



## The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network Recognizes the Appointment of Jeffrey S. Crowley to the Office of National AIDS Policy

February 27, 2009- The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN), congratulates Jeffrey S. Crowley, MPH on his appointment by President Obama as Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP). This appointment comes at a crucial time in the history of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States and the most recent data reflects that HIV infection was the leading cause of death for black women 25 to 34, the 3rd leading cause of death for black women 35 to 44, and the 4th leading cause of death for black women 45 to 54.

"Black women can longer be invisible in this epidemic, said Jacqueline Coleman, Co-Chair of NBWHAN. The fact that we have a disease in our communities that resembles those in under developed nations is a testament that government has ignored a large segment of women in our nation to fend for themselves. That is simply unacceptable."

According to the CDC, women account for more than one quarter of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the United States [1]. Historically, women have been underrepresented in HIV/AIDS research, and underserved in HIV/AIDS treatment, care, and prevention efforts. This neglect of women's complex health issues has led, in part, to a dramatic rise in the number of women living with HIV, and an alarming increase in AIDS-related deaths among women.

Regarding Mr. Crowley's appointment, Ivy Turnbull, Public Policy Chair for NBWHAN stated, "It's encouraging to know that Mr. Crowley comes with the unique ability to translate policy issues into concrete action steps. As a network comprised of Black women with HIV/AIDS, agency executives and leaders in research, program implementation, prevention and care and treatment, our main concern is ensuring that the needs of Black women, adolescents girls and their families living with and affected by HIV/AIDS become an integral part of this country's National AIDS Strategy and that the policy recommendations submitted to the Obama Administration by NBWHAN on behalf of this population are realized. We remain cautiously optimistic."

The NBWHAN looks forward to working with Mr. Crowley in his newly appointed position and the Obama Administration on domestic issues concerning HIV/AIDS and constructing an agenda, which would benefit Black women, adolescent girls and their families impacted by HIV/AIDS.

### **About the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN)**

The NBWHAN has been successful in working with many advocacy groups as well as local and national organizations to garner support for women's issues in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Founded in 2007 the NBWHAN has worked to influence the development of research initiatives and resources that will have a positive impact on program development and design for women and produce scientific based evidence of success. The NBWHAN is a community led initiative born out of the urgent need for Black women to set and implement a national HIV/AIDS agenda for Black women and adolescent girls in the areas of prevention, care, treatment, public policy and funding for all Black women and adolescent girls living with or at risk of HIV and AIDS and their families.

Contact: Ivy Turnbull-Chair Public Policy  
bpanivy1@aol.com  
917-697-0085

References:

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Fact Sheet HIV/AIDS Among Women

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/women/resources/factsheets/women.htm>

<sup>2</sup>Cases of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2006. Table 2: Time to an AIDS diagnosis after a diagnosis of HIV infection, by selected characteristics, 2005—33 states and 5 U.S. dependent areas with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting.

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2006report/table2.htm>