

## **The Reporter (Vacaville, CA)**

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### **Health-care disparities report due**

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The Solano County Board of Supervisors will hear a report Tuesday about health-care disparities impacting the African-American community.

The Solano County African American Disparities Elimination Project, an outgrowth of the Solano Coalition for Better Health, was created to help eliminate hurdles and roadblocks relating to health care. A strategic plan from the project will be presented to the supervisors.

An overview of the plan, provided by the coalition, claims that Solano County, at 14.5 percent, boasts the highest proportion of African-Americans of any county in the state.

Because of this, and because of the problems African-Americans encounter, the coalition issued a call-to-action report in 2004 to address the issues.

To help with the report, they recruited help from Solano County Health and Social Services, NorthBay Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente and Sutter Solano Medical Center.

Several disparities were cited in the report. Among these, African Americans were found:

- Twice as likely to die from diabetes;
- Three times as likely to die from prostate cancer as other men;
- Twice as likely to die from stroke, and
- To have twice the infant mortality rate.

After the committee for the disparity report was formed in 2006, community members and health-care providers took part in an 18-month planning process and eventually produced a strategic plan.

The plan will include ideas such as promoting personal behavior to improve health and wellness, increasing the role of family and community in promoting better health, improving the quality of care of African-Americans and increasing public and private policies encouraging better health.

The Board of Supervisors meets Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in the Supervisors Chamber in Fairfield.

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