

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

2003 ANNUAL REPORT





AAAC Mission Statement

To improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut, through advocacy, information sharing, cultural awareness, community networking and influencing legislation.

African-American Affairs Commissioners:

*George Logan, **Chair***
*Delores Franks, **Vice-Chair***
*Sharon Ibrahim, **Treasurer***
*Derrick McBride, **Secretary***
Jonathan Bruce
Christopher R. Cloud
Lillie B. Crosby
Jacqueline Dickens
Kurt Harrison
Andrea Scott
Arthur Perry

Staff:

*Vanessa D. Burns, **Executive Director***
*Cheryl Harris Forbes, **Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator***
*Frank Sykes, **Legislative Analyst***
*Denise R. Drummond, **Senior Legislative Secretary***



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2003 Acknowledgement



- The AAAC recognizes its success depends on the dedication and work of its commissioners. The Commission is grateful for the distinguished service of Commissioners Jonathan Bruce, Christopher Cloud and Andrea Scott.

- The African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is indebted to the many organizations and individuals that supported it in 2003. We particularly want to thank the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, and Commission on Children for their continuous support of the AAAC as a legislative advocate for Connecticut's African-American community.

- The AAAC also acknowledges the support and technical assistance provided by the Office of Legislative Management, Information Technology Services and the Capitol Police.

Legislative Mandates



- Maintain a liaison between the African-American community and governmental entities;
- Review and comment on any proposed state legislation that would affect the African-American population in the state;
- Encourage African-American representation at all levels including state boards and commissions;
- Advise and provide information to the Governor on state policies concerning the African-American communities;
- Advise the Governor concerning the coordination and administration of state programs serving the African-American population;
- Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of the African-American population of the state; and
- Prepare and submit to the Governor an annual report concerning its activities with appropriate recommendations concerning the African-American population in the state.

Chairperson's Report



The Honorable John G. Rowland
Governor of the State of Connecticut
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106



Dear Governor Rowland:

It is with great pleasure that the Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission submits its 2003 Annual Report for your review.

This year has clearly been a difficult year for all of Connecticut's citizens due to the severe budget crisis that have impacted many facets of our daily lives. This is especially true of our African-American citizens, who participate in programs fully or partially funded by the State of Connecticut.

In the past year the commission's outreach efforts have expanded and we have had many opportunities to inform and partner with our constituents and community groups on those issues that affect our community. As in last year's annual report we still focus on the health statistics for African-Americans because our health statistics still remain one of the most crucial issues that impacts our community along with education and prison reform. Again, we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the efforts that you and your administration make towards increasing diversity on the State's Boards and Commissions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Delores Franks".

Delores Franks
Chairperson - 2003



CONNECTICUT AFRICAN-AMERICAN



SELECTED STATISTICS



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

POPULATION TRENDS

Connecticut ranks number twenty-four among the nation's states with the highest number of African-Americans. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the number of African-Americans identified in Connecticut and was reported at **309,843**. This figure represents **9.1 percent** of the State's total population. The vast majority of the African-American population in Connecticut is dispersed in the major cities, namely Hartford, Stamford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury.

In recent times there has been considerable migration of African-Americans from the inner cities to the suburbs. Of the six major cities, Hartford and New Haven still remain the cities that have the highest number of African-Americans. However, the Hartford population has seen a sharper decline since the 1990 census. Likewise New Haven and Stamford have experienced slight declines. (Refer to Chart A). In contrast, areas such as Windsor, Hamden and Bloomfield have seen tremendous growth in the African-American population, most notably Hamden. (Refer to Chart B). The table below illustrates the selected distribution of African-Americans in the state.



CONNECTICUT AFRICAN-AMERICAN POPULATION

| <i>TOWN</i> | 1990 Total Population | 1990 No. of African-Americans | Percent of Total Population | 2000 Total Population | 2000 No. of African-Americans | Percent of Total Population | Percent Change 1990-2000 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BLOOMFIELD | 19,483 | 8,084 | 41.4 | 19,587 | 10,589 | 54 | 12.6 |
| BRIDGEPORT | 141,686 | 37,684 | 26.5 | 139,529 | 42,925 | 30 | 3.5 |
| HAMDEN | 52,434 | 4,556 | 8.6 | 56,913 | 8,840 | 15.5 | 6.9 |
| HARTFORD | 139,739 | 54,338 | 38.8 | 121,578 | 46,264 | 38 | -0.08 |
| MERIDEN | 58,479 | 2,553 | 4.2 | 58,244 | 3,754 | 6.4 | 2.2 |
| MIDDLETOWN | 42,762 | 4,747 | 11.1 | 43,167 | 5,291 | 12.2 | 1.1 |
| NEW BRITAIN | 75,491 | 5,723 | 7.5 | 71,538 | 7,794 | 10.9 | 3.4 |
| NEW HAVEN | 130,474 | 47,157 | 36.1 | 123,578 | 46,181 | 37.3 | 1.2 |
| NEW LONDON | 28,540 | 4,807 | 16.8 | 25,671 | 4,784 | 18.6 | 1.8 |
| NORWALK | 78,331 | 12,123 | 15.4 | 82,951 | 12,663 | 15.2 | -0.02 |
| STAMFORD | 108,056 | 19,217 | 17.7 | 117,083 | 18,019 | 15.3 | -2.4 |
| STRATFORD | 49,389 | 3,899 | 7.8 | 49,976 | 4,892 | 9.7 | 1.9 |
| WATERBURY | 108,961 | 14,133 | 12.9 | 107,271 | 17,500 | 16.3 | 3.4 |
| WEST HAVEN | 54,021 | 6,713 | 12.4 | 52,360 | 8,530 | 16.2 | 3.8 |
| WINDSOR | 27,817 | 4,792 | 17.2 | 28,237 | 7,648 | 27 | 9.8 |

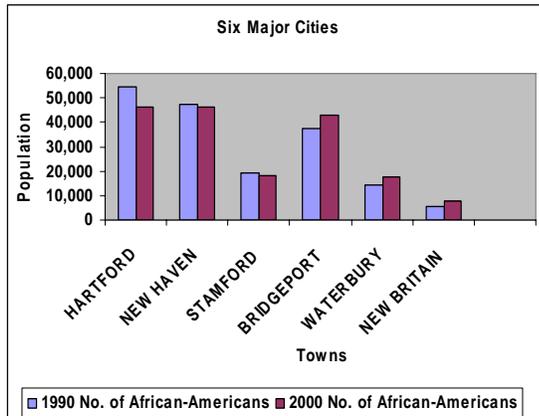


Chart A

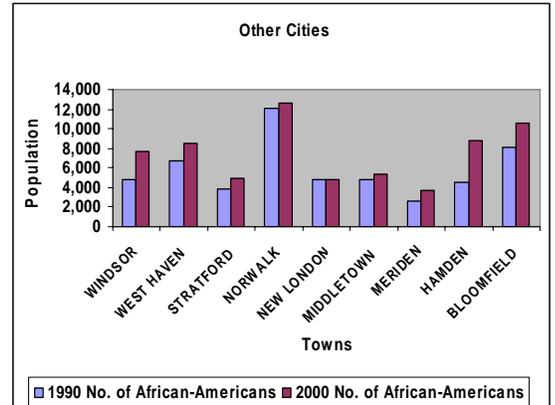


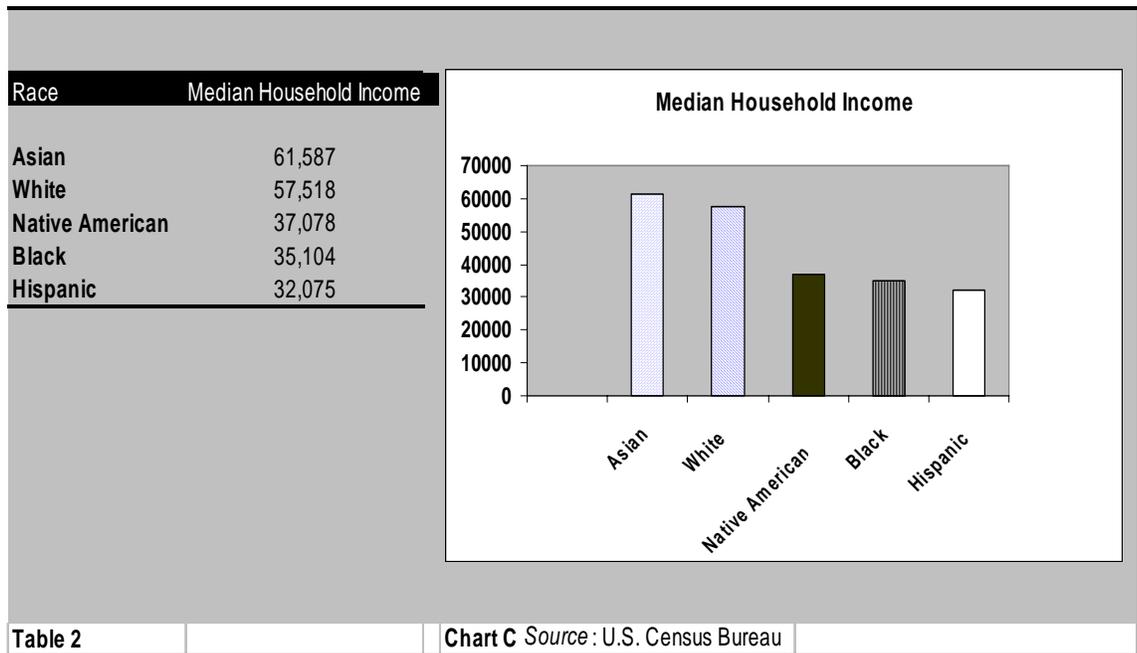
Chart B



INCOME AND POVERTY

Disparities in income continue to grow. The wealthiest communities in the state continue to prosper, but less well-off communities have not fared as well. In 1999, personal income in Connecticut grew by 4.7 percent, but wealthier counties experienced a much higher rate of income growth than poorer counties. The majority of the African-American population reside in poorer communities with lesser job opportunities. Overall African-Americans have lower income levels than their white counterparts.

Source: (The Social State of Connecticut 2001)





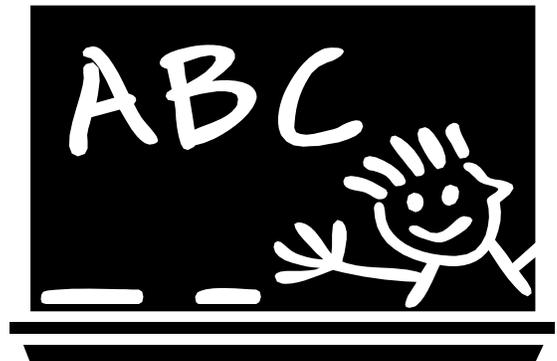
COMPARISONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2001-2003

Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)

The following graphs illustrate statewide results on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) beginning in 2001 through 2003. The CMT is administered each fall to measure the academic performance of approximately 126,000 students in Grades 4, 6 and 8. Overall achievement gaps between whites and non-whites have improved slightly. Nevertheless the gap still demonstrates a significant disparity in educational achievement between whites and minorities throughout the state. Results from the 2003 (CMT) indicate that the average scores for African-American students have either seen minimal increases in selected subject areas or have remained the same.

Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) assesses 10th grade students' academic skills in reading, writing, mathematics and science. For African-Americans, participation levels increased slightly, however statewide, the gaps in student achievement between minorities and non-minorities have remained essentially the same. Exhibit 1.3 demonstrates the participation levels and rates for students in selected ethnic groups. Exhibit 1.4 illustrates the percentage of students who scored above the CAPT's established state goal by subject matter.



Education

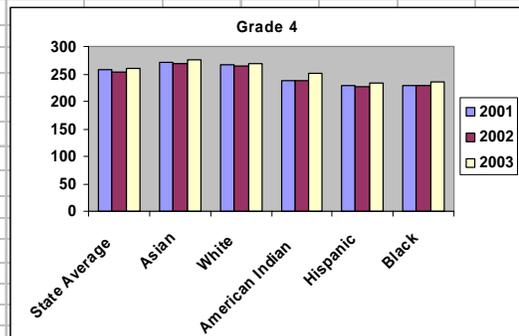


Connecticut Mastery Test(CMT)

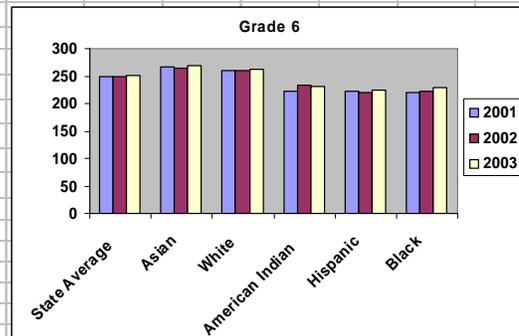
The Connecticut General Statutes mandate a statewide assessment be administered to all public school students in grades four, six and eight. The assessments, called the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) Second Generation, are designed to promote improved student learning by assessing reading, writing, listening, and mathematics skills that can be reasonably be expected to be mastered by most students at the end of the previous year. The major purposes of the CMT are as follows: the establishment of high performance standards for all students; the assurance that students can apply their academic skills to realistic everyday problems; the promotion of better instruction and curriculum by providing timely reports of students' strengths and weaknesses; and the provision of accountability for Connecticut's educational system

WRITING

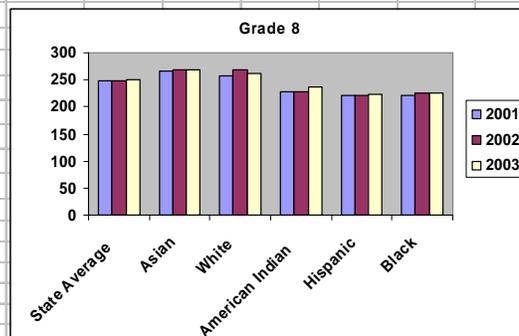
| Average Scale Scores, Grade 4 | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| State Average | 257 | 254 | 260 |
| Asian | 272 | 270 | 276 |
| White | 267 | 264 | 269 |
| American Indian | 238 | 238 | 251 |
| Hispanic | 228 | 227 | 233 |
| Black | 230 | 230 | 235 |



| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| State Average | 250 | 250 | 252 |
| Asian | 266 | 264 | 270 |
| White | 260 | 261 | 262 |
| American Indian | 222 | 234 | 232 |
| Hispanic | 222 | 221 | 224 |
| Black | 221 | 223 | 228 |



| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| State Average | 249 | 248 | 251 |
| Asian | 266 | 268 | 268 |
| White | 257 | 268 | 261 |
| American Indian | 228 | 227 | 236 |
| Hispanic | 221 | 221 | 223 |
| Black | 222 | 226 | 226 |



Education

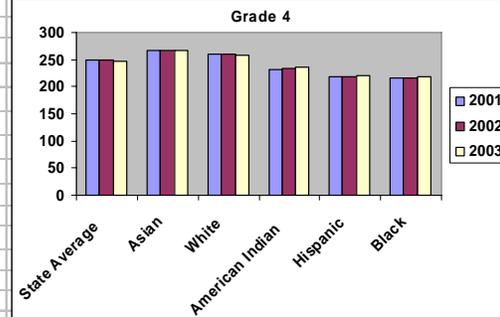


Connecticut Mastery Test(CMT)

MATH

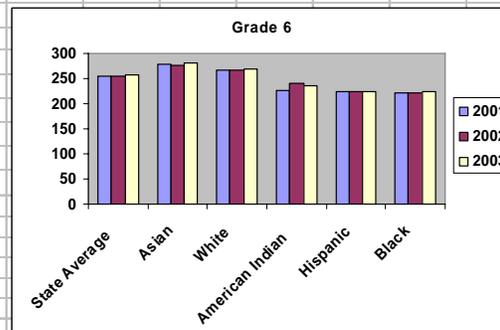
Average Scale Scores, Grade 4

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| State Average | 249 | 249 | 248 |
| Asian | 268 | 268 | 268 |
| White | 261 | 260 | 259 |
| American Indian | 232 | 233 | 235 |
| Hispanic | 218 | 219 | 220 |
| Black | 216 | 217 | 218 |



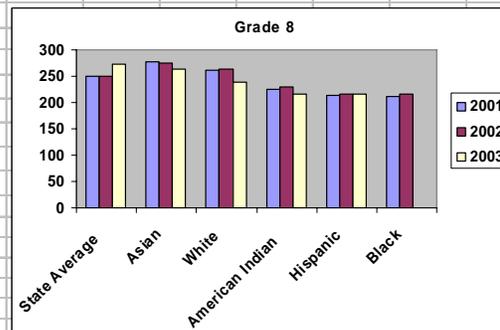
Average Scale Scores, Grade 6

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| State Average | 255 | 255 | 257 |
| Asian | 278 | 277 | 281 |
| White | 267 | 267 | 269 |
| American Indian | 227 | 241 | 236 |
| Hispanic | 225 | 224 | 224 |
| Black | 221 | 222 | 224 |



Average Scale Scores, Grade 8

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| State Average | 251 | 251 | 250 |
| Asian | 278 | 276 | 272 |
| White | 262 | 263 | 263 |
| American Indian | 226 | 230 | 238 |
| Hispanic | 214 | 215 | 216 |
| Black | 212 | 215 | 215 |



Source: Connecticut State Department of Education - Profiles of our Schools - Condition of Education in Connecticut (2001-2002) and 2003 Statewide Test Results, School Year: 2003-2004

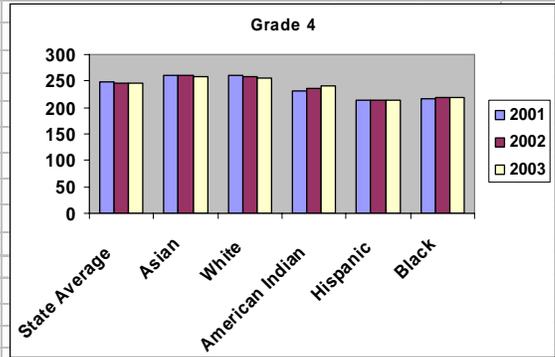
Education



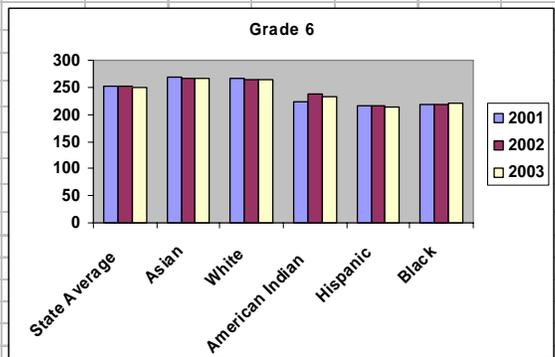
Connecticut Mastery Test(CMT)

READING

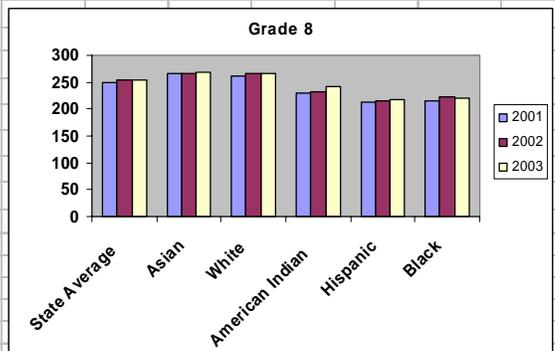
| Average Scale Scores, Grade 4 | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| State Average | 248 | 246 | 245 |
| Asian | 261 | 260 | 259 |
| White | 261 | 258 | 256 |
| American Indian | 232 | 236 | 240 |
| Hispanic | 214 | 213 | 215 |
| Black | 217 | 218 | 219 |



| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| State Average | 253 | 252 | 250 |
| Asian | 268 | 266 | 266 |
| White | 266 | 264 | 263 |
| American Indian | 224 | 237 | 233 |
| Hispanic | 215 | 215 | 214 |
| Black | 219 | 219 | 220 |



| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| State Average | 249 | 253 | 254 |
| Asian | 266 | 267 | 269 |
| White | 261 | 265 | 267 |
| American Indian | 231 | 233 | 241 |
| Hispanic | 213 | 216 | 217 |
| Black | 216 | 222 | 220 |



Education



Connecticut Academic Performance Test(CAPT)

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) assesses tenth grade students' academic skills in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science. For African-Americans, participation levels increased slightly however statewide, the gaps in student achievement between minorities and non-minorities has remained essentially the same. Exhibit 1.3 demonstrates the participation rates for students in selected ethnic groups. Exhibit 1.4 illustrates the percentage of students who scored above the CAPT's established state goal by subject matter.

Exhibit 1.3

*CAPT PARTICIPATION RATES BY RACE - 2003

| | Math | Science | Reading | Writing |
|-----------------|------|---------|---------|---------|
| White | 93.3 | 93.9 | 93.4 | 92.6 |
| Hispanic | 77.9 | 80.4 | 78.1 | 76.7 |
| Black | 80.9 | 82.9 | 81.4 | 79.1 |

Source: Results from the 2003 Administration of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test

Exhibit 1.4

MATH

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|
| White | 53.2 | 52.8 | 54.7 |
| Hispanic | 13.8 | 11.9 | 13.2 |
| Black | 11 | 9.6 | 10 |

SCIENCE

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|
| White | 52 | 52 | 52.6 |
| Hispanic | 13.1 | 12.5 | 12.3 |
| Black | 10.5 | 10.8 | 10.2 |

READING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|
| White | 49.5 | 52.5 | 55.6 |
| Hispanic | 14.6 | 17.6 | 17.8 |
| Black | 14.6 | 15.2 | 16.8 |

WRITING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|
| White | 56.1 | 58.8 | 61.1 |
| Hispanic | 19.9 | 21.4 | 23.5 |
| Black | 20.4 | 21.9 | 23.7 |

Source: Results from the 2003 Administration of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test



HIGHER EDUCATION
 Exhibit 5.1

**2003 Minority Undergraduate Enrollment and Degrees Conferred
 Connecticut Public Higher Education**

| Race/Ethnicity | % of Student Population | % of Students Enrolled | % of Students Receiving a Degree |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Hispanic | 9.4% | 8.2% | 5.9% |
| African-American | 8.7% | 10.8% | 7.3% |
| Asian-American | 2.4% | 3.6% | 3.3% |
| Native American | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.4% |

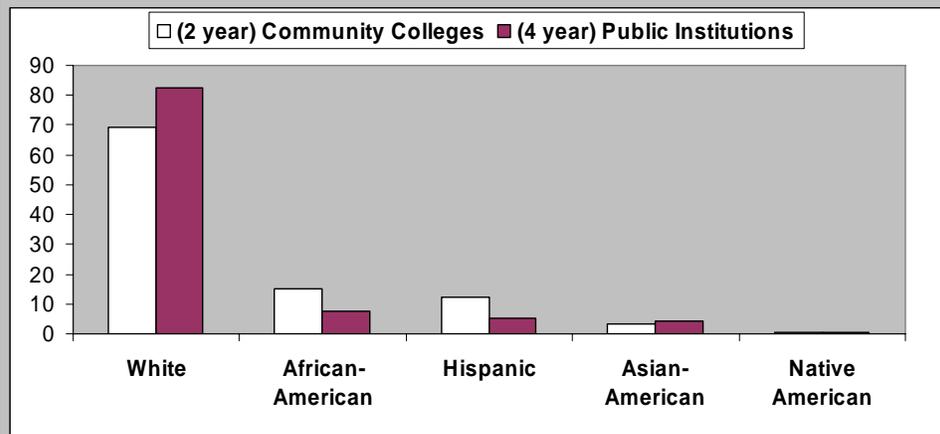
Source: Connecticut Department of Higher Education-(Strategic Plan to Ensure Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Connecticut Public Higher Education 2003 Report)

**Please note that percents for students and populations are not rounded off.*

Exhibit 5.2

Percent of Students Enrolled in Connecticut Higher Education State Institutions

| Race/Ethnicity | (2 year) Community Colleges | (4 year) Public Institutions |
|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| White | 69.1 | 82.3 |
| African-American | 15.3 | 7.64 |
| Hispanic | 12.05 | 5.33 |
| Asian-American | 3.1 | 4.28 |
| Native American | 0.41 | 0.4 |



Source: Connecticut State Department of Higher Education - (Enrollment of Minority Undergraduate Students in Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education) 2002 Annual Report

**Does not include non-resident aliens or students of an unknown race*

PRISONS



PRISONS

Exhibit 7.1

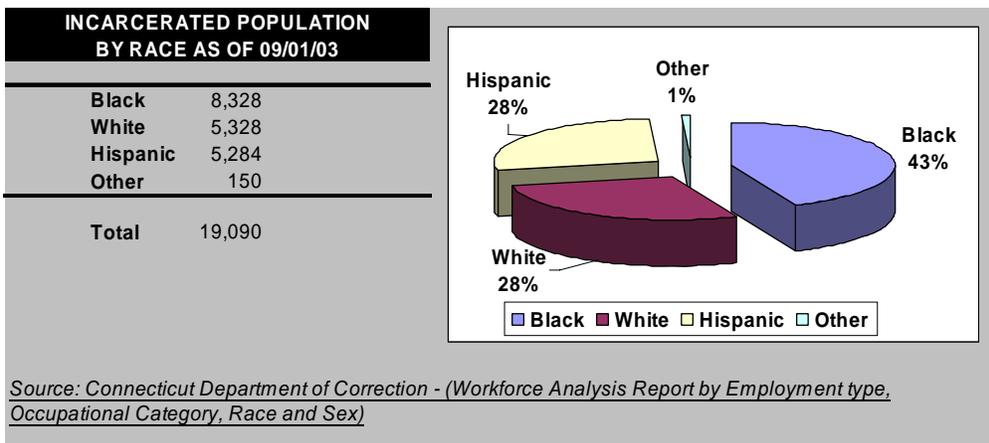
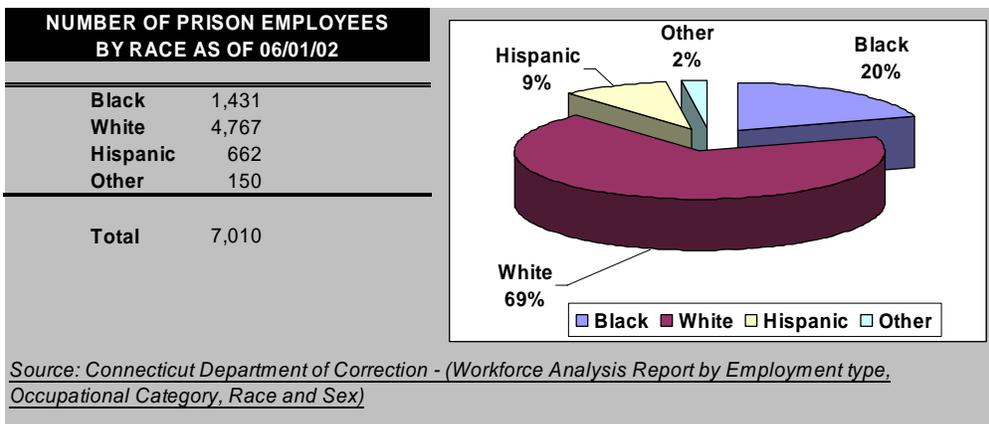


Exhibit 7.2



Health Statistics



The following selected statistics were taken from the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention's September 2001 report entitled *Healthy People 2010 Database National Vital Statistics System*. These are baseline statistics that have not been updated. Health disparities between Connecticut African-Americans and other ethnic groups still remains a significant problem. A full copy of this statistical report is available on the AAAC website: www.cga.state.ct.us/aaac.



HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010: SELECTED HEALTH DISPARITY AREAS Baseline data and Targets for the Year 2010

The Federal Department of Health and Human Services selected six focus areas in which racial and ethnic minorities experience serious disparities in health access and outcomes: Infant Mortality, Cancer Screening and Management, Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes, HIV Infection/AIDS, and Immunization. The purpose of the report was twofold: first, to compare United States and Connecticut data on six health disparity areas for Black/African-American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian or Pacific Islanders, and American Indian or Alaska Native populations with the White population, specifically highlighting areas where disparities exist; and second, to list the targeted health status for the year 2010 for each of the health indicators.

INFANT MORTALITY

Infant Mortality Rates for United States and Connecticut Residents*

| Race / Ethnicity | U.S.A ** 1998 | CT ** 1998 | Target 2010 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Total | 7.2 | 7 | |
| Black or African-American | 13.8 | 16.7 | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 5.8 | 9.6 | 4.5 |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 5.5 | NR# | |
| American India or Alaska Native | 9.3 | NR# | |
| White | 6 | 5.7 | |

* Per 1000 live births.

** Data 2010, Healthy People 2010 Data Base, National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, September 2001 Edition.

Not Reported



2. CANCER SCREENING AND MANAGEMENT

Age-Adjusted Cancer Death Rates United States and Connecticut Residents*

| Race / Ethnicity | Baseline | | Target 2010 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | U.S.A ** 1999 | CT ** 1999 | |
| Total | 202.7 | 194.5 | |
| Black or African-American | 254.4 | 223.8 | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 122 | 94.7 | 159.9 |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 125.3 | 72.4 | |
| American India or Alaska Native | 126.4 | NR# | |
| White | 199.8 | 193.8 | |

* Per 100,000 persons of all ages. Age-Adjusted 1999 base line data.

** Data 2010, Healthy People 2010 Data Base, National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, September 2001 Edition.

Not Reported [The age-adjusted mortality rate is not reported due to a small number of deaths (<15)].

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States and in Connecticut. The age-adjusted death rates due to cancer were highest for Black or African-Americans both in Connecticut and nationally. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), report that in Connecticut during 1999, for every 100,000 persons living in the state, nearly 224 were African-Americans who died of cancer. The CDC's 1999 statistics also indicate that throughout the United States, approximately 254 African-Americans die of cancer for every 100,000 persons.

During the same period, the incidence for cancer among Whites, both nationally and in Connecticut were 199.8 and 193.8 per 100,000 respectively. Cancer incidences among Hispanic or Latino populations in Connecticut for 1999 were 94.7 per 100,000 persons. For Asians or Pacific Islanders the rate was 72.4 per 100,000 persons.



3. CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

A. Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Coronary Heart Disease United States and Connecticut Residents *

| Race / Ethnicity | Baseline | | Target 2010 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | U.S.A ** 1999 | CT ** 1999 | |
| Total | 204 | 177 | |
| Black or African-American | 250 | 204 | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 144 | 120 | 166 |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 122 | 114 | |
| American India or Alaska Native | 128 | NR# | |
| White | 201 | 176 | |

* Per 100,000 persons of all ages. Age-Adjusted 1999 base line data.

** Data 2010, Healthy People 2010 Data Base, National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, September 2001 Edition.

Not Reported [The age-adjusted mortality rate is not reported due to a small number of deaths (<15)].

DIABETES

Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Diabetes for United States and Connecticut Residents*

| Race / Ethnicity | Baseline | | Target 2010 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | U.S.A ** 1999 | CT ** 1999 | |
| Total | 77 | 71 | |
| Black or African-American | 135 | 142 | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 89 | 66 | 45 |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 62 | 68 | |
| American India or Alaska Native | 112 | NR# | |
| White | 72 | 67 | |

* Per 100,000 persons of all ages. Age-Adjusted 1999 base line data.

** Data 2010, Healthy People 2010 Data Base, National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, September 2001 Edition.

Not Reported [The age-adjusted mortality rate is not reported due to a small number of deaths (<15)].



B. Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Stroke United States and Connecticut Residents*

| Race / Ethnicity | Baseline | | Target 2010 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | U.S.A ** 1999 | CT ** 1999 | |
| Total | 62 | 50 | |
| Black or African-American | 82 | 55 | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 40 | 29 | 48 |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 52 | NR# | |
| American India or Alaska Native | 40 | NR# | |
| White | 60 | 50 | |

* Per 100,000 persons of all ages. Age-Adjusted 1999 base line data.

** Data 2010, Healthy People 2010 Data Base, National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, September 2001 Edition.

Not Reported [The age-adjusted mortality rate is not reported due to a small number of deaths (<15)].

State Administered General Assistance (SAGA)



STATE ADMINISTERED GENERAL ASSISTANCE (SAGA)

The SAGA program provides cash and medical assistance to certain low-income individuals in Connecticut. Services are provided by the Department of Social Services for financial and traditional medical assistance and through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for behavioral health services.

Exhibit 6.1

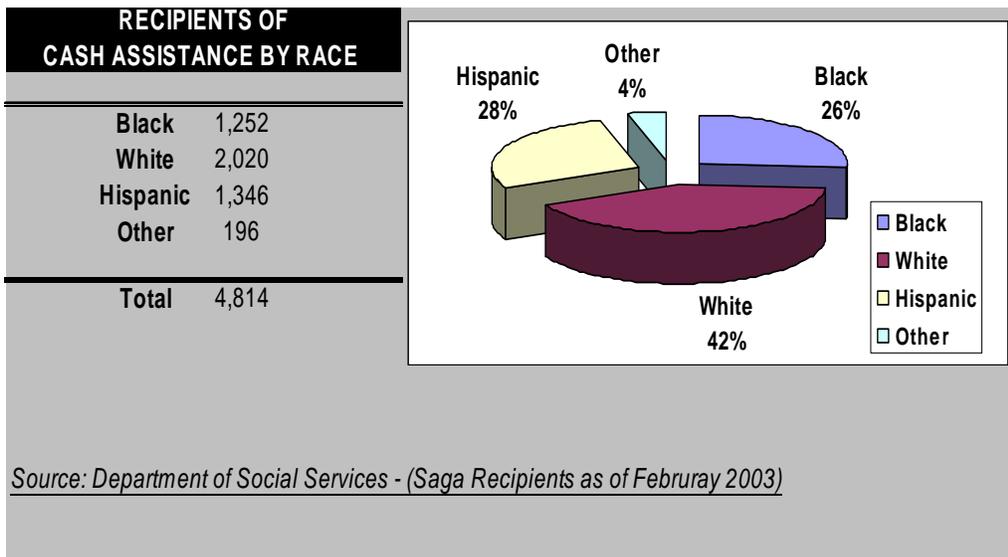
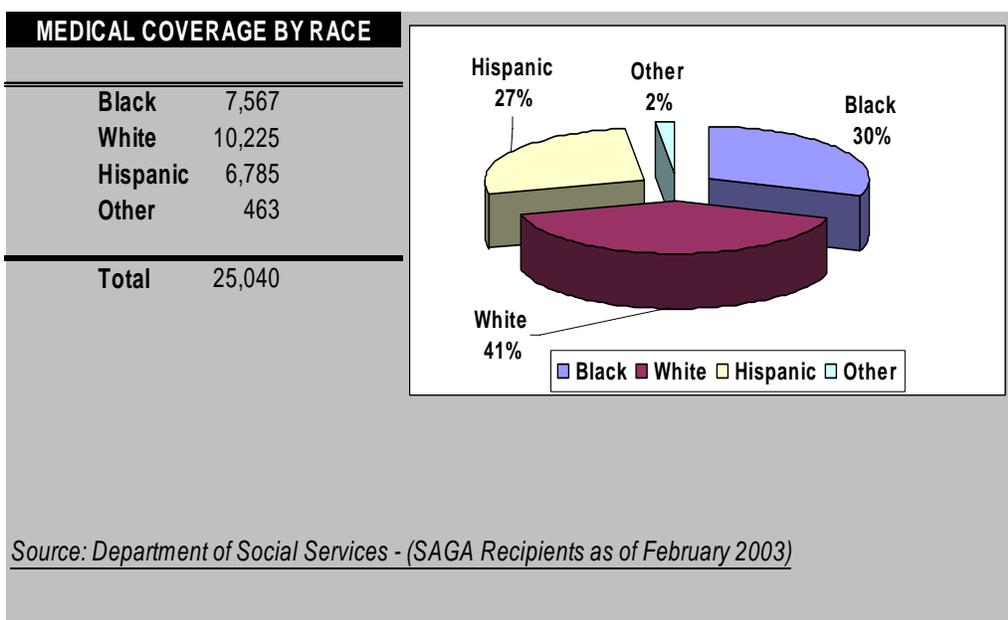


Exhibit 6.2





2003
Legislative Agenda
AND
SUMMARY

African-American Affairs Commission 2003 Legislative Report



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The African-American Affairs Commission developed their *2003 Legislative Agenda* to include the following:

- Support to amend mandatory sentencing guidelines.
- Increased spending for alternative incarceration programs and post incarceration initiatives
- Support revitalization of economically distressed neighborhoods administered through the urban sites reinvestment program
- Technical and Capital assistance for small minority owned businesses
- Improved transportation, job training, and case management services for TANF recipients
- Increased funding for early childhood programs
- restructuring of educational cost sharing formula to create equity in school district resources
- Support funding for husky eligibility requirements
- Support spending for cleaner environments through indoor air quality in schools and homes and other environmental justice issues
- Support healthcare education programs and funding for school-based health clinics
- ✓ Items checked off passed and were signed by the Governor into law

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a comprehensive overview and commentary on legislative activities pertinent to the AAAC's Legislative Agenda for the 2003 Legislative Session. The AAAC provided testimony on all publicly heard bills outlined in its agenda, either orally or in writing. Furthermore the Commission monitored all legislative bills that could potentially affect the African-American community in the state.

BUDGET/ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

- (HB) 15 – An act concerning state government reorganization
Public Hearing 3/31/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Referred by Senate to Committee on Judiciary on April 30th.
No action taken

African-American Affairs Commission 2003 Legislative Report



EDUCATION

- ✓ House Bill (HB) 5289 – An act concerning paraprofessionals
Public Hearing 2/28/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Signed by the Governor on April 29th, 2003 as PA 03-11.
- ✓ Proposed Bill (PB) 5723 – An act concerning after-school programs
Public Hearing 2/11/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Signed by Governor on July 9th, 2003 as PA 03-206.
- Senate Bill (SB) 893 – An act concerning early childhood education.
Public Hearing 2/28/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Tabled for the House calendar on May 22nd, 2003. No action taken.
- House Bill (HB) 6427 – Programs to address the teacher and school administrator shortage.
Public Hearing 2/28/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Tabled for the House calendar on June 3rd, 2003. No action taken.
- Raised Bill (RB) 6596 – An act addressing the school administrator teacher shortage
Public Hearing 3/18/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Referred from Senate to Education Committee on April 1st, 2003.
No action taken.
- Proposed Bill (PB) 6664 – An act concerning childhood nutrition in schools, recess and lunch breaks
Public Hearing 3/28/03 – AAAC submitted written testimony
Status – Tabled for the Senate calendar on May 23, 2003. No action taken.

HEALTH

- House Bill (HB) 6448 – An act concerning family and medical leave for organ donation
Public Hearing 2/27/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Referred from Senate to Committee on Appropriations on March 13th, 2003. No action taken.
- Senate Bill (SB) 562 – An act concerning an organ donor leave act for state employees
Public Hearing 2/20/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Raised by Public Health Committee on January 23rd, 2003. No action taken.

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- Senate Bill (SB) 76 – An act establishing a center for adults with sickle cell disease

Public Hearing 2/20/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Raised by Labor and Public Health Committee on January 15th, 2003. No action taken.

- Proposed Bill (PB) 683 – An act concerning payment rates to hospitals serving a disproportionate share of indigent patients

Public Hearing 3/04/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred from Senate to Committee on Appropriations on April 15th. No action taken.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Raised Bill (RB) 6634 – An act concerning adult education and workforce development.

Public Hearing 3/18/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Signed by Governor on June 18th, 2003 as PA 03-102.

HUMAN SERVICES

State Administered General Assistance (SAGA)

The SAGA program is a social safety net program that has successfully served, adults without children, single men, former prison inmates and drug rehabilitation patients in providing essential services in the form of cash and medical assistance for their basic living. The final budget reduced the level of cash assistance available to SAGA recipients beginning no earlier than September 1, 2003 and no later than October 1, 2003. Specifically monthly cash assistance benefits for recipients, considered unemployable under the SAGA program, were slashed from \$350 to \$200. Similarly monthly benefits for recipients under the category of transitional were reduced from \$150 to \$50. There are an estimated eight thousand four hundred and thirty (8, 430) African-Americans representing about thirty (30) percent of the programs participants who can be potentially affected by these cuts.

The following are a list of bills the Commission testified on relative to the SAGA program in efforts to reinstate certain medical services previously eliminated from the program:

- Proposed Bill (PB) 685 – An act concerning the restoration of medical services provided under the state administered general assistance program (SAGA)

Public Hearing 3/04/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred by Senate to Committee on Appropriations on April 15th, 2003. No action taken

- Proposed Bill (PB) 5346 – An act concerning medical services available under the state administered general assistance and Medicaid programs.

Public Hearing 3/04/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony.

Status – Referred to Committee on Human Services on January 21st, 2003. No action taken

African-American Affairs Commission 2003 Legislative Report



The Husky Health Program

The Husky Plan is Connecticut's public health insurance to help all children under 19 with no access to health insurance. It includes services under the traditional Medicaid program known as Husky Part A, which covers children and some adults, depending on income levels. Husky Part B provides a variety of health care services for children from higher-income families.

The final budget plan established premiums and co-payments on program participants, enrolled in Husky A, based on income levels. Under the Husky B plan the budget required the state to impose cost-sharing requirements, that included increasing the cap rate and imposing new premiums on families that fell within certain income guidelines. A significant number of low-income African-American families are enrolled in this program.

The following are a list of bills the Commission testified on relative to the Husky Health Plan:

- Proposed Bill (PB) 5470 – An act concerning the Husky insurance program to all uninsured individuals.

Public Hearing 3/18/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred to Human Services Committee on January 21st, 2003.
No action taken.

- Proposed Bill (PB) 37 – An act concerning expansion of the Husky plan to uninsured adults

Public Hearing 3/18/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred to Human Services Committee on January 13th, 2003. No action taken.

- Proposed Bill (PB) 5475 – An act concerning the expansion of Husky outreach to places of employment

Public Hearing 3/18/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred to Human Services Committee on January 22nd, 2003. No action taken.

Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)

Connecticut's TFA program provides assistance to needy families and pregnant women meeting specific eligibility criteria in all political subdivisions of the state. Assistance for basic needs is administered through the component of the Job First program. Assistance is essentially provided for Energy Assistance, Transitional Rental Assistance and foster care maintenance. Approximately thirty-one (31) percent of the programs enrollees are African-American. Legislative efforts to extend the number of extensions available for program participants from two to three and increase funding for educational opportunities failed.

The Commission testified on the following two bills relative to the TFA program:

- Proposed Bill (PB) 5865 – An act concerning revisions to the temporary family assistance program.

African-American Affairs Commission 2003 Legislative Report



Public Hearing 3/18/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred by House to Committee on Appropriations on April 14th, 2003. No action taken.

- Senate Bill (SB) 738 – An act concerning the establishment of savings accounts for temporary family assistance for recipients.

Public Hearing 3/07/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred to Human Services on January 27th, 2003. No action taken

TRANSPORTATION

- House Bill (HB) 5979 – An act providing funds to expand bus service
Public Hearing 3/18/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation on January 30th, 2003. No action taken.

Even though this bill died the final budget appropriated funding, to address a number of critical transportation initiatives outlined in a report published by the Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board (CTSB). Projects mentioned in the report include the following: expanded Hartford area express bus service, a New Haven commuter connection, Fairfield County Interregional Services and a number of other vital transportation projects for the state. Here in Connecticut of the fifteen thousand and ninety-eight (15,098) African-American workers who utilized some form of public transportation, thirteen thousand one hundred and twelve (13,112) used the bus, based on the 2000 census figures.

ENVIRONMENT

- House Bill (HB) 6360 – An act concerning environmental justice.

Public Hearing 02/04/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Tabled for the House calendar on April 30th, 2003. No action taken.

COMMERCE

- ✓ Senate Bill (SB) 452 – An act concerning funding and technical assistance to low and moderate-income individuals to establish businesses in the state.

Public Hearing 2/06/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Signed by the Governor on June 3rd, 2003 as PA 03-93.

- House Bill (HB) 5285 – An act creating a micro-enterprise development program

Public Hearing 2/06/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred by House to Committee on Finance Revenue and Bonding on April 1st, 2003. No action taken.

- House Bill (HB) 5381 – An act concerning a task force to study micro-enterprises.

Public Hearing 2/06/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony

Status – Referred to Commerce Committee on January 22nd, 2003.
No action taken.

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Raised Bill (RB) 957 – An act providing for community-based behavioral health programs and services for children in the juvenile justice system.
Public Hearing 3/11/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Favorable change of reference. Referred from House to Judiciary Committee on March 24th, 2003. No action taken.
- Raised Bill (RB) 6694 – An act concerning prison and jail overcrowding
Public Hearing 4/03/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Tabled on the calendar of the House on May 27, 2003. No action was taken,
- Raised Bill (RB) 6692 – An act adopting the recommendations of the prison and jail overcrowding commission
Public Hearing 4/03/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Tabled on the calendar of the House on May 13th, 2003.
No action taken.

CIVIL RIGHTS

- ✓ House Bill (HB) 5674 – An act concerning racial profiling
Public Hearing 2/06/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Signed by Governor on June 26th, 2003 as PA 03-160.
- ✓ Senate Bill (SB) 1009 – An act designating the freedom schooner Amistad as the state sailing ship
Public Hearing 3/14/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Signed by Governor on May 12, 2003 as PA 03-20
- (HB) 6089 – An act concerning membership on state boards and commissions
Public Hearing 02/28/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Referred by House to Committee on Legislative Management on April 23rd, 2003. No action taken
- Raised Bill (RB) 6370 – An act concerning election day and extended voter registration and the duties of the registrars of voters
Public Hearing 3/14/03 – AAAC presented oral testimony
Status – Governor vetoed bill on August 9th, 2003.

African-American Affairs Commission 2003 Legislative Report



Other Legislative Bills

The following pieces of legislation are other important initiatives monitored by the Commission relevant to the socio-economic status of African-Americans in the state:

- ✓ (SB) 164 – An act concerning the evaluation of the effectiveness of economic development programs administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Connecticut Development Authority – Signed by Governor on June 26th, 2003 as PA 03-197.
- ✓ (HB) 343 – An act designating June 19th as Juneteenth Independence Day – Signed by Governor on June 3rd, 2003 as PA 03-79.
- ✓ (SB) 1155 – An act concerning the federal no child left behind act and teacher certification – Signed by Governor on June 26th, 2003 as PA 03-168.
- (HB) 6562 – An act concerning state inmates in out of state facilities – The final budget plan called for sending 2,000 inmates out of state as a cost saving measure in addition to the 500 currently authorized by statute.
- (HB) 5829 – An act concerning the collection of data on the ethnicity and race of voter registration applicants – No action taken
- (HB) 6686 – An act concerning the reduction of disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system – No action taken.
- (HB) 6426 – An act concerning indoor air quality in schools – No action taken.
- (HB) 5726 – An act requiring recess for schoolchildren – No action taken.
- (HB) 5757 – An act concerning incentives to attract quality teachers in areas of need – No action taken.
- (HB) 5995 – An act concerning youth in crisis – No action taken
- (HB) 6324 – An act concerning the fatherhood initiative – No action taken
- (HB) 5467 – An act concerning state allowance for funeral expenses of low income persons– No action taken
- (HB) 6152 – An act authorizing a study to explore the effects of slavery on the African-American community in Connecticut – No action taken
- (SB) 745 – An act concerning education and outreach services available to individuals receiving temporary family assistance program benefits – No action taken
- (SB) 525 – An act concerning revenues from the use of telephones by prison inmates – No action taken

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- (SB) 930 – An act concerning the Department of Motor Vehicles – No action taken
- (SB) 969 – An act concerning investigative subpoenas – No action taken.
- (SB) 6592 – An act concerning the implementation and administration of the Help America Vote Act – No action was taken on the bill during the regular session, however the requirements mentioned in the bill were implemented as part of the final budget during the special session, the essence of which was to establish voter registration and voting procedures in compliance with federal law.

Under the medical assistance component of the program, medical services that were previously delivered through a broad based network of community providers are now delivered through the State's federally qualified health centers (FQHC's), community health centers or hospitals. The Governor's budget required the state, within available appropriations to make payments to FQHC's based on the number of clients served, and/or the FQHC's pro rata share of cost of services provided. Consequently the state cannot guarantee that FQHC's will receive adequate funding for all delivered medical services. In the event funding is unavailable, FQHC's would have to depend on internal resources.



2003
Program
Issues & Activities



THREE MASTERS OF AMERICAN ART

In celebration of Black History Month, the African-American Affairs Commission brought an exhibit of African-American Art by Elizabeth Catlett, Jacob Lawrence, and Samella Lewis to the Capitol / Legislative Office Building Concourse

The 2003 Concourse Exhibit “Celebration of Heritage” showcased the artistic achievement of these master African-American artists who, for more than 60 years, produced art that has informed, influenced, inspired and nurtured generations of artists and everyday people.

Each of the featured artists: Elizabeth Catlett, Jacob Lawrence, and Samella Lewis celebrates through their art what it means to be African-American in America, while transcending race and embracing universal themes of love, struggle, family, community, civil rights and freedom. Through their art they have chronicled the changing landscape of America over the past 60 years - from the Depression and World War II, through the segregation of the 40’s and 50’s, to the Civil Rights Movement of the late 50’s, 60’s and beyond. Catlett, Lawrence, and Lewis have consistently painted their environment with sensitive portrayals of the poor, working class, and historical figures. Their art has helped us all to view the duality of life within and without our communities, while striving to embrace the changing and diverse world of the 21st Century.





THE CLASSIC AWARDS

The following individuals were chosen as recipients at the Fourth Annual Classic Awards, held on April 6, 2003 at the Legislative Office Building. Honors were bestowed on Connecticut residents who contributed to the quality of life of Connecticut's African-American communities. Honorees were selected from a distinguished pool of nominations submitted by the public. More than 225 people celebrated the event.

AAAC Woman of the Year

Veronica Airey-Wilson

AAAC Man of the Year

James "Jimmy" Griffin

AAAC Youth of the Year

Taisheema Schley

Legacy Award

Dr. John C. Norman

Lifetime Achievement

Trude Mero

Business & Economic Development

Peter F. Hurst Jr.

Legislators of the Year

Representative Kenneth P. Green

State Senator Toni N. Harp

Lifetime Cultural Achievement Awards

Artist Collective, Inc.

Dollie McLean,
Founder and Executive Director

Cheryl L. Smith, Co-Founder
Dance & Program Director

Classic Awards



2003 Honorees



Top Row Left to Right: James Griffin, Peter F. Hurst, Jr., Veronica Airey Wilson, State Representative Ken Green, Dr. John C. Norman.

Bottom Row Left to Right: Taisheema Schley, Trude Mero, Cheryl L. Smith, Dollie McLean

2003 Awardees with AAAC Commissioners



Top Row Left to Right : George Logan, Kurt Harrison, Lt. Derrick McBride, James Griffin, Representative Ken Green, Peter F. Hurst, Jr., Jonathan Bruce and Dr. John C. Norman,

Bottom Row Left to Right: Jacqueline Dickens, Andrea Scott, Taisheema Schley, Trude Mero, Cheryl L. Smith, Dollie McLean and Lillie B. Crosby

Outreach Events & Activities



- Association of Similar Organizations
- Black Catholics
- Centers Edge Project
- Connecticut Health Foundation – Health Conference
- Connecticut Health Foundation Multi Cultural Health
- Department of Public Health – Health Conference
- Department of Public Health Multicultural Health Conference
- Hebrew Academy – Black History Presentation
- Permanent Commission on the Status of Women Making Women Visible Day
- NAACP Connecticut State Chapter Annual Conference
- National Black Caucus of State Legislators Annual Conference
- National Council of Black Males
- Reflecting Connecticut Forums
- Sickle Cell Association
- Small & Minority Business Showcase – New London, New Britain and Stamford
- Stonington High School – Speaker – Martin Luther King Day
- Take Your Child to Work Day



From left to right: Harland Henry - Director of Community Outreach and Business Development for the Office of the Connecticut Secretary of State, Cheryl Harris Forbes - AAAC Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator, G. Akin Oni-Orisan - CEO & President of Information Management Systems, Inc of New Britain and Meg Yetishefsky - Department of Administrative Services Business Connections' Supplier Diversity Manager, during the Connecticut Minority Supplier Development Council Trade Expo at Foxwoods Resort & Casino.

2003 Areas of Interest



- Social Service Program Reductions
- Pay Equity
- Economic and Business Development
- Health Status Disparities
- African-American State Employees Equitable Treatment
- Prison Reform
- Black Male Development
- Sickle Cell Treatment Disparities
- Appointive Boards and Commissions
- Educational Achievement
- Disparate Criminal Justice
- Health Programming
- Childcare
- Organ Transplants
- DMV Immigrant Concerns
- Urban Sprawl
- Environmental Justice
- Election Day Registration
- Predatory Lending



Department of Corrections Affirmative Action Director Robert Jackson and Department Of Corrections Commissioner Theresa Lantz during the AAAC convened Department of Corrections Employee's Issues Forum.

2003 Partnerships



- The African-American Affairs Commission would like to thank the following organizations whose partnerships helped to support AAAC activities.
 - Amistad America
 - Capitol Region Chamber of Commerce
 - Center Edge
 - Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
 - Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
 - Connecticut Department of Education
 - Connecticut Department of Social Services
 - Connecticut Environmental Justice Coalition
 - Connecticut Health Foundation
 - Connecticut State Chapter of NAACP Branches
 - Criminal Justice Task Force
 - Democracy Works, Inc.
 - Institute for African-American Studies – University of Connecticut
 - Multi-Cultural Health Task Force
 - NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.
 - National Conference for Community and Justice
 - Northeast Action
 - One Connecticut
 - Urban League of Greater Hartford
 - Urban League of Southwest Connecticut



Eastern Connecticut State University History Professor Dr. Stacey Close, AAAC Executive Director Vanessa Burns and NAACP New Haven Branch President Scott Esdaile after taping the talk show “Face Connecticut” at WTIC Radio.

Commissioner Profiles



Housing Member and Chairperson - Commissioner George Logan is a Senior Engineer and Mapping Group Supervisor at the BHC Company in Bridgeport. A resident of Ansonia, Mr. Logan completed undergraduate study at Trinity College, and a masters degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Bridgeport. In addition to serving on the AAAC, he is a member of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System and a member of the Advisory Commission on Multi-Cultural Health. A native of New Haven, Mr. Logan has an extensive record of community service within the Bridgeport and New Haven areas. His volunteer efforts are mainly concentrated on youth empowerment through educational achievement. He currently serves as a board member for Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut. In addition to his duties as a Junior Achievement board member, he is responsible for the coordination of the organization's Evening Program, which provides high school students with practical business experience through the creation and operation of an after-school business enterprise. In 1998, House Majority Leader Moira Lyons appointed Mr. Logan as a Commissioner of the African-American Affairs Commission.



Health Member – Commissioner Christopher Cloud is a graduate of Howard University (Washington, D.C.) where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. A former legislative aide to State Senator Eric Coleman, he currently is the Executive Director for Amistad America, Inc. Mr. Cloud was responsible for overseeing the marketing and promotion efforts related to the construction of a scale size replica of the actual Amistad vessel. The Amistad sails the nation's waterways as an educational ambassador, teaching history lessons, cooperation, and leadership to Americans of all ages, interests, and cultural backgrounds. Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin Sullivan appointed Mr. Cloud to the Commission in 1998.



Public Safety Member and Secretary - Commissioner Derrick McBride is a native of Bridgeport. He currently resides in Willimantic. Mr. McBride holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina. He has worked in law enforcement since 1987 at Eastern Connecticut State University's Police Department, and is currently the department's Executive Officer/2nd in Command. He recently graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. Mr. McBride is involved in many roles at the University and within the Windham community. As a reflection of this commitment, he is a recipient of Eastern's Martin Luther King Community Service Award and the Excellence in Service to the University Award. Mr. McBride is deeply devoted to his family and church. He was appointed to the Commission by Speaker of the House Moira K. Lyons in February 2001.



Public Member - Commissioner Jacqueline Dickens is a Congressional Aide for United States Congressman John B. Larson. She concentrates on issues related to the U.S. Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service, the U.S. Department of State, United States Embassies, U.S. Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She offers a wealth of experience in the field of financial services and housing and was once a top producer in mortgage lending with a Fortune 500 corporation. Mrs. Dickens has been recognized by the National Reference Institute for inclusion in the publication of "Who's Who of Women Executives". She is a native of Hartford and is an alumna of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce sponsored "Leadership Greater New Haven", and participates in the Women's Campaign School at Yale University. Senate Majority Leader, George Jepsen, appointed Mrs. Dickens to the AAAC in 1999.



Education Member and Vice Chairperson - Commissioner Deloris A. Franks is a graduate of Rutgers and Yale Universities where she received Masters degrees in Social Work and Public Health. She has extensive experience in the fields of health, mental health and finance. Ms. Franks was appointed to the AAAC in 2001 by House Minority Leader Robert Ward.



Transportation Member and Treasurer – Commissioner Sharon Ibrahim of Manchester is currently employed as a Marketing Assistant for the Governor's State Employee Mentoring Program with Nutmeg Big Brothers & Big Sisters. She has worked for more than 10 years in the human/social services field and is also certified by the State of Connecticut as a sexual assault counselor. Ms. Ibrahim is involved in a host of community organizations and was appointed to the AAAC by House Minority Leader Robert Ward in 1998.

Commissioner Profiles



Arts & Culture Member - Commissioner Jonathan Bruce is a longtime resident of the City of Hartford. He attended the University of Hartford Art School and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree, which he followed with a Masters in Art Education. Mr. Bruce is an active member of the community and currently serves as the Director of Fine Arts for the Community Renewal Team of Greater Hartford, Inc., where he is the founder of the CRT Craftery Gallery. He has received numerous commendations for both his community service and commitment to the visual arts, among them: Connecticut Arts Award for Service to the Arts, Distinguished Alumni Award for Contributions to the Community (University of Hartford), and the Cicuso Club Community Service Award. Mr. Bruce was the former Commissioner of the City of Hartford Commission on Cultural Affairs, and a former member of the Selection Committee for the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. Currently, Mr. Bruce serves on the Board of the Amistad Foundation and the Electors for the Wadsworth Athenaeum. Senate Minority Leader M. Adela Eads appointed Mr. Bruce to the Commission in 1998.



Environment Member - Commissioner Lillie Crosby of Monroe is a retired executive from the Southern New England Telecommunications Corporation (SNET). She attended Waterbury Public Schools and holds a Bachelors of Science degree from Teikyo Post University, where she majored in Business Office Management and Administration. She also holds a Masters of Science in Health and Human Services from the University of Bridgeport, and was a Minority Fellow with the Connecticut Community Technical Colleges' Minority Fellowship Program. Mrs. Crosby has served as a Commissioner for both the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. In 1998, Senate Minority Leader M. Adela Eads appointed Mrs. Crosby to the AAAC, where she currently serves her second full term.



Children & Youth Development Member - Commissioner Kurt Harrison is a lifelong resident of Hartford, born and raised in the city's Northend section. In 1995, Mr. Harrison graduated from Northeastern University (Boston, MA) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a minor in African-American Studies. As a Program Manager for the Regional Alliance for Small Contractors (RASC), Mr. Harrison is charged with administering the RASC contract compliance and monitoring program for both the redevelopment of Hartford's riverfront infrastructure (Adriaen's Landing), as well as the construction of the University of Connecticut's 40,000 seat football stadium in East Hartford. Accordingly, he is responsible for helping to maximize job opportunities for small and minority business enterprises (S/MBEs) and the minority workforce throughout Greater Hartford and Connecticut in accordance with state goals and requirements. Prior to his current position, Mr. Harrison worked as a Legislative Analyst for the General Assembly and provided research and analysis of issues affecting Connecticut's African-American communities. In service to the state's Commission on African-American Affairs, Mr. Harrison assisted the Commission in the development of its legislative agenda and priorities, and served as the prime liaison between legislators, governmental agencies and external groups.



Small Business & Economic Development Member - Commissioner Andrea Scott has more than ten years of experience in financial management and has worked in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. She has worked with various sized organizations in the areas of economic and community development. Mrs. Scott, a certified economic development professional (certified by the National Development Council) is currently the Senior Development Manager for the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for the northwest region of Connecticut. She is responsible for promoting economic growth in the 41 towns and cities in Northwestern Connecticut. She works directly with companies, developers, community groups and municipalities to help promote business development and job growth. She further serves as the northwestern regional marketing and investment manager for DECD, and is the central advocate for business and economic development in the northwest corridor of the state.

Staff Profiles



Executive Director – Vanessa Dale Burns is a native and long-time New Haven resident. She worked for more than 24 years in public service, including ten years as a legislative and fiscal analyst for the New Haven Board of Alderman. From 1997 to 1998 she served as staff to the Connecticut General Assembly’s public health committee. Prior to joining the African-American Affairs commission, Ms. Burns served as the Director of Public Works, in Washington D.C., Evanston, Illinois, and New Haven, Connecticut. She is a graduate of American University, and earned her Masters degree in public administration from the University of New Haven.



Public Affairs/Special Projects Director - Cheryl Harris Forbes is a Connecticut native and graduate of Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Prior to her current position, she worked as a Writer/Editor in the University Relations Office at Eastern Connecticut State University. Her accomplishments include the creation of Connecticut State University's first institutional advertisements, and collaborative efforts with the State Department of Environmental Protection, the Governor's Office, and WFSB-TV3 to produce a statewide water conservation campaign, including television public service announcements.



Legislative Analyst II - Franklin Sykes is resident of East Haven and holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of New Haven. Mr. Sykes brings a wealth of experience from his work with the African Development Institute (ADI), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the human and material development of Africans and peoples of African descent, through research and policy analysis. More recently Mr. Sykes worked with the Department of Treasury as an Examiner and has also tutored in a variety of business disciplines at Albertus Magnus College.



Senior Legislative Secretary - Denise Drummond is a native of Connecticut. She attends Middlesex Community College pursuing a degree in Business Administration. She plans to further her degree at the University of Hartford. Prior to joining the African-American Affairs Commission, Mrs. Drummond worked for Allegheny Ludlum as an executive secretary, a payroll analyst, and materials management coordinator. She has also been actively involved with the Big Brothers – Big Sisters organization.

Talent Bank



The African-American Affairs Commission maintains a talent bank of applications from African-Americans who are interested in appointment to state boards, councils, commissions, or task forces. The African-American Affairs Commission serves as a resource by forwarding these applications to appropriate appointing authorities. (Generally, positions on state boards and commissions are unpaid, and are appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House or other state officials in accordance with State law.)

The Connecticut Secretary of State's published report, *Gender and Racial Diversity on Connecticut State Appointive Boards, (2002)* revealed of the 1,997 appointed members of the 203 state boards and commissions, 89.4% were White, 6.6% Black, 2.7% Hispanic and 1.3% were classified as "Other". Consequently, the African-American Affairs Commission worked to increase the participation of African-Americans on state boards and commissions.



AAAC Executive Director Vanessa Burns and Windsor Town Manager Leon Churchill during Reflecting Connecticut's Get on Board information session. The AAAC remains committed to increase the participation of people of color and women on state boards and commissions.

Talent Bank Application



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

TALENT BANK FORM

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Home Address: _____
Street City/Town State/Zip Code

Telephone: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Home phone # Work phone # Fax # E-mail address

Employer: _____

Racial/Ethnic Background: _____ Age: 18-30 31-50 51 & over

Political Affiliation: Democrat Republican Independent U.S. Citizen Yes or No

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE / BACKGROUND / OR ATTACH RESUME

Education: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Degree Major/Concentration Institution Graduation Year

(Areas of interest for appointment):

___ Education ___ Human Services ___ Health ___ Housing ___ Public Safety
___ Children/Youth ___ Economic Development ___ Other

Briefly describe your community experience. Please include organizations purposes, your role / title and the dates you served:

Talent Bank Application



(References)

Please list name, address and day phone number.

Reference #1

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Reference #2

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

African-American Affairs Commission Contact Information



The African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is located in Room 509 (5th Floor) of the State Capitol in Hartford, Connecticut.

The African-American Affairs Commission maintains a website that includes a listing of regional employment opportunities and the previously mentioned Talent Bank. Our website address is www.cga.state.ct.us/aaaac.

If you would like to request additional information, or to correspond with the AAAC, please contact us:

**State of Connecticut
African-American Affairs Commission
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Room 509
Hartford, CT 06106-1596
(860) 240-8555 (Phone)
(860) 240-8444 (Fax)**

We look forward to hearing from you.

