

THE NIA ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4

NIA LIVE!!!

NIA IS LIVE ON THE RADIO!!

Nia will be educating the listening audience of WDJZ about various topics related to HIV/AIDS. Tune in every Thursday at 4pm on 1530AM!

WHO TO CALL FOR HELP...2-1-1

In our travels and conversations we may encounter people who require services that span beyond the scope of our understanding or our ability to help. In these instances, we can refer them to 211 where they can be referred to the most appropriate resource to address their needs. Below is an overview of 2-1-1 and the services they offer.

About 2-1-1

2-1-1 is an integrated system of help via the telephone - a single source for information about community services, referrals to human services, and crisis intervention. 2-1-1 has developed the state's most comprehensive database of human service resources. It is accessed toll-free from anywhere in Connecticut by simply dialing 2-1-1. It operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Multilingual call specialists and TDD access is available.

Infoline (now 2-1-1) was created in 1976 as a public/private partnership of United Way and the State of CT. In 1998, the Governor and Legislature supported the initiative for an easy-to-remember, three-digit 2-1-1 number for health and human services resources. The Federal Communications Commission designated 2-1-1 as the number to call nationally for information about health and human services.

How 2-1-1 helps callers

CT residents call 2-1-1 for many different types of help. Professional call specialists help callers with such complex issues as substance abuse, gambling, domestic violence programs, suicide prevention, financial problems, and much more. By dialing 2-1-1, a caller is connected with an 2-1-1 call specialist who helps the caller assess their situation and find the community services in their area that can assist them.

Framework of a call

When a person calls 2-1-1, a trained Specialist answers the call, listens carefully, expresses interest and concern, and builds a relationship with the caller. The specialist will handle the process all the way to the problem's resolution. While responding to the caller's questions, the specialist does an assessment that helps people sort out their needs and identify and prioritize them.

Framework cont'd

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2-1-1 Overview...cont'd

Framework of call, continued

2-1-1 comprehensive database allows the specialist to explore with the caller various assistance programs and their services, offer options, describe realistic expectations for help, and refer the caller to services best meeting his or her needs. The caller is provided with information about programs so he/she knows what verifications are required, any eligibility criteria etc.

Concern for the caller does not end there. The specialist offers a follow-up phone call to see if the problem was resolved and if not, to offer additional options. Callers who prefer to remain anonymous are encouraged to call back and let the specialist know the outcome.

Typical 2-1-1 Calls

- The mother of a 12-year-old seeks counseling for her son who is not going to school regularly.
- A single mother is worried about the gas shutoff notice she just received.
- A caller is depressed, considering suicide and wants help.
- A young woman with a disability inquires about available transportation.
- The caller needs information about eligibility for Food Stamps.
- A guidance counselor is searching for a parenting education course for a teen father.
- A caller with gambling problems seeks services for help.
- A teenager has problems at home, a father who drinks, and needs someone to talk to.
- A recently divorced employee is frequently missing work; he needs affordable, reliable child care.

Some 2-1-1 Facts

- Over 300,000 people in Connecticut called 2-1-1 last year.
- Help is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year. 2-1-1 has multilingual call specialist and is accessible to the hearing-impaired by TDD.
- The most frequently requested services are: Financial Assistance, Food, Protective Services, Legal Assistance, Child Care, Utilities/Heat, Social Support, Housing, and Mental Health.
- 2-1-1 is fully certified in crisis intervention by the American Association of Suicidology since 1995.

Below are live links for connecting with the 2-1-1 database.

Directories

[Health Care Resource Guide](#)

[HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Guide](#)

[Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed](#)

Targeted Searches

[AIDS/HIV Resources](#)

[Community Re-Entry Services for Ex Offenders](#)

[Food Resources](#)

[Homeless/Homeless Prevention](#)

[Housing](#)

[Substance Abuse](#)

[Volunteer Centers](#)

(It's important for people to remember that 911 remains the number to call for police, fire or EMS emergency response and 411 remains the number to call for telephone directory information.)

INTRODUCING...THE NIA ALLIANCE RESOURCE BOOK

The Nia Alliance will have its very own prayer and litany brochure that will be printed and distributed to our partners in the faith community, featuring prayers, litanies, words of comfort, poems, sermons, etc., as submitted by the members of the Nia Alliance!

If you would like to submit content to be included in the Nia Alliance Resource book, please submit the following information to Nancy in Microsoft Word format (not PDF):

- Content (prayer, litany, etc)
- Brief bio
- Cohort group (1st, 2nd, etc)

Please note that we will also need to arrange to take your picture.

The deadline to submit your information to Nancy has been extended to July 31st .

We look forward to your participation in this exciting project.

NIA EVENTS—WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Stay Tuned for Details Regarding the Following Events:

Men's Retreat

Date: Friday, July 12th

Location: TBD

ASHA - Addressing Sexual Health and AIDS**Women's Conference**

Date: Saturday, August 15th

Time: 8:30am-3pm

Location: East End Baptist Tabernacle Church, Bridgeport, CT

Second Annual Black & White Dinner

Date: Friday, September 2nd

Time:

Location: Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, CT

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

**ENGAGE!
EDUCATE!
ENJOY!**

ABOUT US

THE NIA ALLIANCE

GBAPP
158 Mill Hill Avenue
Bridgeport,
CT 06610
Tel: 203-366-8255

The Nia Alliance is an initiative with the goal to develop a volunteer network of men and women who are dedicated to learn and respond to the growing HIV epidemic among women of color. In August 2006, GBAPP, Inc. developed a training curriculum to prepare men and women of color to serve as volunteer liaisons to faith-based organization. Objectives for participants completing the training workshop are 1) enhance knowledge of HIV, 2) develop skills to engage peers in HIV-related services, and 3) serve as community liaisons and planning body for HIV awareness events sponsored by GBAPP.

NIA ALLIANCE MISSION STATEMENT

The Nia Alliance is a community mobilization initiative dedicated to equip people of African descent to respond effectively and emphatically to the AIDS epidemic in communities of color through education, advocacy, direct services and community collaboration. Grounded in faith, we recognize the importance of being inclusive and nonjudgmental as we empower our participants to make informed decisions.

For more information regarding the Nia Alliance and GBAPP, please contact:

Contact: Nancy Kingwood, MSHS, CHIVC
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NEXT MONTH'S EDITION

Next month we'll provide a summary of the recent trainings and workshops for those who were unable to attend .



Would you like to contribute to the newsletter? Please email your content (article, event, pictures, etc) to nkingwood@gbapp.org by the 10th of each month. Please note that Nancy will approve all newsletter content.