



NORTHPOINT

Health & Wellness Center, Inc.



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African American Coalition on Child Protection (AACCP)

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NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, Inc.
Announces the Launch of
African American Coalition on Child Protection (AACCP)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minneapolis, MN – NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, Inc. is excited to announce the launch of the **African American Coalition on Child Protection (AACCP)** a grassroots effort of child protection, health, human services and community individuals and organizations working to address disparities in the child protection system.

The African American WorkGroup on Child Protection formed several years ago on Minneapolis' Northside. At that time leaders from the North Minneapolis community came together to lobby at the state capital for policy and procedural changes that would eradicate the racial disparities for African American children and their families. After two years of advocating at the state, speaking with state legislators and building a strong coalition, the AACCP in collaboration with NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, Inc. to secured funding to launch pilot projects.

The AACCP is piloting three dynamic projects to address disparities in the African American community. The **Neighborhood Hub**, a grass-roots service provider will, implement the **Cultural Navigators Project**. **Cultural Navigators** serve as a bridge between families involved in the child protection system and Hennepin County. The project is slated to support seventy families with navigation systems, addressing barriers and advocating for themselves and their children.

Often time families of children in out of home place are not consulted or considered for placement due to not meeting stringent guidelines. The **Karegiver Families Project** lead by Lutheran Social Services will work with up to fifteen families to increase the number of stable relative kinship homes that are eligible for foster care licensure. The project will also provide culturally appropriate services and education to relative/kinship families.

Intergroup Dialogues and listening sessions are being organized by the **Hypatia Group** to build common understanding and improve relations across systems connected to child welfare and the foster care systems. Hennepin County child protection staff and members of the African American community will come together in facilitated conversation, using the University of Michigan's Intergroup Dialogues (IGD) model.