

News, Views & Commentary

“God makes three requests of his children: Do the best you can, where you are, with what you have, now.” African American folklore

Michigan targets statewide approach for health information exchange

By Beth Nagel

Michigan is preparing to take advantage of federal economic stimulus money and recent advances in technology that make a statewide health information exchange (HIE) system more feasible.

The Michigan Health Information Technology Commission, which is guiding the move to electronic health records, voted unanimously in March to support a statewide system to facilitate HIE for every patient in Michigan. This system will centralize certain elements of HIE technology and administration to gain economies of scale, while still enlisting the collaboration and participation of the nine regional systems previously being developed.

“There is no question that the health care community will be challenged to meet the national call to upgrade the use of information technology,” said Dr. Greg Forzley, chairman of the Michigan Health Information Technology Commission. “But we are encouraged by the unprecedented cooperation and support of Michigan’s health care community thus far.

“Improvements in the quality, safety and efficiency of health care across Michigan will attract employers and employees to our state,” Forzley said. “Michigan’s health care providers know that and are ready and willing to step up.”

Designing the infrastructure for health information exchange is part of a larger public-private project called the Michigan Health Information Network (MiHIN). MiHIN promotes the use of health information exchange to improve efficiency, quality and patient safety by making health information available at the point of care. The project is spearheaded by the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Michigan Department of Information Technology.

The MiHIN began in 2005 with a robust roadmap-building process and the awarding of planning and implementation grants to nine regions statewide. That process helped the Health Information Technology Commission recognize that a centralized, statewide approach to common technology and administration elements of an HIE would be most efficient and effective.

Michigan will use federal funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to implement the statewide health information exchange. The statewide system will enable providers and hospitals to take full advantage of the Medicare and Medicaid incentive programs outlined in the act, which requires electronic records to be exchanged across systems. For example, a list of allergies, current medications and previous test results should be available to an emergency room physician who is treating a patient. This ensures that providers are treating patients based on their medical records and not relying solely on the patient’s memory or family members for accurate, up-to-date information.

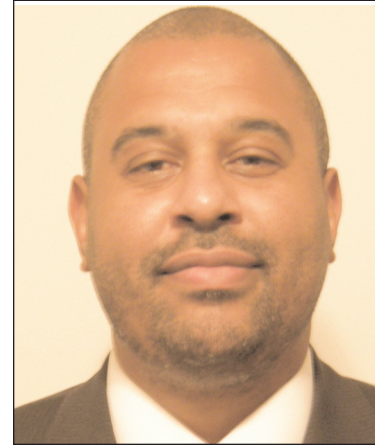
The MiHIN will build upon the work of many statewide health systems, regional provider groups and others working on local HIT development. The goal is to pave the way for those local systems and providers to connect by creating standardized, cost-effective communication platforms on a statewide basis.

To make sure the state continues to benefit from the work of the regional groups, the Michigan Health Information Technology Commission has created the Regional Advisory Board, consisting of representatives from the nine MiHIN regions and technology commission members.

The Michigan Health Information Technology Commission includes virtually every health care sector, and members of the health care community are encouraged to contact their representative, either directly or through the Regional Advisory Board. In addition, they are invited to attend commission meetings. For more information visit the Michigan Department of Community Health Web site: www.michigan.gov/mdch.

Money Walk

By Rev. Randy E. Parlor



This column deals with the biblical principles needed to obtain freedom from financial bondage.

Reaching financial goals doesn't come overnight. You must start the wealth building process in order for your efforts to bear fruit later. Your situation will get better much sooner than anticipated the sooner you consistently use biblical money management principles. This process will help you progressively get rid of negative money management habits that have previously been formed.

The godly seed you'll sow by budgeting your expenses, living within your income, giving to the church, and helping others

will be multiplied back to you many times over. You'll experience prosperity blooming in your life even as financial struggles and difficult situations present themselves. Satan and his demonic forces don't want you to prosper, because prosperity allows you to properly minister to yourself, your family, others, and spread the gospel. Patiently use God's money management principles, especially

tithing, when trials come and go and Daddy God will rebuke the devourer of your finances and pour you out a blessing that you won't have room enough to receive.

An abundant financial harvest awaits you when you diligently use biblical money management principles. Don't be weary in doing what God said is right because in due season you shall reap if you continue doing what's right no matter the circumstances!

Please pray for this ministry.

May God bless you richly as you follow His plan!!!

Proverbs 20:21, Isaiah 55:10-11, Romans 5:3, Galatians 6:9, James 1:1-3

The Michigan Bulletin Staff

Writers

Ron Davis
Mr. Dee
Diane Gartin
Betty Thomas-Gilroy
Diane M. Hicks
Bernice Toole Jackson
Dr. Earl Ofari Hutchinson
Elder Albert L. Kelley, Jr.
Dr. Marceing Mearble
Randy E. Parlor
Dr. George T. Roman



Golden Rooster

Representing Truth, Justice, Balance, Order, Rightness

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The Michigan Bulletin
c/o Editor
P.O. Box 24084
Lansing, Michigan 48909

General Manager

Marous A. Jefferson

Editor-in-Chief

Gregory B. Kelley

Sports Editor

Larry L. K. Boone

Church Editor

Mary Stokoe

For All Information

(517)321-12

THE LAW

WHAT HAPPENS IN A POLICE ENCOUNTER

BY ATTORNEY CHUI KAREGA

Sometimes people walking down the street are stopped by police. Sometimes police have the right to stop a person on the street without probable cause.

For instance, if a store has been robbed, and the police see a person on the street that fits the description of the robber, police may stop that person for questioning. Police may pat down your clothing if you are suspected of having a weapon. This is not an arrest; although it may lead to an arrest.

When stopped you do not have to answer any questions. Guilty and innocent people have the same right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law in the event of a prosecution.

But you can answer questions if that is what you prefer.

Whenever in contact with police think carefully about your

verbal and non-verbal communications. Don't argue with the police. Don't resist the police. Don't touch the police. Keep your hands visible to the police. Write down the name and badge number of each police officer at the scene.

If you are ever arrested, ask for a lawyer right away then stopped talking. Do not answer any questions. Within a reasonable time of your arrest you have the right to make a local telephone call without the police listening. Call one of your family members. Tell that person where you are at, and give them instructions to have a lawyer come to help you.

If you are injured in anyway by the police, have photographs taken of the injuries as soon as possible. Ask to be taken to the hospital or medical center.

Whether injured or not, if you believe your rights were violated by the police, file a written report with the internal

affairs division or civilian complain officer of each police department involved.

ATTORNEY
CHUI KAREGA

CHUI KAREGA is a well known civil rights and civil litigation lawyer in the state of Michigan. His offices are located in Detroit. But he represents people throughout the entire state, including Lansing.

KAREGA is a former long time resident of Lansing where he met and married his wife, Teusi (formerly Heidi Richie).

For the past thirty three years Karega has been representing people in the federal and state courts in Michigan with a strong emphasis on the protection of individuals rights.

Karega has graciously agreed to keep Michigan Bulletin readers informed on important legal issues affecting all of our lives.

Rapper Murder Reinforces Thug Image of Black Males

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

A few years back media outlets took shocking note of a deadly and disturbing phenomenon. A lot of rap artists were suddenly turning up dead. Dead actually is not the right way to describe their deaths. They were murdered, and their murderers in almost all cases were other rappers, or their friends, or the associates of rival rappers. The most celebrate killings were those of rap big wigs Tupac Shakur and Notorious BIG. The rap victims were killed at parties, at nightclubs, in recording studios, or while sitting in their cars. One was even killed while allegedly trying to knock over a convenience store. Since then the body count has climbed even higher with the latest casualty figure being rapper Dolla given name Roderick Anthony Burton II gunned down at a shopping center in Los Angeles.

Dolla's murder along with those of the others killed again tossed an ugly glare on a problem that has bedeviled the rap business, and a bigger problem that chronically plagues young Black males. The personal feuds, jealousies rivalries, and unvarnished gangsterism that is rife among some in the rap industry has deeply planted the sordid image in the minds of many that the rap industry is synonymous with gangs, crime and violence. The Dolla killing reportedly was preceded by a gang brawl in a parking lot outside an Atlanta club. This is an all too familiar rerun of mob brawls that have been the prelude to the murders of the other rappers.

The murders of the rappers have done more than batter an image of an industry branded and universally reviled as violent, self-destructive and self-indulgent. It has also reinforced the stereotypes of young Black males as inherently gang attracted and violence prone. Though it is a vicious and unfair stereotype since the overwhelming majority of young Black males do not engage in the gratuitous violence of some in the rap world. They have gotten the emblematic rap as being a part of that world because the gun toting rappers and their violence prone hangers ons feed off the bad actor lifestyle and play hard on the us versus them volcanic rage of some young blacks.

But Black-on-Black violence though exploited, glorified, and even celebrated, especially if there's a payoff in it, is hardly an invention of rappers. The biggest buyers of and copy cat attraction of rap music and even the rapper lifestyle has been non-Blacks. They are the ones who jingle the cash registers for the rap industry. But the bitter truth is that they aren't the face of the violence in the rap world, and they aren't the ones that much of the public would never dare finger as the ones responsible for violence and murder among young persons.

Young blacks are the ones who are fingered. And tragically in the last two decades, murder has been at or near the top of the list of the leading causes of death of Black males under age 25 years. Their assailants were not white racist cops or Klan nightriders but other Black males. Their death tolled has soared because far too many Americans still don't get too excited about Black violence as long as it doesn't spill over the borders of the ghettos into their suburbs.

Pent-up anger and frustration, though, among some Black males is only one cause of the dangerous cycle of Black-on-Black violence. Some Black males are engaged in a seemingly eternal desperate search for self-identity and esteem. Their tough talk, swagger, and mannerisms are defense mechanisms they use to boost their esteem. They measure their status or boost their self-worth by demonstrating their proficiency in physical fights, assaults and, yes murder.

Some Blacks even make a litany of excuses, such as poverty, broken homes, and abuse, to excuse the violence. These explanations for the mindless violence that thug acting rap entrepreneurs engage in are phony and self-serving. Many of them of the rappers who have landed hard in a court docket are anything but hard-core, dysfunctional poverty cases. Yet the internal rage that propels them to commit thuggish acts still lay dangerously close to the surface.

None of this is consolation to Dolla and his family. Sean "Diddy" Combs who is certainly no stranger to controversy and has had his run ins with the law praised Dolla as a good kid. However, Combs had a cautionary note in his praiseworthy words about Dolla and that was not to take life for granted. His message was not for Dolla but for the potential targets and potential victims of those who exult the gangster violence that many in the rap business seek to make their fortune from exploiting. It's a message that those within and without that world should heed.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst. His weekly radio show, "The Hutchinson Report" can be heard on weekly in Los Angeles on KTYM Radio 1460 AM and nationally on blogtalkradio.com.