

NAACP

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

Children Being Dropped From Medicaid Roles at Alarming Rates

According to a report from “The Missouri Budget Project”, overall Medicaid enrollment is down 119,454 since January. Of that number, 79% of those dropped from Medicaid roles were children. Representative Steve Helms, (R) Springfield, is the chair of the

Subcommittee on Healthcare Reform. Representative Helms is seeking public comment. His office number is (573)751-9809 and his email is steve.Helms@house.mo.gov

He is interested in the drivers of healthcare spending, impediments to access to care, price transparency and expansion of Medicaid. Representative Helms is also on the Health and Mental Health Committee, the Special Committee on Urban Issues and the Subcommittee on Medicaid Reform.



Meet Michelle Williams, BSN MSN

Tell us about your background and youth. I grew in in Queens, New York City. My mom and dad were both from the Caribbean, my mom from Trinidad and my dad from Haiti. I went to Catholic school in an Italian neighborhood. There were times in my school when I was lonely, I was not invited

to social events, no prom dates etc. My mom was a nurse-midwife and had studied nursing in England due to Trinidad being a British colony. I saw how hard she worked and decided I did NOT want to be a nurse. Upon graduation from high school I pursued pre-law but in the third year of school I quit, got married and had a little boy. I then started working for Pan Am Airlines as a gate agent.

When Pan Am and Eastern Airline both went out of business, President Clinton passed a bill to help retrain those employees and nursing was one of the options. There were stipulations that the training had to be less than two years. My mom counseled me to get a nursing degree and if I didn't want to use it, “put it in the closet and bring it out when you want to eat”. So I did. My commute was an hour and a half to Harlem where the school was located. It was an accelerated LPN program, 8 hours a day for 10 months. I graduated 16th of a class of 110 women (all black). At one point in nursing school, I made a terrible mistake when giving insulin. I realized it, owned it immediately, reported to my supervisor and we were able to intervene. Eventually, the way I

US Surgeon General Prioritized Diabetes Care

Dr. Jerome M. Adams US
Surgeon General



- The Office of Minority Health reports prevalence of diabetes in African Americans is nearly twice the rate of non-Hispanic whites.
- Blacks are 4.2 times more likely to suffer end stage renal disease and 3.5 times more likely to have a lower extremity amputation.
- It is estimated that with a 1% reduction in the A1c level, there is a corresponding 14% reduction in the possibility of developing eye, kidney or nerve disease. At the population level, a 1.25% reduction in the A1c level would be worth 3 billion dollars.

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handled that mistake was recognized as proper nurse behavior. I was given an award for that immediate response and ownership of my mistake. I LOVED nursing and excelled as a nurse. My first nursing job I worked in the City Hospital and had 9 patients to take care of. One was on a ventilator and one was in isolation, the rest were in a single room. In 1995 my daughter was born and my mom was diagnosed with cancer. I took care of my mom until her death in 1996. In 2003 I got divorced and moved to Topeka KS. and started my Bachelors of Science of Nursing (BSN) in 2004. I did that in 5 years and then went for my Masters of Nursing Science (MSN) in Nursing Education at Washburn University and earned that in one year. I worked in private hospitals as an IV therapist, taught nurses how to place PICC lines (peripheral inserted central catheter), was a clinical instructor and night shift supervisor.

What brought you to Springfield? I met Steve Williams (Crosstown Barbeque) in an online card game where at first we competed against each other and eventually became partners. We got married in January and I moved to Springfield. I was diagnosed with pulmonary arterial hypertension in 2013 that caused heart failure and now I work when I am able. I currently work at Springfield Rehabilitation as the MDS (Minimum Data Set) coordinator.

Have you ever experienced racism? Yes I have. Although I was lonely and left out of things in my school because of my skin color, my first true experience was when I was 14. My friends and I had a double-date in the area of town where I went to school and on our way home we were waiting for the bus when a group of Italian boys in a car kept circling around the block waving bats and yelling “n...r get out of our neighborhood!”

What are you currently reading? “The Five Languages of Love”. It’s about how to communicate with your mate about love.

What advice do you have for youth? There is only one thing in life that you are obliged to do, get up and put your feet on the floor, do the best with what is brought to you. Don’t worry about your home life or school life if it isn’t good, get up and get in the game. After my diagnosis, long illness and treatment, I forgive, I love and make the most of the living I have. I’m not afraid of dying.