the flexibility to provide seed money for creative new projects that hold promise. Then, armed with results from these pilot projects, scientists can often secure the major funding necessary to bring their ideas to fruition.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Helen Keller International

Helen Keller International

Headquarters:
352 Park Avenue South
12th Floor
New York, NY 10010
Phone: 1–877–535–5374, 212–532–0544
Fax: 212–532–6014
E-mail: info@hki.org
Website: www.hki.org/

Africa Regional Office:
BP29.898
Dakar, Senegal

Asia-Pacific Regional Office:
P.O. Box 168
Phnom Penh
Kingdom of Cambodia

Europe Office:
45–47 rue Vineuse, 75016
Paris, France

Representative:

Jennifer Klopp
Director of Development and Communications
Phone: 212–532–0544 ext. 808
E-mail: jklopp@hki.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The mission of Helen Keller International (HKI) is to save the sight and lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. We combat the causes and consequences of blindness and malnutrition by establishing programs based on evidence and research in vision, health, and nutrition.

  HKI strives to be the most scientifically competent organization in improving vision and nutrition throughout the world. HKI builds local capacity by establishing sustainable programs. HKI provides scientific and technical assistance and data to governments and international, regional, national, and local organizations around the world.

  HKI programs combat malnutrition, cataract, trachoma, onchocerciasis (river blindness), and refractive error. The goal of all HKI programs is to reduce suffering of those without access to needed health or vision care and, ultimately, to help lift people from poverty.

We operate in three regions: Africa, Asia, and the Americas. We offer our programs in 22 countries around the world, including 10 states in the United States. Each year our programs directly benefit millions of people. Our two major areas of focus are eye health and nutrition.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  Membership:

  NEHEP, CORE, Global Health Council, HaRP, IAPB (VISION 2020), InterAction, ICTC, 6NNTDC, 1ZinC6, N6DO, GET2020

  Affiliates:

  Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, Tufts University, Wageningen University

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Cataract:

  We promote timely detection of eye problems to provide efficient delivery of intervention. Cataract causes the clouding of the normally transparent lens of the eye and is the single largest cause of blindness worldwide. Nearly 20 million people are blind from cataract, and cataract accounts for approximately half of all adult blindness. While the cause of cataract is unknown, it can be effectively treated by surgery. We fight this disease through training of surgeons, nurses, and community health workers, and developing basic eye health education programs with government counterparts and local nongovernmental organizations. We also provide equipment and technology necessary for program implementation.

  Onchocerciasis:

  Also known as river blindness, onchocerciasis is the second leading infectious cause of blindness in the world. Caused by a parasitic worm transmitted through the bite of the black fly, it affects approximately 18 million people. A total of 120 million people are at risk, 95 percent of which live in Africa. HKI enables communities to take action against this disease by enabling distribution of the drug Mectizan®, generously donated by Merck & Co., Inc. HKI also provides training and information about treating onchocerciasis and distributing the drug.

  Trachoma:

  Trachoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness in the world. Resulting from a bacterium, this painful infection of the eye leads to build-up of scar tissue and can eventually cause blindness. Approximately 500 million people are at risk of infection, primarily in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Nearly 150 million people, of whom 75 percent are children, have active trachoma. We work to end this disease of poverty with community-based approaches, such as enhanced school health. These programs are linked through partnerships to environmental improvements, like school water supply and latrine construction. Surgical training and provision of needed antibiotic supplies and equipment strengthen and empower struggling government health service systems.

  ChildSight®: "Bringing Education into FocusTM":

  ChildSight is our domestic initiative, which serves children living in urban and rural poverty and addresses refractive error, a visual problem occurring in 25 percent of children aged 10 to 15. Getting prescription eyeglasses is the simple, immediate solution to this common

H

problem. ChildSight offers vision screenings and free eyeglasses to children who need them. The connection between vision and academic improvement is dramatic and life changing. Since 1994, 957,499 students in 10 states have had vision screenings through the ChildSight program, and more than 108,636 free pairs of eyeglasses have been distributed. This proven success led us to expand our services internationally.

Nutrition:

A lack of vitamin A causes thousands of children to go blind each year, while also affecting their growth, cognitive development, and immune system. Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) is an ongoing, treatable threat; 127 million preschool children and 7 million pregnant women have VAD. Every year, between 250,000 and 500,000 children go blind from a lack of vitamin A in their diet. Seventy percent of those children die within one year of losing their sight. Vitamin A supplementation is one of the most cost-effective methods of preventing blindness, costing about $1 per person each year. Saving the sight and lives of thousands of people every year, we focus on vitamin A supplementation, nutrition education, promoting the consumption of foods rich in vitamin A, encouraging food fortification with micronutrients, and homestead food production.

Meetings

Africa Regional Meeting

Asia Regional Meeting

Americas Regional Meeting

Date Last Updated

March 2007

H

Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness

Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness

211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: 312–922–8710, 1–800–433–4772
Fax: 312–922–8713
E-mail: visionary@eyehealthillinois.org
Website: www.eyehealthillinois.org

Representative:

James A. McKechnie, Jr.
Executive Director

Description

- **Mission:**

  The primary mission of the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness (ISPB) is to reduce preventable causes of blindness by educating the public on the necessity and methods of preventing blindness. ISPB accomplishes this mission for Illinois by taking a leadership role in the development and implementation of innovative programs and activities involving the preservation and enhancement of vision through information, education, eye safety, and research.

  ISPB participates in statewide community health fairs; sponsors professional education lectureships at annual meetings of the Chicago Ophthalmological Society and the Illinois Optometric Association; presents the EYE SPY Program for fourth graders and the Vocational Eye Safety Program for high school students throughout Illinois; funds starter research grants at Illinois education/research institutions; provides needy children with eyeglasses and low vision aids in conjunction with the Illinois Departments of Public Health and Human Services; operates the Illinois Eye Injury Registry, an affiliate of the American Society of Ocular Trauma/United States Eye Injury Registry, tracing serious eye injuries; and helps set policy as a member of the state's Diabetes Advisory Coalition and Senate Task Force on Fireworks. ISPB is a member of the SafeKids Coalition and the Illinois Injury Prevention Coalition.

  ISPB develops and implements disease awareness and prevention programs and makes public education materials on eye diseases, eye care, and safety available at no charge. ISPB Public Service Programs on eye issues include a website (www.eyehealthillinois.org) and CAN TV (Chicago Access Network Television). The former is a live, call-in cable show in Chicago. Shows are available for downloading through the Website.

  ISPB participates in the certification and recertification of vision screeners with the Illinois Departments of Public Health and Human Services.

  ISPB cosponsors and participates in the "Discovery" Low Vision Conferences.

Publications

The Visionary: semi-annual newsletter

Public education materials on eye diseases, eye care, and safety are available at no charge.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Indian Health Service

Indian Health Service

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
The Reyes Building
801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20852–1627
Phone: 301–443–3593
E-mail: Feedback@ihs.gov
Website: www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Optometry/Index.cfm

Representative:

Terry J. Schleisman, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Chief Clinical Consultant for Optometry
Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility
1 Hospital Way, P.O. Box 160
Belcourt, ND 58316
Telephone: 701–477–8413
Fax: 701–477–8468
E-mail: *terry.schleisman@mail.ihs.gov*

Michael Candreva, O.D.
Chief Clinical Consultant for Optometry
PHS Indian Hospital
P.O. Box J
Ft. Yates, ND 58538
Phone: 701–854–8249 or 8272
Fax: 701–854–3845
E-mail: Michael.Candreva@ihs.gov

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Indian Health Service (IHS) seeks to provide comprehensive health services (i.e., medical, dental, and environmental health programs) through IHS facilities, tribally contracted hospitals, health centers, school health centers, and health stations.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  Indian health organizations across the United States.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  IHS provides optometric and ophthalmologic doctors in hospital and clinical settings, generally in remote areas with a substantial number of patients needing care, and provides special programs in disease prevention and health promotion.

Meetings

As announced. An eye care IHS-wide meeting is held during even-numbered years.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

2025 Woodlane Drive
St. Paul, MN 55125
Phone: 1–800–284–3937, 651–731–2944
Fax: 612–731–0410
E-mail: jcahpo@jcahpo.org
Website: www.jcahpo.org

Representative:

Lynn Anderson
Executive Director
E-mail: landerson@jcahpo.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO) serves to enhance the quality and availability of ophthalmic patient care by promoting the value of qualified allied health personnel and by providing certification and education.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  JCAHPO conducts national certifying examinations and provides continuing education programs.

  JCAHPO develops standards of education and training in the field.

Meetings

Annual meeting in conjunction with American Academy of Ophthalmology (October/November)

Publications

Eyelights: newsletter published every two months

President's Report: annual activity report

Criteria for Certification: a booklet that describes certification requirements for three core levels and two subspecialties

Date Last Updated

March 2007

J

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International

120 Wall Street, 19th floor
New York, NY 10005
Phone: 1–800–JDF–CURE, 212–785–9500
Fax: 212–785–9595
E-mail: info@jdrf.org
Website: www.jdrf.org

Representative:

Helen D. Nickerson, Ph.D.
Scientific Program Manager: Complications
Phone: 212–479–7522
Fax: 212–785–9609
E-mail: hnickerson@jdrf.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF) was founded in 1970 by the parents of children with juvenile diabetes, a disease that strikes children suddenly, makes them insulin dependent for life, and carries the constant threat of devastating complications. Since inception, JDRF has provided more than $1 billion to diabetes research worldwide. More than 80 percent of the expenditures of JDRF directly support research and education about research. The mission of JDRF is constant: to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. For more information about JDRF, please visit www.jdrf.org.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  More than 110 chapters and affiliates worldwide

Meetings

Annual conference in June

Publications

Countdown: magazine

Countdown for Kids: magazine

Only Remedy Is a Cure: campaign newsletter

Partners: newsletter

Annual report

Educational brochures and fact sheets are available.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

J

Lighthouse International

Lighthouse International

111 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022
Phone: 212–821–9200, 1–800–829–0500
Fax: 212–821–9712
TDD: 212–821–9713
E-mail: info@lighthouse.org
Website: www.lighthouse.org

Representative:

Cynthia Stuen
Sr. Vice President
E-mail: cstuen@lighthouse.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  Lighthouse International, a worldwide resource on vision impairment and vision rehabilitation, is dedicated to enabling people of all ages to overcome the challenges of vision loss. Lighthouse provides services in the greater New York region. Its education and research are national and international.

  The Lighthouse Center for Education seeks to educate people with vision impairment, their families, professionals, and the public about vision impairment and the availability of resources and services that help overcome the consequences of diminished sight. Through its information and resource service (toll-free), information about eye disease, national and international vision rehabilitation services, and resources for people of all ages with impaired vision is available.

  The Lighthouse Continuing Education offers courses and seminars to professionals on all aspects of low vision care and rehabilitation services.

  Project InSights, a Lighthouse peer volunteer vision education program, promotes awareness of eye diseases that can result in vision loss. Prevention, treatment, and the benefits of vision rehabilitation are discussed by trained older adult volunteers who conduct free vision education programs at community sites in Staten Island, Westchester, and Queens.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  More than 18,000 low vision continuing education alumni, located throughout the United States and abroad

- **Programs/Activities:**

  The Lighthouse Center for Education:

  Develops online and print education products about vision impairment for consumers, professionals, and the general public.

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Provides online and face-to-face courses in all aspects of low vision care and other vision rehabilitation services.

Develops seminars and community lectures for consumers, families, and friends highlighting new treatments, research, and technology that can benefit people with impaired vision across the lifespan.

Conducts research demonstration projects, such as the development of curricula for professionals, outreach programs using volunteers with impaired vision, and evidence-based electronic records.

Provides leadership in advocacy to promote the inclusion of people with impaired vision in all aspects of life and to foster legislation that promotes healthcare coverage for vision rehabilitation services.

Meetings

Professional seminars and courses

Publications

Aging and Vision: an e-newsletter targeted to professionals, which focuses on treatments, technology, and research on vision impairment, highlighting innovations that promote understanding of low vision care and vision rehabilitation for people in their later years.

Sharing Solutions: a newsletter for adults with impaired vision and their support networks, which focuses on issues related to coping with vision loss, as well as new technologies and treatments. Readers are encouraged to share their solutions to questions posed in every issue.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Lions Clubs International

Lions Clubs International

300 W 22nd Street
Oak Brook, IL 60523
Phone: 630–571–5466
Fax: 630–571–1692
E-mail: children@lionsclubs.org
Website: www.lionsclubs.org

Representative:

Marilee Seef, Manager
Health & Children's Services Dept.
Phone: 630–571–5466 x320
E-mail: Marilee.Seef@lionsclubs.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  Lions Clubs International is a service organization whose mission is "to create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation." Individual clubs work with the local community to provide needed and useful health-related programs for sight, diabetes awareness, and hearing.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  46,000 clubs worldwide, including 13,500 clubs in the United States.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Volunteers operate and/or support a wide variety of projects, which may include recreational camps for visually impaired, eye banks, used eyeglass recycling centers, international health missions, guide dog schools, research facilities, clinics, and more.

  Clubs may provide vision and/or diabetes screenings through collaboration with community health care professionals; many support mobile-screening units; clubs may provide assistance for eye examinations, eye care, and eyeglasses for people in need.

  The international office provides area program chairpersons and club volunteers with resources and information for conducting diabetes awareness programs.

  Lions Clubs International supports many other activities that may or may not be health-related, including Hearing and Speech Action and Work with the Deaf, Culture and Community Activities and Environmental programs, international relations programs, services for children at risk, and various youth programs.

Meetings

Annual Meeting: always in June/July

Area Forums: annually

Three board meetings a year

Clubs: meet once or more per month

Publications

THE LION Magazine: published 10 times/year; distributed to all members

Chairperson Newsletter: distributed two to three times a year to district and state chairpersons for the programs, Sight Conservation & Work with the Blind, and Diabetes Awareness

Diabetes Bookmark: IAD 161

Diabetes: an informational brochure: IAD 162

Blindness: Are You At Risk?: IAD 182

Sight Conservation and Work with the Blind: An Activity Guide for Lions Clubs: IAD 218

A Guide for Starting and Operating a Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center: IAD 107

Lions Eye Banks: a guide book: IAD 225

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Lions Clubs International Foundation

Lions Clubs International Foundation

300 West 22nd Street
Oak Brook, IL 60523
Phone: 630–571–5466
Fax: 630–571–3905
E-mail: lcif@lionsclubs.org
Website: www.lionsclubs.org

Representative:

Gina Prendki
Sight Programs Coordinator
Phone: 630–468–6789
Fax: 630–706–9142
E-mail: Gina.Prendki@lionsclubs.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) enables Lions to tackle global problems, such as blindness and hearing loss, and respond to major catastrophes, such as earthquakes and floods. LCIF also helps Lions serve their local communities by partnering with them to build schools, health clinics, and vocational training centers for the disabled.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  In the United States, there are approximately 13,000 Lions clubs with more than 393,000 members. Worldwide, there are more than 1.3 million members in 45,000 clubs in over 200 countries.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  LCIF has several programs that support eye health worldwide, including the Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP) and the Core 4 diabetes and low vision grant initiatives.

  LEHP is a community-based health education program that allow Lions Clubs, other community organizations, and individuals to promote healthy vision in the United States. LEHP promotes the early detection and timely treatment of diabetic eye disease and glaucoma and encourages the appropriate treatment for low vision. A CD-ROM includes information on these conditions as well as videos, public service announcements, Power Point presentations, and detailed strategies for implementing eye health activities. For more information, please visit the LEHP Website: www.LEHP.org. LEHP is also active in Japan, Great Britain, Ireland, Turkey, and Australia.

  The Core 4 diabetes program enables Lions to address the growing epidemic of diabetes, while in collaboration with health care providers in their community.

  The Core 4 low vision program offers local Lions the chance to support persons with low vision in their communities.

Publications

LEHP diabetic eye disease brochure

LEHP glaucoma brochure

LEHP program brochure

LEHP poster

LEHP CD-ROM Resource Kit

Date Last Updated

March 2007

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Macular Degeneration Partnership

Macular Degeneration Partnership

6222 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 260
Los Angeles, CA 90048
Phone: 310–623–4466, 888–430–9898
Website: www.AMD.org

Representative:

Judith Delgado
Program Director
6222 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 260
Los Angeles, CA 90048
E-mail: jdelgado@discoveryeye.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The mission of the Macular Degeneration Partnership (MDP) is to create a national partnership of patients and families, researchers, clinicians, industry partners, and leaders in the fields of vision and aging, to disseminate information about age-related macular degeneration (AMD), to provide support to patients, and to marshal resources for a cure.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Macular Degeneration Help Center, www.amd.org, a comprehensive website, updated monthly.

  Macular Degeneration Warm Line, 1–888–430–9898, a toll-free line with recorded information.

  AMD News Update, an e-mail service notifying subscribers of developments in research and treatment, or additions to the website.

  Printed materials on AMD.

Meetings

The AMD Patient Support Group meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Beverly Hills Library.

Annual AMD Public Education Seminar held in Southern California.

Publications

AMD Toolkit™: everything the patient needs to understand AMD and find resources

AMD News Update: monthly online newsletter containing in-depth articles on research, experimental treatments, nutrition, and clinical trials

The Macular Generation: tales from the trenches; how patients with AMD and their families deal with the disease

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Date Last Updated

March 2007

M

Maryland Society for Sight

Maryland Society for Sight

1313 West Old Cold Spring Lane
Baltimore, MD 21209
Phone: 410–243–2020
Fax: 410–889–2505
E-mail: info@mdsocietyforsight.org
Website: www.mdsocietyforsight.org

Representative:

Audrey E. Novak
Interim Executive Director
Phone: 410-243-2020, Mailbox 2
E-mail: anovak@mdsocietyforsight.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Maryland Society for Sight is a nonprofit health education agency that works to prevent blindness and preserve sight for all Marylanders. The Maryland Society for Sight has been providing unique eye health education and screening services for Marylanders since 1909.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Provides vision screenings for preschoolers and adults.

  Provides eye examinations and glasses for the homeless.

  Conducts worksite health programs.

  Maintains a speakers' bureau.

  Works to prevent sports eye injuries in children.

  Provides the public with information on eye health and safety.

Publications

Eye Openers: newsletter published three times a year

Patient education materials are available.

Date Last Updated

August 2008

M

National Accreditation Council

National Accreditation Council

7017 Pearl Road
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
Phone: 440–545–1601
Fax: 440–409–0173
Website: www.nacasb.org

Representative:

Steven K. Hegedeos
Executive Director
Phone: 440–724–9781
E-mail: steve@nacasb.org

Description

- **Mission**

  The National Accreditation Council (NAC) is the only independent accrediting agency for programs that serve individuals who are blind or who have low vision. NAC uses standards to address the unique needs of this population. Recognition by NAC provides assurance to consumers and the public that professionals are qualified and serve with integrity.

  NAC is the only independent, not-for-profit corporation that serves individuals who are blind or who have low vision through program improvement and accreditation. NAC invites agencies, programs, and individuals who understand the needs of those who are blind or visually impaired to share the responsibility of demonstrating the need for specific high-quality services through accreditation, participation in developing standards, conduct of onsite reviews, and financial or in-kind donations. NAC wishes to cooperate with other accrediting bodies to ensure that issues related to vision loss are addressed. In the words of Helen Keller, “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

  The mission of NAC is to help individuals who are blind or who have low vision to receive services from qualified professionals and programs designed to meet the unique needs caused by reduced sight. Methods used to accomplish the purpose of NAC include acquiring consumer input and professional advice to establish standards, providing the professional with opportunities to share and grow through onsite reviews, and strengthening programs through self-study and program improvement plans leading to accreditation.

  Why NAC’s Work is Crucial

  Those who are blind or who have low vision deserve assurances that services meet their unique needs. Small numbers of persons with reduced visual abilities and blindness occur in every social and economic strata of our society. Many agencies provide rehabilitation, employment, health, education, and human services to the general population, but lack the experience and/or training to meet the unique needs created by lack of sight. NAC provides a bridge between the field of work for the blind and the consumer by establishing standards and helping agencies develop improvement plans to meet those standards. NAC accreditation, either as a distinct process or as a joint effort with other accrediting bodies, lets individuals who are blind or who have low vision know that those who provide services are concerned and committed to providing high-quality services.

Every professional system must have a process for monitoring itself, of certifying individuals, and assuring quality accreditation of services. NAC recognizes certification of individuals by state licensing bodies and professional associations. NAC adds a necessary component to the professions in work for the blind by providing accreditation of agencies that serve the blind and visually impaired as well as distinct programs and services that are a part of agencies serving the general population.

Work on establishing standards was initiated through Federal funding of consumer groups and professionals in work for the blind. NAC was established as an independent corporation in 1966 to use those standards as a means of recognizing agencies that adhered to the established measures of quality. NAC remains the only body that works to improve services to the blind and those with low vision through accreditation. It accredits agencies and programs based on onsite reviews of self-study materials and other documents examined by professionals who volunteer their time and travel to an agency or school for an accreditation visit. NAC believes that independence from other organizations is an essential requirement for this or any accreditation or certification process.

NAC is governed by a Board of Directors, which volunteers its time and talents to serve. Members include 13 at-large members representing persons who are blind, professionals in work for the blind, and the public. Representatives of national organizations of and for the blind, medical professions, and related fields also occupy seats on the Board. There are three standing committees of the Board: Executive Committee, Committee for Accreditation and Recognition, and Committee on Standards. Other committees are appointed as needed. Office functions are located in Cleveland, Ohio, and are directed by an Executive Director who is an ex-officio member of the Board.

- **Membership/Affiliates**

  Members of onsite review teams are recruited from among professionals with training and experience in rehabilitation, education, or other aspects of work with the blind. An individual's training and skills are matched with the services provided by the agency or program. Care is taken to avoid any conflict of interest or partiality in the review process and in the awarding of accreditation. Review team members volunteer their time but have their travel, meals, and lodging paid. Reviewers consistently report that the onsite experience increases their understanding of how important and beneficial the accreditation process is for them as well as the agency they visit.

- **Program/Activities**

  Agencies and programs wishing to be accredited by NAC apply to undertake a self-study. During the self-study, standards are applied based on the mission and functions of the agency or program and rated as "exceeds expectations" (3), "meets standards" (2), "does not meet standards" (1), or "not applicable" (0). The self-study is then verified by a team of professionals with experience and training in work for the blind during an onsite review of ratings, documentation, and interviews with consumers and collaborating agencies. A report of the onsite review is then brought to the Committee on Accreditation and Recognition, which may grant accredited status for up to five years or stipulate actions before accreditation is granted. Annual reports are required to inform the Board of significant changes in the organization and steps that have been completed to meet recommendations made by the onsite review team. Agencies that are accredited become members of NAC and pay annual fees based on a sliding-fee schedule.

Date Last Updated

March 2009

National Alliance for Hispanic Health

National Alliance for Hispanic Health

1501 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036–1401
Phone: 202–387–5000
Fax: 202–797–4353
Website: http://hispanichealth.org

Representative:

Edgar Gill
Project Director
Phone: 202–797–4331
E-mail: emg@hispanichealth.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Alliance for Hispanic Health is dedicated to connecting communities and creating change to improve the health and well-being of Hispanics in the United States. The National Alliance for Hispanic Health fulfills its mission by working with community organizations; universities; Federal, state, and local governments; foundations; and corporations.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  4,000 organizational members

- **Programs/Activities:**

  The National Alliance for Hispanic Health focuses on four program goals: (1) building a comprehensive knowledge base; (2) increasing public awareness; (3) fostering strong collaborative networks; and (4) strengthening community-based infrastructures.

  As the action forum for the Hispanic community, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health provides the following services:

  Consumer education and outreach

  Training programs

  Technical assistance

  Model community-based programs

  Policy analysis, development, and dissemination

  Research (i.e., data analysis)

  Advocacy

Infrastructure support and development

Development and adaptation of materials

Priority areas include women's health, environmental health, health system reform, and welfare reform. Longstanding programs address HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, chronic diseases, maternal and child health, immunizations, adolescent health, mental health, human services, alcohol abuse, inhalant abuse, traffic safety, nutrition, and juvenile justice.

The Center for Technology promotes the appropriate use of technology and covers a broad range of technological advances, from embracing the use of emerging technologies in community settings, to issues raised by the increasingly complex decisions related to the use of technologies in end-of-life situations.

Managing the balance of technology, information access, and patient confidentiality are just a few of the areas the Alliance monitors and represents on behalf of Hispanic communities and their concerns.

Publications

For a list of National Alliance for Hispanic Health Resources, visit our website: www.hispanichealth.org.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Association for Hispanic Elderly

National Association for Hispanic Elderly

234 East Colorado Boulevard, Suite 300
Pasadena, CA 91101
Phone: 626–564–1988
Fax: 626–564–2659
Website: www.anppm.org

Representative:

Carmela G. Lacayo, Ph.D.
President and CEO
E-mail: micasact@aol.com

Alternate:

Luisa Miranda
Project Coordinator
National Health Projects
Asociacion Nacional Pro Personas Mayores
234 E. Colorado Blvd. Suite 300
Pasadena, California 91101

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Inc.

National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Inc.

P.O. Box 317
Watertown, MA 02471
Phone: 1–800–562–6265
Fax: 617–972–7444
E-mail: napvi@perkins.org
Website: www.napvi.org

Representative:

Susan LaVenture
Executive Director
E-mail: Susan.LaVenture@Perkins.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Inc. (NAPVI) is a national parent organization that gives support, exchanges information, and refers resources to parents with children who are visually impaired. NAPVI reaches parents and families, community groups, and agencies nationally and internationally.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  2,500 parents and families, community groups, and agencies

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Provides information and support to parents through a national toll-free number.

  Administers an international information and support network that links parents of children with similar eye conditions.

  Provides workshops, conferences, and publications.

  Supports the development of parent associations and advocacy efforts to improve medical and educational services for children who are blind or visually impaired and their families.

  Connects families with resources and services.

Meetings

NAPVI collaborates with communities and existing resources on the local, state, regional, and national levels to provide workshops and conferences for families.

Publications

Awareness: quarterly newsletter

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Association for Visually Handicapped

National Association for Visually Handicapped

22 West 21st Street
New York, NY 10010
Phone: 212–889–3141, 212–255–2804
Fax: 212–727–2931
E-mail: navh@navh.org
Website: www.navh.org

Representative:

Dr. Lorraine H. Marchi, L.H.D.
CEO

Alternate:

Cesar L. Gomez
Executive Director

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Association for Visually Handicapped (NAVH) is the only voluntary national health organization devoted solely to the partially seeing. The mission of NAVH is to promote the use of residual vision so that those with limited vision do not lead limited lives. To this end, a wide array of visual aids, large-print materials, emotional support, educational outreach, and referral services are provided.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  Approximately 7,500 state-level members

Meetings

Annual Showcase and Counseling Center to Benefit the Partially Seeing (held each May)

Annual Medical Advisory Board Breakfast Meeting held each year at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology

Annual Kambara Low Vision Symposium on partial vision loss held each February for area hospitals' ophthalmology residents

Publications

NAVH UPDATE: quarterly newsletter

Annual bulletin/program report

A variety of public education materials are available. Please call NAVH for a complete listing.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

1730 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202–872–0888
Fax: 202–872–0057
Website: www.n4a.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is the leading voice on aging issues for Area Agencies on Aging across the country and a champion for Title VI-Native American aging programs in our Nation's capital. Through its presence in Washington, DC, n4a advocates on behalf of the local aging agencies to ensure that needed resources and support services are available to older Americans and their caregivers.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  650 area agencies on aging; 240 Title VI-Native American aging programs.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Works with and advocates for area agencies on aging to coordinate and support a wide range of home and community services, including information and referral, home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation, employment services, senior centers, adult daycare, and a long-term care ombudsman program.

  Provides general administrative, training, and technical assistance related to the management of programs to area agencies.

  Administers the Eldercare Locator Service, a nationwide service to help families and friends find information about community services for older people (1–800–677–1116). The Eldercare Locator is funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging.

Meetings

Annual conference: summer

Publications

Annual report

National Directory for Eldercare Information and Referral

In touch with n4a (members only)

Educational materials

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

2872 Woodcock Blvd, Suite 220
Atlanta, GA 30341
Phone: 770–458–7400
Fax: 770–458–7401
Website: www.chronicdisease.org

Representative:

Christopher Maylahn, M.P.H.
Program Research Specialist
Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Adult Health
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Room 511
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237
Phone: 516–473–4223
Fax: 518–473–2853
E-mail: Cmm05@health.state.ny.us

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) provides state-based leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control at the state and national level.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  Representative membership is open to one chronic disease program representative who is an employee of the health department of a state, commonwealth, territory, district, or possession of the United States and is officially appointed by the health officer from that jurisdiction. Representative members have voting privileges at the annual or special membership meetings, may serve as officers and directors of the Association, and may serve on committees and councils. General membership is open to other health department employees who direct or work with chronic disease prevention and control programs, including epidemiology units, from any state, commonwealth, territory, district, or possession of the United States, in addition to the officially appointed representative to the association who is serving as the representative member from that jurisdiction. General members may serve as officers and directors of the Association and may serve on committees and councils.

  NACDD addresses the vision needs of our nation through a National Vision & Eye Health Work Group. This group provides leadership and expertise for the development of state-based vision programs, enhanced vision surveillance, and comprehensive and coordinated strategies in promoting eye health and vision preservation that can serve as the basis for collaborative initiatives at the state and national levels.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Policy and environmental interventions across the full spectrum of prevention

  Intervention strategies based on data

  Partnerships and resources

  Population-based approaches and systems-based changes

  Lifestyle changes such as increased physical activity, improved nutrition, tobacco-free lifestyle, weight management, blood pressure, blood cholesterol, and stress reduction

  Detection and treatment of risk factors, early identification, and treatment and prevention of vision loss.

  Five teams have been established to focus on the following priorities:

  - Media
  - National efforts
  - Primary care
  - Engaging stakeholders
  - State vision and eye health implementation plan

Meetings

The group meets every other month by phone and occasionally meets in person when convenient. Teams have been established to address workgroup priorities and meet more often. Minutes of all meetings are posted at http://www.chronicdisease.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3456

Publications

A list of relevant publications is posted on the NACDD Website at http://www.chronicdisease.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3321

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Association of Vision Professionals

National Association of Vision Professionals

c/o Prevention of Blindness Society
Washington Area
1775 Church Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202–234–1010
Fax: 202–234–1020
E-mail: contact@visionpros.org
Website: www.visionpros.org

Representative:

Jeff Robinson, Coordinator
La. Lions Cubsight Program
825 Kaliste Saloom Rd. III-100
Lafayette, LA 70508
Phone: 1–866–CUBSITE (1–866–282–7483)
Fax: 337–262–5237
E-mail: jmrob53@hotmail.com
E-mail: jrobin@lsuhsc.edu

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Association of Vision Professionals (NAVP) is an organization of people deeply concerned with prevention, detection, and follow up of vision services for preschool and school-age children and adults of all ages.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  200

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Serves as a forum for ideas on vision conservation and eye health.

  Provides leadership and planning to improve and expand vision conservation and eye health programs nationally.

  Coordinates and cooperates with agencies and groups responsible for providing services aimed at vision conservation and eye health.

  Develops and promotes educational programs for the public in vision conservation, eye safety, and eye health.

  Promotes the development of training programs for individuals preparing for careers in the field of vision conservation and eye health.

  Develops professional standards for employment in the field of vision conservation and eye health.

Meetings

Annual meeting: usually the first week of August

Publications

National Association of Vision Professionals: quarterly newsletter

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Black Nurses Association, Inc.

National Black Nurses Association, Inc.

8630 Fenton Street, Suite 330
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301–589–3200
Fax: 301–589–3223
E-mail: nbna@erols.com
Website: www.nbna.org

Representative:

Debra Toney, Ph.D., R.N., M.S.
First Vice President
E-mail: nbna@erols.com

Description

- **Mission:**

  The mission of the National Black Nurses Association, Inc. (NBNA) is to provide a forum for collective action by African American nurses to "investigate, define, and determine the health care needs of African Americans and implement change to make health care available to African Americans and others commensurate to that of the larger society."

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  3,000 registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, licensed vocational nurses, and student nurses in 80 chapters.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Provides educational forums for nurses throughout the Nation.

  Coordinates and implements community healthcare service programs and collaborates with state and Federal agencies.

  Provides health prevention and advocacy programs for consumers, particularly focusing on African Americans and minority communities.

Meetings

Annual institute and conference: July or August at a major city across the Nation

National Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill: second Thursday in February annually

National Black Nurses Foundation fundraising dinner: February

Celebration of National Black Nurses Day: first Friday in February annually

Publications

NBNA Annual Report

Journal of National Black Nurses Association: semiannual

NBNA Newsletter: quarterly

NBNA History Book

Professional education materials are available

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Caucus and Center of Black Aged, Inc.

National Caucus and Center of Black Aged, Inc.

1220 L Street, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: 202–637–8400
Fax: 202–347–0895
Website: http://www.ncba-aged.org/
E-mail: info@ncba-aged.org

Representative:

Karyne Jones, M.P.A., M.A.
President and Chief Executive Officer
kjones@ncba-aged.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Caucus and Center of Black Aged, Inc. seeks to improve living conditions for low-income elderly Americans, particularly African Americans.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  More than 10,000 members in 26 chapters nationwide.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Operates an employment program involving more than 3,000 workers over age 55 across the United States.

  Sponsors, owns, and manages senior/handicapped housing.

  Manages graduate student internship programs in nursing home administration.

  Offers onsite training in housing management, commercial property maintenance, and entitlement programs, and offers eligibility, caregiving, and eldercare.

Meetings

Annual meeting

Publications

Golden Page: quarterly newsletter

Date Last Updated

November 2007

National Community Pharmacists Association

National Community Pharmacists Association

100 Daingerfield Road
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-683-8200
Toll-free: 1–800–544–7447
Fax: 703–683–3619
Website: www.ncpanet.org

Representative:

Colleen E. Brennan, R.Ph.
Director of Professional and Educational Affairs
Phone: 703–838–2698
E-mail: colleen.brennan@ncpanet.org

- **Mission:**

  The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), founded in 1898 as the National Association of Retail Druggists, represents the pharmacist owners, managers, and employees of more than 24,000 independent community pharmacies across the United States. The Nation's independent pharmacies, independent pharmacy franchises, and independent chains dispense nearly half of the Nation's retail prescription medicines.

  - We are dedicated to the continuing growth and prosperity of independent community pharmacy in the United States.
  - We are the national pharmacy association representing the professional and proprietary interests of independent community pharmacists and will vigorously promote and defend those interests.
  - We are committed to high-quality pharmacist care and to restoring, maintaining, and promoting the health and well-being of the public we serve.
  - We believe in the inherent virtues of the American free enterprise system and will do all we can to ensure the ability of independent community pharmacists to compete in a free and fair marketplace.
  - We value the right to petition the appropriate legislative and regulatory bodies to serve the needs of those we represent.
  - We will use our resources to achieve these ends in an ethical and socially responsible manner.

  The Nation's independent pharmacists are small business entrepreneurs and multifaceted health care providers who represent a vital part of the United States' healthcare delivery system. They have roots in America's communities. They are community leaders actively involved in community-oriented public health, civic, and volunteer projects. Many hold local elected offices; others serve as state legislators.

Publications

America's Pharmacist

NCPA Newsletter

NCPA *e-News Weekly*

NCPA-Pfizer Digest

Alternate Site Pharmacist

A Century of Service and Beyond

Regimen: An Update on Long-Term Care Drug Therapy

Developing A Successful Pharmacist Care Practice

The Pharmacy Technician Training Program

Pharmacy Value Alliance (PVA) Educational Programs

Profit Mastery

Effective Pharmacy Management CD-ROM

NCPA Employee Policy and Procedures Wizard v2.0

HIPAA Security Handbook for Community Pharmacy

Medicare 2006: A Pharmacist's Reference Guide

NCPA Government Affairs Grassroots Manual

Communicating Pharmacist Care to Managed Care

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Council of La Raza

National Council of La Raza

1126 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202–785–1670
Fax: 202–776–1792
E-mail: comments@nclr.org
Website: www.nclr.org

Representative:

Liany Arroyo
Director of Health
E-mail: larroyo@nclr.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) is a private, nonprofit organization whose goal is to reduce poverty and discrimination and improve opportunities for Latinos/Hispanic Americans. NCLR works toward this goal by providing capacity-building assistance and by providing policy analysis and advocacy. The Center for Health Promotion is a component of NCLR that aims to advance the health status of Latinos/Hispanic Americans by advocating equitable health policies/programs at the local and national levels, increasing the extent and quality of health education and prevention and promotion activities targeting Latinos/Hispanic Americans, improving access to health services, and "partnering" with local community organizations and other allies to further these goals.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  More than 250 formal affiliates that serve 37 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, and serve a network of more than 20,000 groups and individuals nationwide.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Provides information, technical assistance, and support on critical issues such as diabetes, breast and cervical cancer, cardiovascular diseases, asthma, and managed care through the Center for Health Promotion Hispanic Health Project.

  The NCLR HIV/STD/TB Prevention Project provides national technical assistance and training on issues related to HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis. The goal of this project is to increase the capacity of Hispanic and non-Hispanic organizations committed to reducing the spread of these diseases in the Hispanic community.

  Hispanic Immunization Project (HIP), run by the NCLR Center for Health Promotion, Maternal, and Child Health Programs, is designed to combat the high rates of vaccine-preventable diseases among Latinos through technical assistance to Hispanic community organizations and the improvement of public information efforts on immunization.

Meetings

Annual conferences

Publications

Educational materials are available on a variety of topics such as civil rights, criminal justice, economic policies, education, health, immigration, employment and training, political and social empowerment, poverty, resource development, housing and community development, and statistics on Hispanics. All publications can be ordered by writing to the NCLR publications office.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Council of Urban Indian Health

National Council of Urban Indian Health

50 F Street, NW
Suite 3300
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202–544–0344
Fax: 202–544–9394
Website: www.ncuih.org

Representative:

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) was founded to support and develop quality accessible healthcare programs for all American Indians and Alaska Natives living in urban communities through advocacy, training, education, and leadership development.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  The membership of NCUIH comprises 34 Urban Indian Health Programs (UIHP) and three Alcohol Substance Abuse Treatment Centers. Urban Indian primary care clinics and outreach programs provide culturally acceptable, accessible, affordable, and accountable health services to an underserved, off-reservation Indian population. UIHP provide a variety of services, ranging from the provision of outreach and referral services to the delivery of comprehensive ambulatory health care.

  NCUIH partners with national health organizations who are concerned with health issues that face American Indians/Alaska Natives.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  More than half of the American Indians/Alaska Natives in the United States live in urban areas. As the national American Indian health organization that represents this population, NCUIH strives to create a broad awareness of Indian health issues. NCUIH maintains a visible presence in Washington, DC, and participates in national workgroups, committees, and advisory boards. The organization tracks legislation and provides congressional testimony.

  NCUIH distributes a weekly news and resource update, legislative alerts, and a newsletter. Quarterly teleconferences and an interactive website give members detailed information on pertinent topics. NCUIH disseminates information and facilitates partnerships and program development.

Meetings

NCUIH hosts two national leadership conferences, regional trainings, and quarterly membership teleconferences annually.

Publications

NCUIH advises and produces occasional position papers on American Indian health topics.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Council on the Aging, Inc.

National Council on the Aging, Inc.

1901 L Street NW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202–479–1200
Fax: 202–479–0735
Website: www.ncoa.org

Representative:

Donna Phillips
Phone: 202–479–6981
E-mail: info@ncoa.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Council on the Aging, Inc. (NCOA), a private nonprofit membership organization, serves as a resource for education and training, research and development, community service and employment programs, publications, public policy, advocacy, and leadership in the field of aging. Founded in 1950 and headquartered in Washington, DC, NCOA has a broad national membership of professionals, volunteers, and organizations that work with, for, and on behalf of older people. The mission of NCOA is to improve quality of life for older adults and strengthen community services.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  No state or regional affiliates. Members can join one of five constituent units that represent specialty areas, including the Health Promotion Institute, National Institute of Senior Centers, National Institute of Senior Housing, and the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Cosponsors with the American Optometric Association, Rites of Sight, a video-centered program designed to help people inform older adults of common age-related changes in the eyes and vision and the early signs of more serious eye conditions.

  Conducts research and supports demonstration programs (does not have funding available to give project grants).

Meetings

Annual meeting held March each year in partnership with the American Society on Aging.

Publications

Innovations: quarterly journal for members

NCOA Week: weekly e-newsletter for members

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Diabetes Education Program

National Diabetes Education Program

National Institutes of Health/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Building 31, Room 9A04
31 Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: 301–496–6110
Fax: 301–496–7422
E-mail: ndep@mail.nih.gov
Website: http://ndep.nih.gov

Representative:

Joanne Gallivan, M.S., R.D.
Director
E-mail: Joanne_gallivan@nih.gov

Description

- **Mission:**

  The mission of the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) is to reduce the morbidity and mortality of diabetes and its complications. NDEP, a federally sponsored initiative of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, involves public and private partners to improve the treatment and outcomes for people with diabetes, to promote early diagnosis, and, ultimately, to prevent the onset of the disease.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  NDEP Executive Committee

  NDEP Steering Committee with 35 member organizations

  NDEP Partnership Network with 200 member organizations

- **Programs/Activities:**

  NDEP tailors messages to minority populations that are disproportionately affected by the disease as well as the general population. The Program sponsors the following public awareness campaigns:

  - The “Small Steps. Big Rewards. Prevent Type 2 Diabetes” campaign is based on the results of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) clinical trial that proved diabetes could be prevented or delayed in an overweight population with pre-diabetes. The “Small Steps” campaign encourages people at high risk to lose a small amount of weight by eating healthy and getting 150 minutes of physical activity a week. In April 2004, NDEP launched the first national multicultural diabetes prevention campaign targeted to groups at high risk for diabetes and older adults: “Let’s Prevent type 2 Diabetes Step by Step (Paso a Paso)” targets Hispanic/Latino audiences; “More than 50 Ways to Prevent Diabetes” targets African Americans; “We Have the Power to Prevent Diabetes” targets American Indians and Alaskan Natives; “Two Reasons to Prevent Diabetes: My Future and Theirs” targets Asian American and Pacific Islanders; “It’s Not Too Late to Prevent Diabetes,” targets older adults; and “It’s Never

too Early to Prevent Diabetes," launched in 2006, promotes diabetes prevention messages to women with a history of gestational diabetes and their offspring. Campaign materials include motivation tip sheets, posters, and print and radio public service ads. Each set of materials is tailored for a high-risk group. The GAMEPLAN for preventing type 2 diabetes toolkit provides information for health care providers and people at risk for type 2 diabetes on how to make lifestyle changes to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes.

- The Be Smart About Your Heart: Control the ABCs of Diabetes campaign creates awareness about the link between diabetes and heart disease and promotes comprehensive diabetes care to control blood glucose (A1C), blood pressure, and cholesterol, the ABCs of diabetes. Educational materials are available in Spanish and 15 Asian American and Pacific Islander languages.
- Promotion of the "Control Your Diabetes. For Life" campaign messages continue with the distribution of two key publications; "Guiding Principles for Health Care Providers" (updated), outlining the seven essential components of quality diabetes care; and the companion brochure for people with diabetes, "4 Steps for Controlling Your Diabetes for Life."
- "The Power to Control Diabetes is in Your Hands" creates awareness of the benefits for people with diabetes who are Medicare recipients. The campaign educates people over age 65 who have diabetes about the importance of the ABCs of diabetes and the availability of Medicare benefits, such as diabetes-related equipment and supplies, diabetes self-management education, and medical nutrition therapy benefits. Newly revised materials are available in English and Spanish.

NDEP sponsors other activities developed through NDEP Work Groups represented by members of the Steering and Partnership Network:

NDEP Business and Managed Care Work Group

Purpose: To increase awareness of the clinical and economic benefits of quality diabetes care, promote prevention through worksite interventions and community involvement, and increase the use of prevention practices. The work group recently updated the diabetesatwork.org Website, a comprehensive Internet resource to help businesses meet the burgeoning diabetes epidemic head on. The site offers the latest trends in disease management, worksite wellness strategies, and a host of other interactive tools for on-the-job diabetes management. Information is available in English and Spanish. It is hosted by the National Business Group on Health.

NDEP Diabetes in Children and Adolescents Work Group

Purpose: To address awareness and education issues related to youth with type 1 and type 2 diabetes. The work group has developed a wealth of materials: to ensure a safe learning environment and equal access to educational opportunities for all students with diabetes, the work group created Helping the Student with Diabetes Succeed: A Guide for School Personnel, a comprehensive guide to managing diabetes at school. The work group has also developed a series of tip sheets for children with type 2 diabetes, covering topics such as being more active, eating healthy, and staying at a healthy weight. A newly created Internet resource, "When Your Child is Diagnosed with Diabetes: Parents Questions for the Health Care Team" outlines questions about diabetes and its management to help families talk to the health care team and learn about their child's diabetes care. Additional resources to help

health care providers and consumers on the topic of diabetes and children are available on the NDEP Website.

NDEP Evaluation Work Group

Purpose: To develop a practical plan for evaluating the effectiveness and reach of NDEP. The work group is examining existing data on the state of diabetes in the United States to identify current trends in diabetes prevention and control and strategies to obtain new data to fill existing gaps. The work group has also recently conducted its first “Survey of the Public Attitudes, Knowledge and Practices Related to Diabetes” that will provide insight in program planning and evaluation efforts.

NDEP Pharmacists, Podiatrists, Optometrists, and Dentists Work Group

Purpose: To promote the principles of NDEP by using pharmacy, podiatry, optometry, and dentistry organizations and providers to increase awareness of and access to quality care for people with diabetes. Working Together to Manage Diabetes: A Guide for Pharmacists, Podiatrists, Optometrists and Dental Professionals is the newly revised interdisciplinary primer focusing on diabetes-related conditions affecting the foot, eye, mouth, and issues related to drug therapy management. An accompanying poster, available in English and Spanish, can be used by health care professionals to educate patients with diabetes. Working Together to Manage Diabetes: Diabetes Medications Supplement is a reference booklet that provides a snapshot of diabetes medications and medications for controlling glycemia, high blood cholesterol, and blood pressure.

NDEP Health Care Provider Work Group

Purpose: To develop appropriate messages for health care providers to promote the importance of controlling diabetes and determine the best strategies for disseminating messages effectively. The work group launched BetterDiabetesCare.nih.gov, a comprehensive Web-based resource to assist with designing and implementing effective systems for diabetes care. The website was designed to help providers, educators, policymakers, planners, and purchasers make changes in systems of care for people with diabetes leading to better outcomes and provides models for system changes, examples of best practices, and links to many resources and references to assist with system changes. Continuing education credits are now available for health care professionals using the website.

NDEP Older Adults Work Group

The Older Adults work group develops diabetes education and materials and messages appropriate for people aged 60 and older. The Older Adults work group recently updated “The Power to Control Diabetes is in Your Hands” campaign with updated information on comprehensive control for people with diabetes and information on the newest benefits for Medicare beneficiaries.

NDEP African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Asian American Work Groups

The NDEP ethnic/minority work groups develop and promote culturally appropriate diabetes education materials and messages for their communities. The work groups have representatives from a variety of organizations that represent and reach the target audience and help deliver messages through trusted community channels. Work groups help to tailor

diabetes control and prevention messages that are culturally and linguistically appropriate for the target audience for all NDEP campaigns and activities.

Meetings

NDEP Steering Committee: two or three times/year (spring/fall)

NDEP Operations Committee: two times/year (spring/fall)

NDEP Partnership Meeting: biannual

Publications

NDEP has a wide variety of educational materials for people with diabetes and their families, health care providers, and community, business, and managed care organizations. Visit the website at http://ndep.nih.gov and go to the publications order form to obtain the latest materials.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Hispanic Medical Association

1411 K Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202–628–5895
Fax: 202–628–5898
E-mail: nhma@nhmamd.org
Website: www.nhmamd.org

Representative:

Elena Rios, M.D., M.S.P.H.
President and CEO

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) was organized in 1994 to address the interests and concerns of 26,000 licensed physicians and 1,800 full-time Hispanic medical facilities dedicated to teaching medical and health services research. As a rapidly growing national resource based in the Nation's capital, NHMA provides policymakers and health care providers with expert information and support in strengthening health service delivery to Hispanic communities across the Nation. During its first years in operation, NHMA held strategic planning meetings with physicians in five regions of the country, identifying the most critical issues they face and taking steps to define a blueprint of future activities in the following areas: delivery system, medical education, research, policy, and communications.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Indian Council on Aging

National Indian Council on Aging

10501 Montgomery Boulevard, NE
Suite 210
Albuquerque, NM 87111
Phone: 505–292–2001
Fax: 505–292–1922
Website: www.nicoa.org

Representative:

Traci L. McClellan
Executive Director
E-mail: traci@nicoa.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  To bring about improved, comprehensive services to American Indian and Alaska Native Elders. Our objectives are the following: (1) Communicate and cooperate with service provider agencies and advocacy organizations in the aging network; (2) Disseminate information on available resources to the national Indian community; (3) Intercede with appropriate agencies to ensure access to these resources; (4) Provide expert testimony to Congress on Indian issues and needs; (5) Serve as a national clearinghouse for issues affecting American Indian and Alaska Native Elders.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  American Association of Retired Persons, American Society on Aging, National Indian Health Board, National Congress of American Indians, National Council on Aging, National Association of Title VI Organizations, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Indian Health Service, and other groups that focus on Indian aging and health.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  The National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) is a national sponsor for the Senior Community Service Employment Program authorized under Title V of the Older Americans Act. NICOA operates the program in seven states as of 10/1/06, serving some 800+ participants who receive employment training and experience. NICOA is also funded by the Administration on Aging to serve as a Technical Assistance Center on Health Disparities among American Indian and Alaska Native Elders. The organization also operates the Diabetes Education Outreach Strategies Project through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention REACH 2010 Program.

Meetings

NICOA holds its national conference every two years with the next conference in 2008. The organization just celebrated its 30-year history of advocacy and service to American Indian and Alaska Native Elders in 2006.

Publications

NICOA publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Elder Visions,* and numerous other reports concerning Indian Elders related to diabetes, long-term care, and elder abuse.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 9A06
31 Center Drive, MSC 2560
Bethesda, MD 20892-2560
Phone: 301–496–3583
Fax: 301–496–7422
E-mail: ndic@info.niddk.nih.gov
Website: www.diabetes.niddk.nih.gov

National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse

1 Information Way
Bethesda, MD 20892–3560
E-mail: ndic@info.niddk.nih.gov

Representative:

Kathy Kranzfelder, M.A.
Director, NIDDK Information Clearinghouses
Office of Communications and Public Liaison, NIDDK, NIH
E-mail: Kathy_Kranzfelder@nih.gov

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC) is a service of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). NIDDK is part of the National Institutes of Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Established in 1978, the clearinghouse provides information about diabetes to people with diabetes and to their families, health care professionals, and the public. NDIC answers inquiries, develops and distributes publications, and works closely with professional and patient organizations and government agencies to coordinate resources about diabetes.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Disseminates materials for the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP), http://ndep.nih.gov.

  Hosts the National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse Website at www.diabetes.niddk.nih.gov.

  Responds to public inquiries about diabetes and its complications by phone, e-mail, and mail.

Publications

Diabetes Dateline: news bulletin for health professionals (NDIC newsletter)

Program Update: NDEP newsletter

Professional and patient education materials are available from the NDIC and NDEP. For a full list, request a publications order form or visit www.diabetes.niddk.nih.gov.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Institute on Aging

National Institute on Aging

National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 5C27
31 Center Drive, MSC 2292
Bethesda, MD 20892–2292
Phone: 301–496–1752
Fax: 301–496–1072
E-mail: niainfo@mail.nih.gov
Website: www.nih.gov/nia

Representative:

Vicky Cahan
E-mail: cahanv@nia.nih.gov

Karen Pocinki
E-mail: pocinkik@nia.nih.gov

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Institute on Aging (NIA) leads the Federal effort in supporting and conducting research on aging and the health and well-being of older people.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  - National Institute on Aging Information Center
    P.O. Box 8057
    Gaithersburg, MD 20898–8057
    1–800–222–2225

    Clearinghouse staff provide publications on a variety of topics related to health and aging.

  - NIHSeniorHealth
    www.NIHSeniorHealth.gov

    This senior-friendly website from NIA and the National Library of Medicine features popular health topics for older adults, including low vision, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and cataract. It has large type and a “talking” function that reads text aloud.

  - Alzheimer’s Disease Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center

    P.O. Box 8250
    Silver Spring, MD 20907–8250
    1–800–438–4380
    www.alzheimers.org

    The ADEAR Center offers information and publications on diagnosis, treatment, patient care, caregiver needs, long-term care, and research related to Alzheimer’s

disease. Staff answer telephone and written requests and make referrals to local and national resources.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Medical Association

National Medical Association

1012 Tenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202–347–1895
Fax: 202–898–2510
Website: www.nmanet.org/

Representative:

Ivonne Fuller Bertrand
Associate Executive Director, Community & Mission Services Development Office
E-mail: ifullerbertrand@NMAnet.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  The National Medical Association (NMA) is the collective voice of African American physicians and the leading force for parity and justice in medicine and the elimination of disparities in health. The largest and oldest organization of its kind, NMA is a 501(c) (3) national professional and scientific organization representing the interests of more than 30,000 African American physicians and the patients they serve. NMA is committed to improving the quality of health among minorities and disadvantaged people through its membership, professional development, community health education, advocacy, research, and partnerships with federal and private agencies. Throughout its history, NMA has focused primarily on health issues related to African Americans and medically underserved populations. However, its principles, goals, initiatives, and philosophy encompass all ethnic groups.

- **Membership:**

  Representing the interests of more than 30,000 African American physicians and the patients they serve, with nearly 112 affiliated societies throughout the nation and U.S. territories, NMA is firmly established in a leadership role in medicine.

- **Programs:**

  Programmatic Goals:

  - Ensure that the disease prevention and health promotion efforts of NMA effectively address and develop successful strategies to changing lives and affecting health outcomes as it applies to African American and other ethnic groups in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Caribbean.
  - Promote health promotion initiatives through innovative scientific investigations and disease prevention to reduce the disproportionate burden of disease, illness, and morbidity in African American and other ethnic groups.
  - Develop an effective internal and external communication network related to changing lives and affecting health outcomes.

  Programmatic Objectives:

- Encourage NMA physicians to participate in health promotion and disease prevention through continuing medical education, training, and other educational means with the purpose of improved health outcomes among their patients.
- Encourage investigative research of social/behavioral approaches to reducing adverse health and health care indices in African American and other ethnic groups.
- Increase the number of African American and minority students' interested in and/or participating in health disparities research.
- Enhance the quality and increase the quantity of published scientific literature related to disparate health conditions of African American and similar ethnic groups.
- Develop effective internal and external provider patient communications that address health disparities.
- Encourage the formation of information systems that eliminate the paucity of data relating to African American and other ethnic groups.

Programmatic Strategic Focus Areas:

NMA has identified several priority areas on which to focus its health disparities' initiatives. The following represent those key areas in which the majority of our programmatic efforts take place. However, we also offer programs on other critical public health initiatives:

- Asthma
- Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke
- Cancer
- Clinical Trials
- Diabetes
- HIV/AIDS
- Kidney Disease/Renal Failure
- Obesity

Publications:

The Journal of the National Medical Association has been published monthly since its inception in 1909, with special emphasis placed on the application of medical science to improve health care.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Optometric Association

National Optometric Association

3723 Main Street, Box F
East Chicago, IN 46312
Phone: 219–398–1832
Fax: 219–398–1077
Website: www.natoptassoc.org

Representative:

Edwin C. Marshall, O.D., M.S., M.P.H.
Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

Adjunct Professor of Public Health
Department of Public Health
School of Medicine
Indiana University
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Phone: 812–855–6682
877–394–2020
Fax: 812–855–7045
E-mail: marshall@indiana.edu

Description

- **Mission:**

  The mission of the National Optometric Association (NOA) is to develop a sense of professional and community awareness of the status of eye health in the minority community and the national community at large and to make known the impact of visual dysfunction on the effectiveness and productivity of our citizens and the academic proficiency of our students.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  450 members

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Recruits minority students into schools and colleges of optometry.

  Provides assistance to new graduates, as well as established minority optometrists, in the enhancement and updating of their optometric knowledge, skills, and professional practice; their placement; and the procurement of financial aid.

  Provides assistance to all established organizations of optometry toward the advancement of the art, science, and practice of professional optometry.

  “Three Silent Killers That Can Rob You Blind” is a community-focused program of NOA targeted at the three sight-threatening conditions that affect the minority community more than any other community. The program is designed to increase awareness and promote the

prevention and control of glaucoma, diabetic eye disease, and high blood pressure within minority communities, and particularly the African American community.

Meetings

Annual meeting

Publications

NOA Newsletter: biannually

Date Last Updated

March 2007

National Rural Health Association

National Rural Health Association

11080 K Street NW
2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202-639-0550
Fax: 202-639-0559
Website: www.ruralhealthweb.org

Representative:

Jeffery Perotti, O.D., M.S.
Indiana University School of Optometry
800 E. Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405
Phone: 812-856-3815
Fax: 812-855-5157
Email: jperotti@indiana.edu

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Association's mission is to improve the health of rural Americans and to provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  NRHA is a national nonprofit membership organization with more than 18,000 members. NRHA membership is made up of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  NRHA's activities bring together residents of rural communities, rural health professionals of all specialties, representatives of state, local, and national governments, and the full range of private sector rural health organizations. Through workshops, conferences, technical assistance, and other outreach efforts, NRHA programs serve rural communities by providing relevant and timely information and best practices to all people who care about the health or rural America.

Meetings

Rural Health Policy Institute

Annual Rural Health Conference

Rural Health Clinic Conference

Critical Access Hospital Conference

Quality and Clinical Conference

Rural Medical Educators Annual Meeting

Rural Minority and Multicultural Conference

Skill-Building Workshop.

Publications

Rural Roads is a quarterly magazine that features human interest stories and successful rural programs.

Rural Clinician Quarterly focuses on patient and/or clinician education that pertains to the selected quarterly newsletter topic. *The Journal of Rural Health*, a quarterly journal published by NRHA, offers original research encompassing evaluations of model and demonstration projects to improve rural health, statistical comparisons of rural and urban differences, and mathematical models examining the use of healthcare services by rural residents.

Date Last Updated

September 2008

Office of Minority Health

Office of Minority Health

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Rockwall II Building, Suite 1000
5515 Security Lane
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: 301–443–5224
Fax: 301–443–1426
E-mail: info@omhrc.gov
Website: www.omhrc.gov

Representative:

Blake Crawford
E-mail: bcrawford@osophs.dhhs.gov

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Office of Minority Health (OMH) is a congressionally mandated program located within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It serves as the focal point for economically disadvantaged populations. One of its many activities is the sponsorship of the OMH Resource Center, through which the public can access accurate and timely information on minority health concerns.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  OMH maintains a full-time Regional Minority Health Consultant in each Regional Health Administrator's office in all 10 Public Health Service Regions in the United States. The Regional Minority Health Consultants serve as a focal point and technical resource on minority health issues within each region.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Public access to materials and information is available through the OMH Resource Center:

  Toll-free telephone: 1–800–444–6472
  TDD line: 301–589–0951
  FAX: 301–589–0884

Publications

OMH Newsletter: quarterly

Pocket Guide to Minority Health Resources: reprinted fall 1998

Professional and public education materials are available

Date Last Updated

November 2007

Prevent Blindness America

Prevent Blindness America

211 West Wacker Drive, #1700
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: 1–800–331–2020
Fax: 312–363–6052
E-mail: info@preventblindness.org
Website: www.preventblindness.org

P

Representative:

Jeff Todd
Senior Vice President, Program & Public Health
Phone: 1–800–331–2020; ext. 6026
E-mail: jtodd@preventblindness.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America (PBA) is the Nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization, with the sole mission of preventing blindness and preserving sight.

  Prevent Blindness America serves millions of people each year through public information, research, and early detection. Together with a network of affiliates, divisions, and chapters, it is committed to preventing blindness and preserving sight.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  Prevent Blindness America collaborates with its network of affiliate, divisions, and program partners throughout the United States.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Prevent Blindness America serves millions of people each year through public and professional education, research, and early detection. Through its key programs and activities, Prevent Blindness America performs the following:

  - Provides vision screening training and select direct-service vision screening using the PBA-certified adult and pediatric vision screening protocol.
  - Maintains the Prevent Blindness America Eye Health and Safety Resource Center (1–800–331–2020), a nationwide information service dealing with eye health and safety topics for patients, care providers, and others.
  - Maintains the Prevent Blindness America Website (www.preventblindness.org), containing information on a variety of health and safety issues.
  - Coordinates an annual national vision health advocacy day, Eyes on Capitol Hill.
  - Promotes eye health and safety awareness in the workplace through the Wise Owl industrial safety program and Healthy Eyes workplace wellness program.
  - Promotes the use of safety eyewear in children's and adults' sports.

- Provides financial assistance to vision researchers through the Prevent Blindness America Investigator Awards.
- Coordinates and encourages public health activities through partnerships with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state public health departments.
- Provides support groups for those dealing with challenges to their vision, including the Eye Patch Club, which provides support for children and families dealing with amblyopia.
- Promotes children's eye safety during play and recreational activities through the Play It Safe With Your Eyes program.

Meetings

The board of PBA gathers three times throughout the year, with one annual meeting and two interim meetings. Its primary scientific advisory committees, the Adult Vision Advisory Committee and the Pediatric Vision Advisory Committee, meet annually in conjunction with the Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology conference, while multiple other committees meet at various times throughout the year.

Publications

Vision Problems in the U.S.

The Economic Impact of Vision Problems in the U.S.

The organization's newsletter, *Prevent Blindness America News,* is published three times per year. A more frequent online version, *Prevent Blindness America News Online,* is distributed monthly.

PBA brochures are developed on a wide range of eye health and safety topics. Single copies are available free to the public, and quantities are also sold via a catalog and the website.

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington

P

Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington

1775 Church Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202–234–1010
Fax: 202–234–1020
E-mail: mail@youreyes.org
Website: www.youreyes.org

Representative:

Michele Hartlove
Executive Director
E-mail: mhartlove@usa.net

Description

- **Mission:**

  The Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington is a nonprofit organization that seeks to prevent needless vision loss and help people make the best use of remaining sight. The Society serves the metropolitan Washington, DC area.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Sponsors vision screening, eye health, safety education programs, and the Macular Degeneration Network; and provides eye care to the poor and homeless.

Publications

Your Eyes Today: monthly large-print newsletter

Insight: annual newsletter

Date Last Updated

March 2007

Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education

Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education

550 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20202
Phone: 202–245–7488
Website: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/index.html

Representative:

Elizabeth Akinola
Management Program Analyst
E-mail: Elizabeth.Akinola@ed.gov

R

Description

- **Mission:**

  Section 752 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (PL 105-220), authorizes discretionary grants to state vocational rehabilitation agencies for programs to provide independent-living services for significantly visually impaired individuals who are 55 years of age or older. These programs are referred to in Title VII-Chapter 2 (VII-2) of the Rehabilitation Act as Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind. Among many older adults, vocational goals may be inappropriate, and significant visual impairments often interfere with normal activities of daily living. Services provided by the VII-2 Programs are targeted to those age 55 or older whose significant visual impairment makes gainful employment extremely difficult to obtain, but for whom independent-living goals are feasible. The targeted outcome of these independent-living goals is feasible. The targeted outcome of these independent-living services is to enhance a consumer's ability to maintain his or her desired level of personal independence. The outcome for society at large may be the avoidance of costly long-term care options.

- **Membership/Affiliates**

  The VII-2 Program is administered by the Independent Living Branch of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) under the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services of the U.S. Department of Education.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  The core services most commonly provided by VII-2 Programs are related to the following:

  - Purchase of adaptive aids, devices, or equipment (e.g., home appliances, low vision aids, and communication aids)
  - Training (e.g., orientation and mobility [O&M] skills; communication skills; daily-living skills; adaptive aids, devices, and equipment; advocacy; and management of secondary disabilities
  - Other individual services (e.g., low vision screening/services, counseling, transportation, readers and guides, restorative services, referral to other agencies, support groups, and community integration)

- Outreach services
- Community awareness
- Community capacity.

Meetings

Annual Project Directors Meeting for State Directors usually held in early March

Publications

Recycle Your AT: pamphlet

2005 Annual Review Reports of Each State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

RSA Annual Report

Functional Limitations of Vocational Rehabilitation Consumers: Final Report

Longitudinal Study of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program: Substudy, article, and final and interim reports

Date Last Updated

November 2007

Research to Prevent Blindness

Research to Prevent Blindness

645 Madison Avenue, 21st floor
New York, NY 10022-1010
Phone: 212–752–4333, 1–800–621–0026
Fax: 212–688–6231
Website: www.rpbusa.org

Representative:

Matthew Levine
Director of Communications and Marketing
E-mail: mlevine@rpbusa.org

R

Description

- **Mission:**

  Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) is committed to stimulating, sustaining, and intensifying a concerted research assault, with the goal of developing preventives, cures, and effective treatments for all diseases of the visual system that damage and destroy sight. RPB mobilizes financial resources in support of eye research, making available essential laboratory space, scientific personnel, and advanced technological equipment in its mission, which seeks to preserve vision and restore sight.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  Supports eye research at 54 U.S. medical institutions.

  Provides information on eye diseases and eye research.

Meetings

Eye research seminar for science writers every two years

Publications

Eye Research News Briefs: annual newsletter

RPB publishes a compilation of papers presented at each science writers' seminar (see Meetings).

Date Last Updated

March 2007

The Vision Council

The Vision Council

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703–548–4560 ext. 266
Fax: 703–548–4580
E-mail: vca@visionsite.org
Website: www.visionsite.org

Representative:

Stephanie Campbell, M.P.H.
Manager, Professional & Consumer Relations
E-mail: scampbell@visionsite.org

Eve Zartman-Ball
Director, Government and Professional Relations
E-mail: ezartmanball@visionsite.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  Industry Trade Association dedicated to improving the vision health of America.

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  Manufacturers of vision products and selected eye care professionals.

- **Programs/Activities:**

  "Check Yearly, See Clearly" Campaign

Meetings

International Vision Expo East

International Vision Expo West

EyeQuest, Annual Winter Meeting (members only)

Date Last Updated

March 2007

V

VisionServe Alliance

VisionServe Alliance

8760 Manchester Road
St. Louis, MO 63144
Phone: 314–961–8235
Fax: 314–968–9003
Website : www.agenciesfortheblind.org

Representative:

Roxann Mayros
Email: rmayros@agenciesfortheblind.org

Description

- **Mission:**

  To engage leaders in building a better world through services to people with vision loss. The purpose is to build and nurture a healthy and vibrant network of nonprofit organizations throughout the United States and Canada whose services enrich the lives of those living with severe vision loss and to remove the barriers to the pursuit of opportunities. We envision a time when people are seen for who they are and not for what they see!

- **Membership/Affiliates:**

  National Associate of Chronic Disease Directors – Vision & Eye Health Work Group

  National center for Leadership in Visual Impairment

- **Programs/Activities:**
  - Convening opportunities for leaders to work together on key issues related to services for people of all ages with vision loss.
  - Promoting best practices in services to people of all ages with vision loss
  - Encouraging member organizations to meet the highest standards of ethical practice and effectiveness in governess, fiduciary responsibility, self-regulation, and financial accountability.
  - Serving as the voice of the nonprofit sector of services to people of all ages with vision loss

Meetings

Twice Annual in April and October (members only)

Publications

Monthly e-newsletter to members

Date Last Updated

April 2009