

NAACP

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.” Martin Luther King jr.

Maternal Mortality Screening and Program

On February 10th, from 2-4 pm, the NAACP, SWMO NOW, Planned Parenthood and Reproaction will host an event at the Springfield Art Museum to highlight the shocking rates of maternal mortality in the African American community. Join us for the screening of “Death by Delivery” and a panel discussion about the problem and how to address it.

Healthcare for Children on the Chopping Block

The recent tax cuts signed into law put a number of health programs at risk.

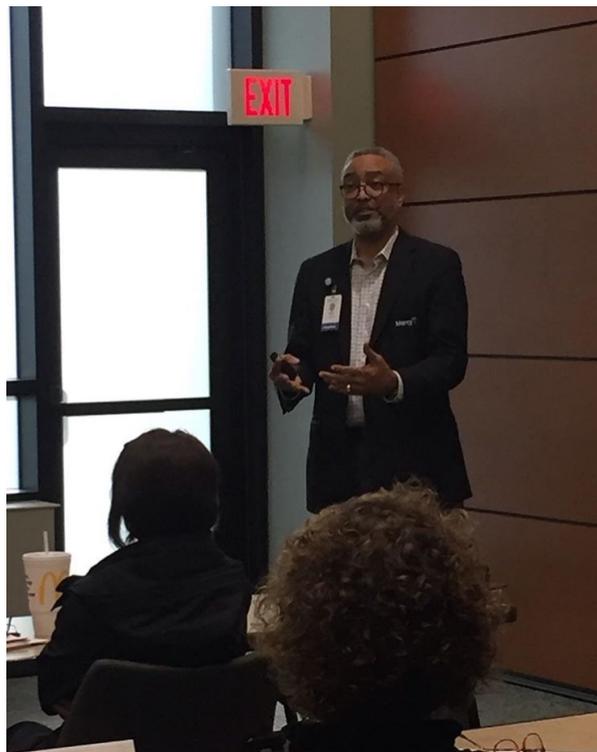
In Missouri, the Children’s Health Insurance Program has funding that will run out in March.

It appears that the increase in the deficit will trigger automatic cuts to Medicare to the tune of 25 million dollars.

Additional cuts will be made to Medicaid and SNAP benefits.

Meet David Huskisson; Mercy Hospital Chaplain

Tell us some of your history David. I was born in Barbados and my family came to the US in 1977. I was able to finish high school in the US. I was always drawn to the ministry, attended CBC for my undergraduate degree and the earned a Masters of Divinity from the Assemblies of God Seminary School.



David speaking to a new class of employees at a Mercy training event.

Tell us about your family. My wife Mia also works for Mercy in the Talent Development Office. I have six children; Tina, David, Jonathan, Tim, Anna and Jadon.

What would you say to young people that would like to pursue a career as a hospital chaplain? First of all you cannot “fix” people. You can “come alongside” of them in their time of need and you have to be OK with not creating converts. You must commit to schooling. In addition to my training at school, there was the Clinical Pastoral Education through the hospital with a year long residency.

What qualities must a chaplain have? You must know yourself in order to be authentic and you need to be a calm person because often there are very real and current crises to contend with. You must be open to learning and also be willing to bring your life experiences to the table.

Who are your heroes? Brené Brown is a social worker and researcher who has affected me. (Brené has one of the most watched TED talks to date with 30 million views). She has researched the concept of vulnerability and how important it is to us in relating to others.

How long have you been a chaplain at Mercy and what have you learned? I’ve been with Mercy for five years. Some cases are harder than others, the death of a child is devastating to all involved. Cases involving brain death are very hard. I am also the chaplain for the staff and the loss of a co-worker is very difficult.

Call Your Elected Officials !

US Senators: Claire McCaskill (202) 224-6115. Roy Blunt (202) 224-5721

US representative Billy Long (202) 225-6536.

Local elected officials can be found through this website act.commoncause.org

Oftentimes our local officials do not hear from their constituents, so each phone call that you make to their office can be a powerful influence. Take some time to get to know the staffers as often they are unpaid interns. When you call, have a single “ask”. Plan what you want to say, perhaps on a note card. Be polite to the person answering the phone. Thank them for hearing your concerns.

“The power of the vote is the ONLY place where the power of the poor man is equal to that of the rich man.” Denise Lieberman Esq.