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Tara
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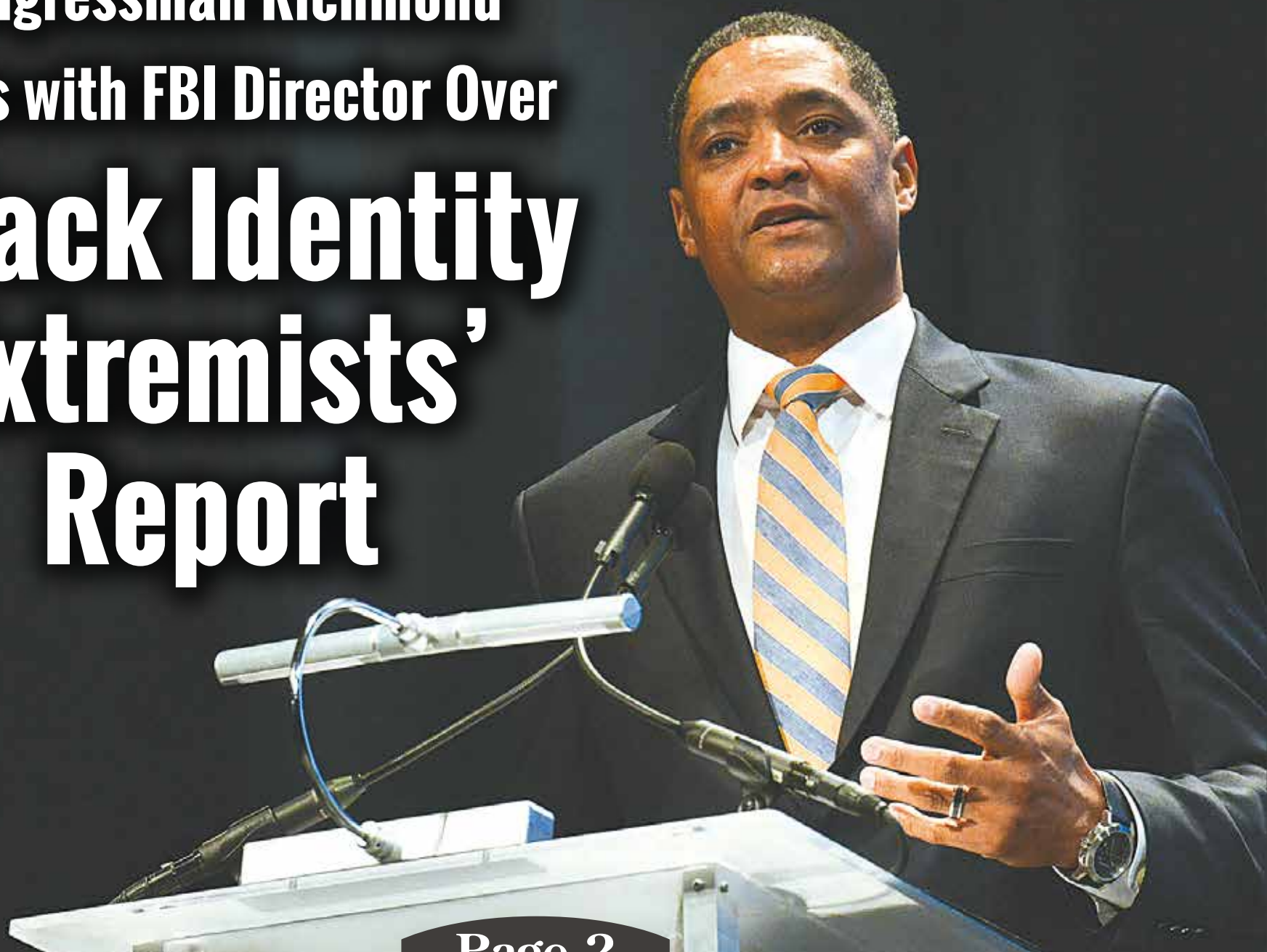
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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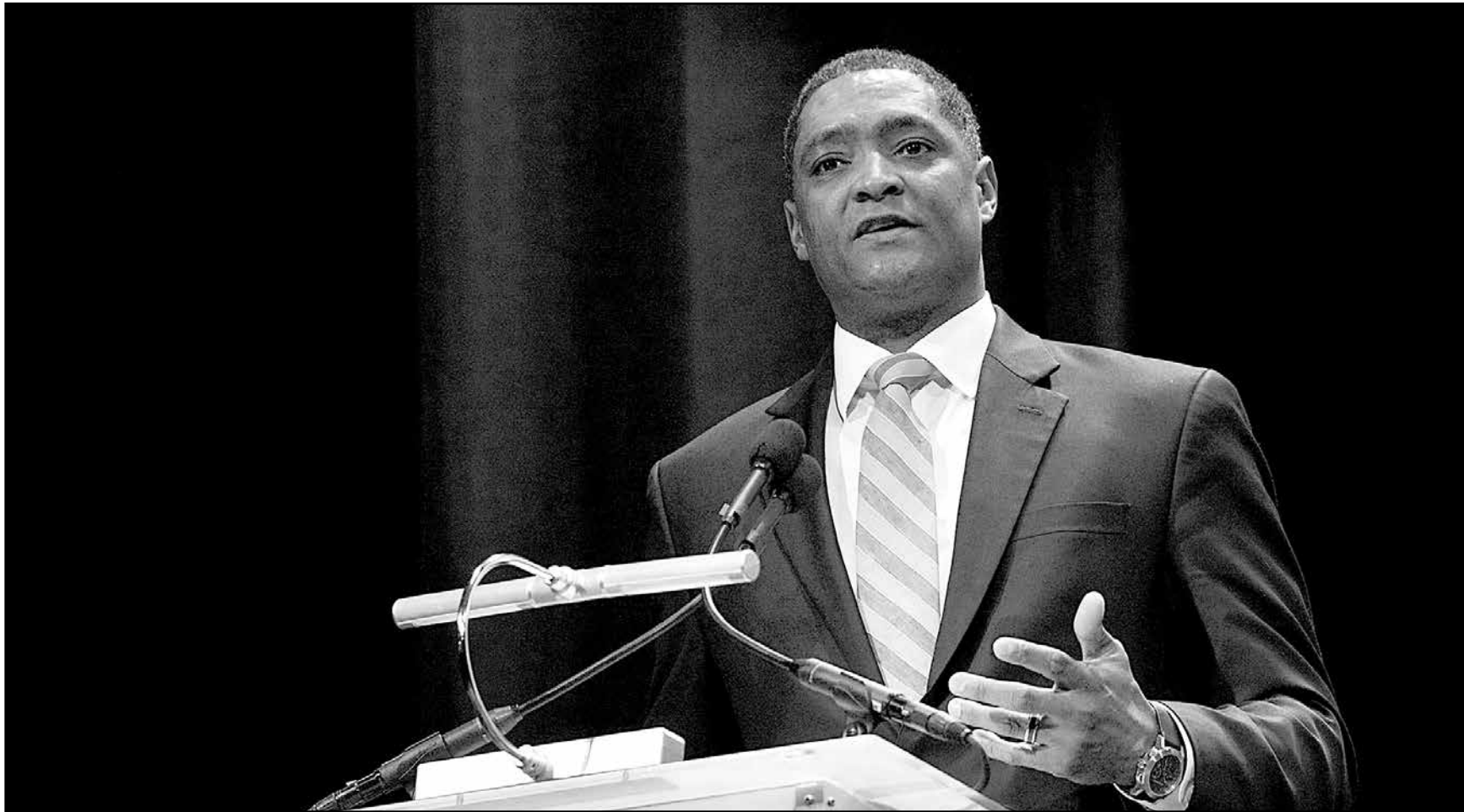
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Congressman Richmond Meets with FBI Director Over ‘Black Identity Extremists’ Report

CBC Members Met with FBI Director Christopher Wray about the FBI’s Controversial “Black Identity Extremists” Report. This Is What They Learned.



CBC Chairman Cedric Richmond (D-La.) and a group of CBC members met with FBI Director Christopher Wray about the “Black Identity Extremists” report. This photo was taken during a recent ceremonial swearing-in event for the 115th Congress in Washington, D.C. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

FBI Director Christopher A. Wray failed to explain why the agency he leads changed the name of a domestic terrorism designation from “Black Separatist Extremist” to “Black Identity Extremist,” during a recent meeting with a group of Congressional Black Caucus members about a leaked FBI document.

Wray also refused to acknowledge that Black activ-

ists, including Black Lives Matter organizers, are being monitored by the FBI, according to CBC members present at the meeting.

The leaked FBI document, titled “Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers,” sparked a wave of controversy and sharp criticism of the FBI.

At least one CBC member called the leaked document “COINTELPRO 2.0,” while another said that the report “calls for open season on Black activists.” The

document was shared widely with local law enforcement agencies across the country.

According to Newsweek, following the “fatal attacks on police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2016, the bureau expressed concerns about ‘the threat of copycat attacks against law enforcement’ at the Republican and Democratic national conventions.”

Newsweek also reported that other documents showed that “the FBI has monitored Black Lives Matter protesters.”

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Those documents were released, because of a lawsuit to expose the surveillance filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights and the civil rights group Color of Change.

On Wednesday, November 29, Congressional Black Caucus Chair Cedric Richmond (D-La.) and 2nd Vice Chair Karen Bass (D-Calif.), provided an overview of their meeting with Wray in a teleconference with National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis; NNPA National Chairman Dorothy Leavell; and a group of Black publishers, editors and reporters.

CBC members, who are also members of the House Committee on Homeland Security, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the House Committee on the Judiciary, were present at the meeting.

"Listening to [Wray], especially considering meetings and discussions we've had with Attorney General [Jeff] Sessions, he appeared to be a breath of fresh air," Bass said.

According to Bass, Wray said the "Black Identity Extremists" report was completed prior to his taking the post, but he acknowledged that he "owns the document" now.

Wray also said that no one would be investigated or targeted, unless they met three points of criteria: there had to be credible evidence of federal crimes; a credible threat of force or violence; and both of those points had to exist in furtherance of a social or political goal.

Bass said the FBI uses that criteria to categorize people as domestic terrorists and, according to the leaked document, "Black Identity Extremists" fall into the category of domestic terrorism.

Wray also admitted that the policy wasn't new, the name simply changed, Bass said.

"They used to call it 'Black Separatist Extremists' and they changed it to 'Black Identity Extremists,'" said Bass. "[Wray] didn't have a lot of rationale for why that change took place, except for the fact that the people that fall under the category 'Black Identity Extremist' don't seem to be separatists in today's world."

CBC members raised major concerns about the report, one of which was how FBI even crafted the methodology to come up with the category of "Black Identity Extremists."

"[Wray] essentially said that they used 'open source' documents, which means news reports," said Bass. "Lord knows what that means."

Bass said that, based on what she heard from Wray, the methodology seemed "flimsy."

"When we raised our concerns



FBI Director Christopher Wray denied that his agency is investigating the Black Lives Matter movement. In this photo, Wray speaks at the Intelligence and National Security Alliance Summit in Washington, D.C on September 7, 2017. (FBI/Wikimedia Commons)

that a new generation of Black activists were being targeted [including the Black Lives Matter movement] for surveillance and harassment, [Wray] said repeatedly that there was no investigation of the Black Lives Matter movement," said Bass.

Bass and the other CBC members let Wray know that they were "completely aware" that some activists in their communities were experiencing surveillance and harassment, even though they didn't meet the requirements that Wray described that would lead to an investigation.

The CBC members asked the FBI to retract the document and issue a new message to local law enforcement agencies.

"One of the problems with this document is that it has been widely distributed to law enforcement agencies around the country," said Bass. "Many of us referenced either our own personal experiences or experiences we were aware of during the 'COINTELPRO' years. when if you send a document like this out to local law enforcement, in many of our opinions, you can declare open season on Black activists, because, then local law enforcement agencies can use the document as justification for doing whatever they want to do."

COINTELPRO, or the "Counter Intelligence Program" of the FBI, was designed in part to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities of the Black nationalists," during the 1950s and 1970s.

Writing for the Huffington Post, G. Flint Taylor, a founding partner of the People's Law Office in Chicago, said that hundreds of documents were uncovered during a court case in 1976 that revealed

that the FBI also plotted to destroy a children's breakfast program run by the Black Panther Party and "disrupt distribution of the BPP newspaper."

The documents exposed in the 1976 court case also revealed,

"massive wiretap overhears, including conversations between BPP members and their attorneys," Taylor wrote.

"The FBI denies they are surveilling (sic) our groups like the Black Lives Matter movement, but

we told them that we don't believe it and our information tells us that" those groups are under surveillance, said Richmond.

Richmond said that the CBC members plan to present information to the FBI detailing surveillance and harassment of Black organizers.

The FBI director expressed interests in meeting with CBC members regularly because, "We are the eyes and ears on the ground," and the CBC offers diversity that the agency lacks, said Richmond.

Bass asked the Black Press to put the call out to their readers to let lawmakers know if they have experienced harassment or surveillance, a request that Richmond echoed.

Chavis, the president and CEO of the NNPA, committed to working with Richmond and other CBC members to uncover stories of unwarranted government surveillance and harassment in the Black community.

"People may be more considerate in doing things, if they know that the Black Press will be on their case," said Leavell, the chairman of the NNPA. "In addition, it certainly shows our strength, if we can have a great impact."

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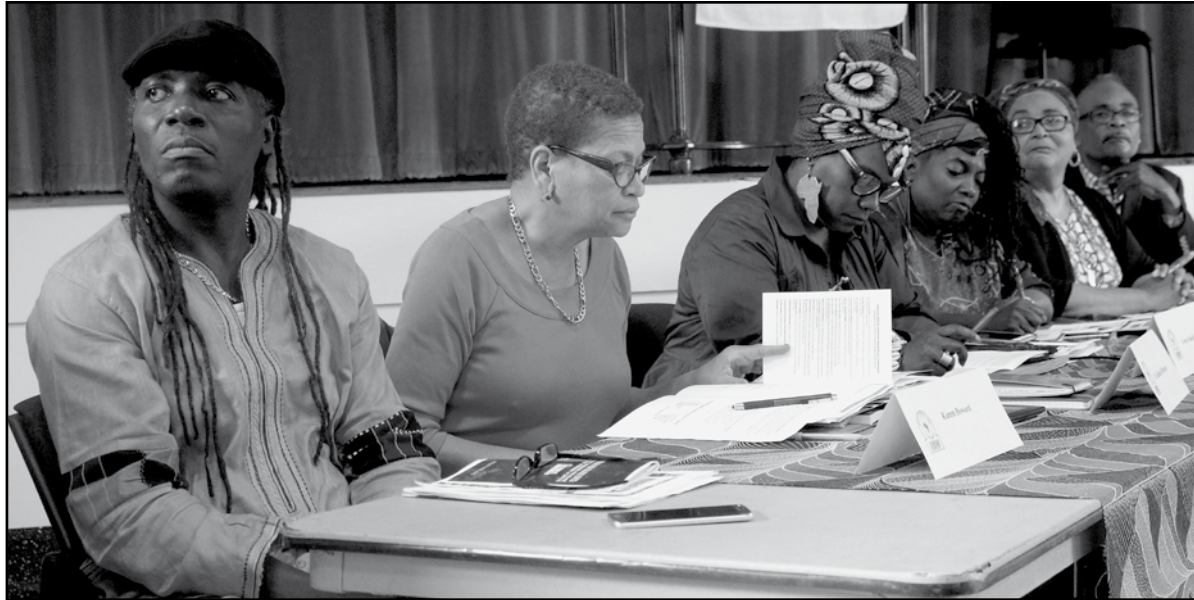
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Commission Sees Reparations as a Tool to Uplift African-Americans

Story and Photos
By Naomi Hill
Data News Contributor

The National African-American Reparations Commission brought its struggle for reparations for people of African descent to New Orleans on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017 at Xavier University. NAARC's primary demand is that European nations compensate African descendants in the United States for the effects left behind from the cruelty of slavery. Through ten steps of reparation, NAARC believes proper healing of African-American people could take place. The ten steps range from acknowledgement of past actions, to rewriting the Criminal Justice System.

"The first of our ten-point platform is a formal apology. The apology is the center of reclaiming our dignity," said Kamm Howard, the



Reparations Commission panelists from left to right: Kamm Howard, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, "Nana" Dr. Patricia Newton, Attorney Nkechi Taifa, Dr. Iva Carruthers, Rev. JoAnn Watson, Yvette Modestin, and V.P. Franklin.

Co-Chairperson of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America. He believes European countries must own the crimes per-

formed against people of color before any other steps can be taken.

social and economic development is so important," said Dr. Julianne Malveaux, the former President of Bennett College. She told the audience the United States had almost 130 Black-owned banks, but at the turn of the 19th Century, only 21 are in business. Establishing a Black Business Development Fund will kick-start competition with White counterparts, Malveaux said.

Reparations cannot be fulfilled if the community's health is in danger, the commission's members said. "Nana" Dr. Patricia Newton, the Chief Executive Officer of Black Psychiatrists of America, said centuries of slavery, economical and educational disparities, and all other struggles Black people have endured have turned the community into experts in dying.

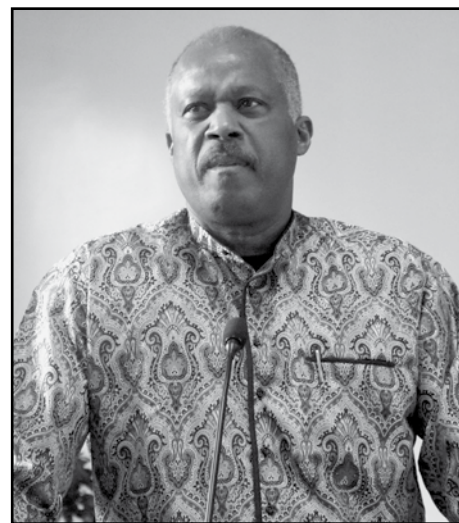
"People become experts in what they do the most. This entire system has created nothing but death and destruction and debauchery for our people, globally, not just in the United 'Snakes' of America," Newton said. Freeing the mind, eliminating fear, and demanding that healthcare as a holistic approach are steps that will allow Black people to be alive for what they are fighting for, she said.

Education is another gateway to rightful action, according to the commission. Graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) are important, because they bring their knowledge back to the community, said V.P. Franklin, the Editor for the Journal

of African-American History. He said reparations should be used to pay off student debts of those who gave back to the Black community. "Reparations can be distributed to those who are involved in the kind of excellence in education," Franklin said.

The commission said it is also seeking reparations to preserve sacred sites and monuments. "We need to know that we were buried in very scattered places," said Yvette Modestin, the Founder and Executive Producer of Encuentro Diaspora, "And we need to recognize those spaces, so we can honor them in the rightful way." Modestin said marked sites should include

**Newsmaker, Continued
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Sir Hillary Beckles, the Keynote Speaker, is Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

With the apology, Howard said, an African Holocaust Institute should be established, which would feature the roles of public and private organizations in slavery, systems of segregation, damages that happened during and after slavery, and systems, such as Jim Crow Laws, that created entitlement for Whites in society.

The following step is to create an African Knowledge Program, said Howard. He said the program will bridge the gap between Black people in the Diaspora and those on the African continent. Next, economic reparations would reverse the exclusion of Black people from financial mobility in the U.S.

"Our land has been systematically stolen, and the right to land for

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Big Chief Nelson "Mandela Jr." Lewis "The Black Wolf Hunters"

By: Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

TRIBAL TIMELINE:

2008 – Present - Big Chief Nelson
"Mandela Jr." Lewis

Chief Nelson started masking as a Wildman with no tribe. Chief first saw Black Masking Indians as a child on horseback from the Black Mohawks Tribe that used to come out of Shrewsbury, but now is out of Uptown. "I started carving masks and receiving spirits on how to draw", along with the spirit of his mother's sewing. Before the age of 12 he would watch his mom sew as he was honing his skills in mask carving. As Chief says, "she put that spirit in me, in my later years I started sewing". It seems that the spirits have been guiding Chief Nelson since he was a child. These two accounts of spiritual connectedness are quite unique.

Growing up Nelson watched the Indians in his area sew but did not belong to a tribe. Without receiving instruction on how to decompose a dress or coat to build a suit, he began scavenging for material and came across a baptism robe. The preacher that gave it to him told him one day he would be a Big Chief. At the time, Nelson was confused at the prophecy of the preacher. The second time, Chief was 14 years old and still carving on his own. After carving a few masks, Nelson was told by his sister he should sell them in the French Quarter. There he met a man named Shiloh, that asked if he knew what kind of mask he had carved. Young Nelson replied "no" and the man replied it's a "Dogon Mask". "That gave me a spirit" says Chief. After that young Nelson put on that mask and started carving even more. That's when he got introduced to Big Chief Larry Bannock who asked him to be his Wildman. Again, he was honored but unsure of his ability, but Big Chief Larry knew. That



Big Chief Nelson "Mandela Jr." Lewis "The Black Wolf Hunters." Photo by Oba Lorrius

year he would win Wildman of the Year with the Golden Star Hunters Tribe. He black masked with them for 10 years, then his Chief passed away.

Masking since 2008 Black Wolf Hunters are the only tribe to come out of Jefferson Parish. Leading into the 1950's, Shrewsbury was known as Little Harlem (named after a parks playground gym in Shrewsbury) and was the first location Ray Charles performed in Louisiana. Chief has been the whole gang for Shrewsbury except for, as he says, "everything but the Big Queen"!

Big Chief's grandmother was full blooded Chahta Indian, and he lives in the house his family built over 80 years ago. Chief says "It's natural for me, I was born an Indian, I have Indian blood in me. I have that desire. All that you see in here is based on the culture of an Indian. That's my culture, that is my calling that is why I do what I do. If you don't have that spirit in you, you will not be able to do this. When you are masking you must have that spirit

and the strength in you. If you don't have the strength in you, you won't pick up that needle because that needle will make you put it down. Once you start putting that thing in your finger, there's is no thimble on your finger if you a true Indian. You got to feel it, you got to want it and you must have that desire to make it. There are no weak Chiefs' out there."

Q) Chief what is your opinion of beading the red man or the Black man in the designs on the suits?

A) Let me tell you something about my feelings and view of the red man. If you go and look at them, and they will tell you Indians came in all types of colors. Not only red, not only brown, not only bright. But I don't know if you ever saw the head of the five-dollar Indian? That five-dollar Indian was no Indian. What he did was stop the Dark skin Indian from getting his money, he

started signing papers saying, "hey give me some land too, I'm an Indian". The dark skin Indian could not get what he deserved because they said, "you are mixed with African" and that was not so. That was not so. That stopped us from getting the land we deserved, and it hurts.

Q) What has this culture done for you?

A) It gave me a perspective of what my identity was. It made me feel, I could have peace in myself. To know who I am, what type of person I am. Why I do this here, also gave me the strength to pass it on to the younger generation. That's something that everybody should know about, is how to identify yourself. To know who you are what you are. I feel good by doing this, there is a lot of time put into this. To have the type of spirit I have, it's a good thing it's a good feeling.

Q) What is one thing you want people to know about this Black Masking Culture.

A) Everybody should know that we all not African! And, that this was our land, basically people believe we all came from Africa and that's not the truth.

Q) What is your hope for the future of this culture and our community as a whole?

A) As a group of people, I think we should come together a little bit more. And, find out which way we can communicate with each other for us to be successful as a race of people. We been on a trail of tears for so long.

Q) In the next 300-year celebration, what do you want the legacy of the Black Wolf Hunters to be?

A) He was a hell of a man, he was just like Geronimo and Cochise, he was legend to be.

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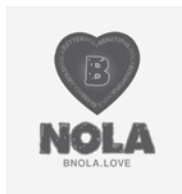
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Victoria's Secret Fashion Show Review



Delaney George
Data News Contributor

This past Tuesday the Victoria Secret Fashion Show aired on CBS. The show displayed angels new to old and had a wide range of looks to wow the crowd. Here were my favorites looks of the runway:

The first line of styles the well-known lingerie company premiered were nothing short of fabulous. Models walked in dark colored bralettes, bras, panties and jewels that were a mix of urban and glam.

The second look consisted of beautiful patterns in white, blue, and black. Designers focused a lot on lines and symmetry of each model, from the shoes to the wings. This collection gave off a light and flowy feel while still obtaining that sexy Vicky feel.

The last and final look of the night, or as I would call it, "the walk of angels" was by far my favorite look. Each model was in a light-colored bra, corset, or undie set with a pair of wings or long train attached. The models walked with grace as their trains flowed behind them and outfits shined in the light. In true angel fashion, the show ended with a performance and special confetti affects.

To view the show visit <https://www.victoriasecret.com/fashion-show/videos>. And email delinke@yahoo.com or dm your favorite looks to @Delannii on Instagram.



Models Leomie Anderson and Bella Hadid pose in excitement after finishing their runway walks.



Model Jasmine Tookes, lifts her hands up in excitement for showtime.



Model Taylor Hill poses in the last look of the night.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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Power 102.9 Spotlight: Tara Jae your On-Air BFF

By Delaney George
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Radio today is not just news or updates anymore, it's a conversation, and a chance to listen to your favorite tunes while engaging in a few hot topics with your Bff. Power 102.9 Radio Personality Tara Jae is that on-air Bff from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 2 p.m.-6 p.m. on Saturdays.

Jae began her radio career in Mississippi, when she was a young girl shadowing her godfather who was also a radio personality. She fell in love with her craft in high school after joining the broadcast team, giving her the experience and passion to later create her own radio show in college, The Tara Show. Jae's show became the most successful show on Delgado's campus, gaining her a large social media following, loyal listeners, and feedback.

After college, Jae interned with Veteran DJs like Slab 1, and worked in hospitality until she received two calls from two major stations in the metro area. 102.9 Radio Programmer and On-Air Personality Talus Knight offered Jae a full-time on-air position.

"It's very rare that someone with no commercial experience gets offered a full-time position in radio. I'm just thankful that Talus took a chance and believed in me, I really wanted to be a part of the re-branding of Power 102.9" said Jae.



102.9 On-Air Personality, Tara Jae

Through heavy critiquing, persistence, and "boot camp" from her fellow radio family at 102.9 such as Downtown Leslie Brown, Jae grew into the successful on-air personality she is today. Since her hiring, Jae has been a part of the Power 102.9 team for two years and is the youngest full-time on-air personality in the City.

"When I first started it was a challenge to make it sound like it was a party in the studio, making everyone feel like you were specifically talking to them, not at them. People always say I have an easy job, but it isn't as easy as it seems, especially

when entering a completely different world of radio" said Jae.

With over 100,000 listeners weekly, Tara Jae keeps her listeners in the know, discussing all things entertainment, pop-culture and anything hot in media. She has interviewed big names from Big Freedia to Vic Mensa and has appeared on the local late night show The 504 with Sheba Turk.

Although radio is her biggest focus, Jae has hopes of one day going into entertainment television, working in larger markets, and is constantly studying her field to become the best she can be.

"I make sure I study other people in my market and stay prepared for

each show and on top of what's going on in the world. There is a Tyler Perry video I used to watch every day where he talked about focusing on one seed and its sure to grow. He also said you can get a million no's but all you need is that one yes, and the opportunities will be endless. Talus gave me that one yes" said Jae.

In the future Tara Jae has plans to touch her listeners on and off the air by being a mentor. Jae spoke on the importance of how people carry themselves and how she wants people, specifically young girls, to see her as someone to look up to.

"I am most passionate about being a role model to young girls, on and off the air and I would love to get into mentoring especially on social media etiquette and taking pride in being a lady" said Jae.

Jae urges all aspiring radio personalities to intern, keep air checks up-to-date, network, and to be yourself.

"Always be yourself, and be true to yourself. I will always stay true to myself because that's what makes me different. It is so rewarding when I'm out in public and a fan tells me I sound exactly how I sound on the radio. If you believe in your art and your craft everything will work out, it always does".

For more information on Tara Jae visit the Tara Jae fan page on Facebook or www.power1029.com/shows/tara-falesa/.

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Young, Gifted and Black

What No One Told Me About Being “First” to Go to College



By Brandon Terrell
Data News Weekly
Guest Columnist

I was reared and schooled in Detroit, where poverty and oppression eloquently danced while violence and crime serenaded the communities.

The crime and oppression in my neighborhood drove me to submit a college application that changed my life's trajectory. I wasn't going to college to become an adult; I faced mature challenges and struggles long before filling out my college applications. For me, higher education represented an escape from adult struggles.

But, I couldn't escape the financial challenges. For first-generation college students like me, the responsibilities designed for mature adults were often delegated to us adolescents. Now that I'm in graduate school, I have some distance and perspective on what first-gens really need to thrive at a four-year college.

And, despite some model programs at universities, I fear the current political climate and threatened budget cuts will only make it harder for first-gens to obtain a four-year degree.

I know from experience my journey as a first-gen and non-traditional undergraduate college student is devastatingly common.

No one in high school or college spoke to me about the financial realities of being a student who couldn't rely on family for support. FASFA, Pell Grants and loans were foreign concepts. The conversations I had

growing up rarely involved college. We talked about who was buying dinner that night or who needed to get a job to help pay bills.

Survival was the goal. By the time I applied to college, I had already tangled with life and boxed with oppression, discrimination, stereotypical beliefs, and negative ideologies, all while juggling school, plus a job or two.

Life had prepared me for college. But the challenges never stopped coming.

Even as I struggled to pay tuition and buy meals when the food courts closed for the weekends, I often got calls from relatives who needed help buying groceries. Relief started with me. I had no safety net - I WAS the safety net.

Completing colleges required a survival balancing act-maintaining my GPA, bridging gaps back at home, and navigating collegiate bureaucracies while carefully re-

sponding to micro-aggressions and prejudice in majority White spaces.

Spectators would classify the underlying factor of our motivation as “grit” or “determination,” but for many first gens, our motivation is simply survival. We have no choice.

Missing an assignment, being too tired to attend a bio lecture after working more than 30 hours a week, failing a 300-level course, or even missing a tuition payment created a slippery slope back to the environment that suffocated dreams.

But we are as population college cannot afford to lose, as we represented 36 percent of students seeking a four-year degree nationwide in 2012.

Politicians, educators, social workers, counselors, and administrators must address the intersecting social and cultural challenges that precede our applications, accompany us to college, and follow us even after securing a degree.

Access to college and financial aid is not enough to secure a better quality of life for students coming from low-income backgrounds. The gap is widening with only 14 percent of the most economically disadvantaged students earning a bachelor's degree, according to a 2015 federal study.

We need a different support system to thrive in college-mentors, help with living expenses, travel costs, tutors, flexible schedules, and emotional support from other students who feel isolated, but are coping with similar struggles.

We need to stop talking about college attainment in simplistic ways. It takes so much more than grit.

Brandon Terrell is currently attending graduate school at Eastern Michigan University, after graduating there in 2015 with a Bachelor's in Psychology. He also works at the University of Michigan as a Program Assistant for the Community Health Department.

Ask Alma

Should I Let My Ex See Our Daughter?



Alma Gill
NNPA Newswire Columnist

Dear Alma:

I had a baby in my twenties when I was dealing with this guy, who was in the military, stationed close to where I live. I thought that we would get married and live happily ever after. Obviously, that didn't happen. He relocated and eventually we stopped talking. He did however send money to take care of our daughter. I get a check in the mail from him every month and I'm forever grateful for it.

I was heartbroken when he moved away and I don't think I ever really

healed. I was in relationships here and there and eventually got married.

When that marriage ended, I just shut down. I let myself go and made some not so good decisions. I put on weight, because I've been depressed and I just try not to bring attention to myself. I'm a great cook and all my daughter's friends and my family usually come over when they want a good home-cooked meal. Recently, a knock came on the door and it was my daughter's father. He asked if she lived there and then he asked if her mother was home; he didn't even recognize me. I just said that she wasn't home and that I'd give her the message. He said, “Okay” and I shut the door. I was so hurt afterward, I just cried and cried. I don't know how to feel. I haven't told my daughter yet, because I don't know if I want to see him again. What's your advice Alma? Should I give my daughter her father's contact information or

should I just pretend like he never stopped by?

*Signed,
Reunited, but It Doesn't
Feel So Good*

Dear Reunited,

The question you asked has nothing to do with the answer you need, but because of the circumstances, I'll offer you a two-fer.

First, let me get this straight. Your daughter's father consistently provides for her and although he didn't stay connected, his coins come regularly to help you take care of her. He recently stopped by to reconnect, but didn't recognize you and you think that's enough reason to keep him away from her? Okay, I've gotta stop rightchia: I'm sorry Sweet Pea, I don't mean to kick you when you're down, but this ain't about you. It's about your daughter and her father reconnecting—period. Run to your pocket-

book, pour out your belongings and give the contact information to you daughter, plain and simple.

Now, scooch over and let me sit, here's part two: Aint no doubt about it, it can seem like forever to spoon your way out of a dark, deep ditch, but you can do it. Once you get started, your spoon becomes a spatula, the spatula becomes a ladle and then the ladle becomes a shovel—you feel me?

What you thought you couldn't do, suddenly becomes natural to you, but first you've got to change your mind, change your thinking. It's been a long time since your old flame has laid eyes on you, that doesn't mean you didn't look the same. It just means he didn't initially recognize you. Let that go, use it as the fuel you need to get back to your best. If you can't find the strength in yourself, do it for your daughter.

Whenever you get tired, don't

let “Ms. Easy” rule your decisions. Ms. Easy will lead you back to eating fried chicken, mac & cheese a drinking milkshakes, but don't do it. No excuses. Today is the day you are #sickntired of being #sickntired. Start walking. You own your mind and body; nobody should love you more than you love yourself. Stop allowing the pains of your past to deter you from making yourself a priority. Go find the happy you, the fabulous you, the confident you and reintroduce yourself. When you start healing your mind, your body will follow. And once that happens, a heap of friends and family members won't recognize you, but that's okay, because it'll be for all the right reasons.

Alma Gill's newsroom experience spans more than 25 years, including various roles at USA Today, Newsday and The Washington Post. Email questions to: alwaysaskalma@gmail.com. Follow her on Facebook at “Ask Alma” and Twitter @almaaskalma.

Musicians Host Special Concert in Final Days of ACA Open Insurance Enrollment Period

Data News Staff Edited Report

Musicians host special concert in final days of ACA open insurance enrollment period. Ace Hotel partners with the New Orleans Musicians' Clinic, all-star musicians and Martin Guitar's to offer onsite healthcare enrollment, wellness, and live music on Tuesday December 12th.

New Orleans, LA – The shortened open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act's Health Insurance Marketplace ends on December 15th, and local musicians are making a final push to make sure the word is out.

On Tuesday, December 12th from 3-6pm, famed New Orleans Bassist Charlie Wooton will be joined by all stars Johnny Vidocovich, June Yamagishi, John Gros, and Kris Royal in a Pop-up Concert that is free and open to the public. The musicians will be joined by healthcare organizations 504HealthNet and Musicians' Clinic who will offer on-site marketplace and Medicaid enrollment from insurance counselors who can assist those who need to get signed up with the process



On Tuesday, December 12th from 3 - 6 pm, famed New Orleans Bassist Charlie Wooton will be joined by all stars Jonny Vidocovich, June Yamagishi, John Gros and Kris Royal in a pop-up concert that is free and open to the public to encourage enrollment in the Affordable Care Act.

and help choose a plan that's right for them.

With much confusing political discourse surrounding the ACA and a shortened enrollment window, many are at risk of remaining uncovered or paying too much for insurance so all are encouraged to come out and review their options. "The Affordable

Care Act is an opportunity for many New Orleans musicians, performers, and culture bearers to get health insurance for the first time in their lives" says Megan McStravick, New Orleans Musicians' Clinic's Social Worker, who has helped hundreds of local musicians gain access to insurance. "A lot of people don't know they

qualify for financial assistance. Many of the people I help are surprised to learn they have affordable options. Sometimes it just takes that one-on-one meeting."

Last Chance to Dance: Healthcare Enrollment ahead of the ACA's December 15th Deadline.

Free Concert by Charlie Woo-

ton, Johnny Vidocovich, June Yamagishi, John Gros, and Kris Royal Healthcare Navigators on-site to enroll clients in Marketplace Insurance and Medicaid.

Tuesday, December 12th - 2-6p
Ace Hotel, 600 Carondelet Street

Last year, close to 150,000 Louisiana residents received health coverage through the Marketplace, and more than 350,000 more found out they were eligible for coverage due to Louisiana's Medicaid Expansion. Working in a gig economy often means that musicians and culture workers do not have access to health benefits through their employers.

In addition to healthcare enrollment, the New Orleans Musicians' Clinic will also offer free flu shots, wellness, and clinic pre-enrollment on-site. Those interested in insurance enrollment should bring their ID, social security card, and proof of yearly income.

This event is a part of the New Orleans Musicians' Clinic, Ace Hotel New Orleans, and Martin Guitar's ongoing partnership to raise awareness for healthcare for performers and culture bearers in New Orleans.

Newsmaker, Continued from page 4.

places where Black people were lynched, locations where massacres of Black people were committed, and displacements of Black neighborhoods.

These steps also seek to identify the Criminal Justice System as a form of slavery. Attorney Nkechi Taifa, a Human Rights Activist, refers to the U.S. Constitution as an excuse for mass incarceration. "In the 13th Amendment, neither slavery or involuntary servitude shall exist, except as punishment for a crime," she said. Taifa spoke about how Black pride, wearing traditional African clothing, and exulting self-awareness, is now defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as Black Identity Extremists.

For centuries, Black people have struggled with proper historical recognition. "If you don't own the communication system, your information will not get out. If you don't own it, you're depending on somebody else to tell it," said Rev. JoAnn Watson, a former Detroit City Councilmember. She said



Xavier University President, Dr C. Reynold Verret (photo by Naomi Hill)

without complete control over the information, White counterparts will spread lies that people will digest as truth.

Dr. C. Reynold Verret, Xavier's President, told the audience, "There's mythology of America, and there's the truth of America. The truth of America is about what has been done, and what we must now do."

The impact of continuous disparities was not limited to the United States, the Caribbean and sur-

rounding areas were affected, also.

"I'm not from the Caribbean. I'm from another place where this crime was committed," said Sir Hillary Beckles, the Keynote Speaker and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies in Mona, Jamaica. Beckles believes slavery was a global crime upon one people for the advancement of other people.

"When we say reparations now, just turn that word now around, and what we will get is won. Reparations won," Beckles said.

Entergy Louisiana Celebrates South Region with We Power Life Event

Data News Staff Edited Report

Entergy Louisiana celebrated local organizations and non-profit agencies Monday during the We Power Life – South Region event at the Jefferson Parish East Bank Regional Library.

"At Entergy, we believe the future is bright thanks to the work of local agencies like the ones that are here today," said Phillip May, President and CEO of Entergy Louisiana. "These invaluable partnerships are part of a shared goal of building healthy, vibrant communities that will provide lasting solutions for our customers. Together, I know we can power life in the South Louisiana region."

Entergy shareholders invested more than \$10.9 million in charitable contributions to Louisiana non-

profits and community partners in 2016. In the past year, Entergy awarded just over 180 grants in the South Region, totaling around \$1.4 million. The monies have gone toward projects that range from education to the environment.

"We know that we can only be as successful as the communities that we serve," said Jody Montelaro, Entergy Louisiana, Vice-President of Public Affairs. "It's why we focus our philanthropic giving around education, poverty solutions, environmental programs and economic development initiatives that improve quality of life."

As a special thank you, agencies were invited to enter a drawing to win additional partner appreciation grants. To win an additional grant, agencies had to submit a photo of one of the events that Entergy helped sponsor.

Author Tim Wise Blames Trump's Success on Racism

By Naomi Hill
Data News Contributor

The United States of America represents the land of the free, however, when the land is built on slavery and fabricated with inequality, justice isn't served to all. On Nov. 29th, New Orleans' locals and residents filled the auditorium of Xavier University to hear Tim Wise, an Essayist and Anti-Racist Educator, speak on race relations in the United States and the most recent presidential election.

"Donald Trump hasn't done any of the economic stuff that he promised White folks he was going to do and, yet they still stick with him. So, here's the deal, if I tell you I'm going to do all this stuff for you and then I don't do any of it and you stick with me, what does that tell me," Wise said. The Author of "White Like Me," Wise has become a regular commentator on national media, who has spoken about Trump's election as part of his public campaign to educate, primarily White Americans, about privilege.

"It tells me that you didn't vote for me because of your own interest or economic concerns, you voted



Tim Wise, author of *White Like Me*, speaks at Xavier University on Nov. 29 on the *Great White Hoax: Racism, Divide and Conquer and the Politics of Trumpism*. (photo by Naomi Hill)

for me because I made the right enemies and you liked the fact that I attacked "those people." Those people Trump turned into "enemies", Wise said, were "Mexican folk,

Muslim folk, and Black folks."

Not everyone who voted for him is a racist, White said, but he added that "everybody who stuck with him at this point, yeah pretty much,

that's where you're at,"

Trump's victory, he said, sparked a fire of racial tension across the country. Racism was a part of the 2016 Presidential Election and how voters allowed Trump to once again turn the presidential race into a "who can you really trust" argument.

While some voters celebrated the new president, many more mourned, he said.

"If you have a rich White person telling non-rich White people that their enemies are Black and Brown people, they'll believe anything, and for 400 years that has worked. So, we need not to be shocked by this,

this is the oldest play in the book," Wise said.

For decades, Black and Brown people have been denied equal opportunities and have existed under the cloud of discrimination. Wise said that after the election people were shocked by the outcome of the race, but he noted that people of color were merely disappointed and not at all surprised by the choice of their fellow citizens.

"It's important for us to know the monster that we're facing right now, and I don't mean an individual monster like Donald Trump or Richard Spencer, I mean the monster of Trumpism, the monster of racial scape coating and White supremacy," Wise said, "Sometimes thinking the monster is new makes it scary, but this monster is not new."

Wise told the audience Trump naturally uses institutional racism to his advantage by convincing his supporters that the American enemy is, and always will be, people of color.

"As a young Black person in America, I've always noticed racism in the obvious ways and in the minor, under the table ways," said Skylar Tate, a sophomore at Xavier. "It's disheartening though to live in America as a Black person, knowing all the rules were set against me."

The future of America is not dark, according to Wise, there is room for moral progression and development. "We have to commit ourselves to making America great," Wise said, "not again, but for the first time."

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Poll: 70 Percent of Marketplace Enrollees Satisfied with Obamacare

By Freddie Allen
Editor-In-Chief, NNPA
Newswire

As President Donald Trump continues to sow confusion about the Affordable Care Act (ACA), a recent poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation, shows that, although some of his tactics are working, many consumers still plan on signing up for healthcare during the open enrollment period.

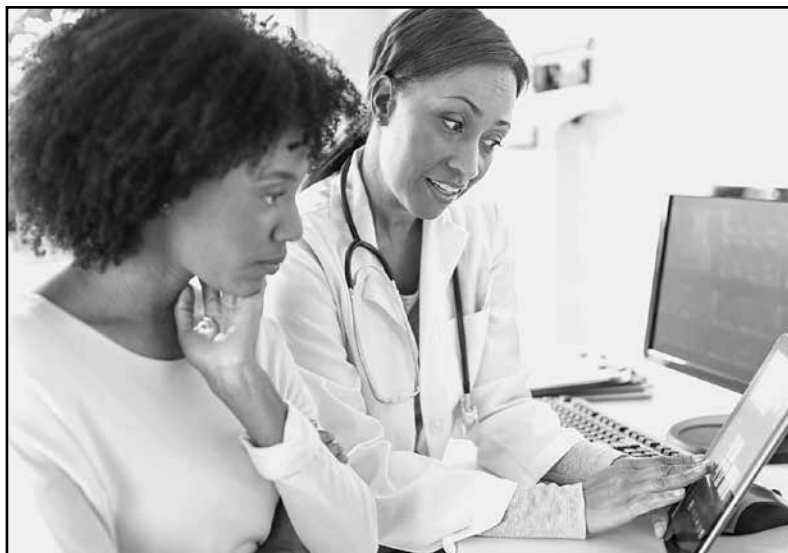
The ACA open enrollment period started on November 1 and will end December 15 in most states and despite its critics, the law has effectively reduced the uninsured rate for Blacks; healthcare advocates have said that access to preventive care provided by the ACA could also limit the effects of healthcare disparities, like infant mortality rates and deaths from breast cancer among Black women.

Even though the ACA, also known as Obamacare, provided healthcare to millions of Americans—some of them Trump supporters—the current president has worked to cripple the law in tweets and actions.

Deep cuts to funding for advertising about the ACA are having expected results.

In previous years, television ads played a key role in educating people about open enrollment and the ins and outs of the ACA. Trump cut that advertising budget to the bone.

According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) poll, “few of those most likely to consider marketplace coverage report hearing or seeing any ads providing information about how to get insurance under the health care law.”



Most marketplace enrollees like their health insurance under the ACA. The KFF poll revealed that 70 percent of current marketplace enrollees are satisfied with their insurance choices.

Less than 20 percent of the uninsured and just 12 percent of market enrollees said that they saw ads in the past 30 days that provided information about how to get insurance.

The poll also reported that just 5 percent of the uninsured and 25 percent of the marketplace enrollees were aware of the month when open enrollment ends in their state.

Despite White House efforts to discourage Americans from signing up for healthcare and the House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) claims that people would choose not buy Obamacare, if the government didn't force them, 90 percent of marketplace enrollees said that they would continue to buy their own insurance, even if the government stopped enforcing the individual mandate.

“The vast majority (85 percent) of marketplace enrollees also say they plan to sign up for health insurance during the 2018

open enrollment period, and most of them (54 percent of the total marketplace enrollees) prefer to renew their current plan if it is available next year,” according to the KFF poll.

Most enrollees will also get help paying for healthcare through the ACA.

“Insurers are still required by law to provide reduced deductibles and co-pays for low-income marketplace enrollees,” said Larry Levitt, senior vice president for special initiatives and co-executive director of the Foundation's Program for the Study of Health Reform and Private Insurance. “Premiums are increasing, but consumers will also get more help.”

Even though consumers will get help paying for health insurance, this isn't President Obama's open enrollment; many things have changed so it's important to start reviewing plans now.

Don't just “auto-renew” your health insurance plan. Study your options carefully.

In previous years, the healthcare marketplace auto-renewed consumers for the upcoming coverage year. According to the KFF poll, almost 25 percent of marketplace enrollees were auto-renewed for their same plan or auto-reassigned to similar plans in 2016 for the 2017 coverage year.

But experts have said that the auto-renewal feature may not identify the subsidies that you're eligible for accurately and when it comes to prescriptions or other life-saving services that you need, you'll want to make sure that any similar plan fits your needs.

Remember, it's best to enroll early; don't wait until the last minute.

During previous enrollment periods, there has been a surge of interest as the deadline nears; that increased activity slowed down the responsiveness of HealthCare.gov and created longer wait times for the marketplace call center, said Karen Pollitz, a senior fellow at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

“Log-in to HealthCare.gov, update your application for financial assistance, review your plan choices and what they cost, and select a plan for 2018,” said Pollitz. “If you want the same plan, select the same plan.”

Whether you choose the same health insurance plan or a new one, don't wait until the last minute to make your decision. This year, thanks to Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress, if you have questions about plans in the final hours of the enrollment period, you might just be on your own.

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