



## **Black Women HIV Advocates Applaud White House Appointment of Douglas M Brooks** *New AIDS Policy Director Recognized for Bridging Communities and Clinical Experience*

March 24, 2014: Today, the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network welcomed the White House announcement appointing Douglas M. Brooks, LCSW, as Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy. Mr. Brooks has been on the frontline of the fight against HIV/AIDS for over 20 years and has a deep passion for the well-being of all communities impacted by this epidemic.

"This appointment comes at a crucial time in the history of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in this country," stated Barbara Joseph, Chair. "The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network has come to know Mr. Brooks through our collaborative work with the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition; and with the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Mr. Brooks is an outstanding leader, has an amazing sense of responsibility and his values are in the right place." continued Joseph.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black Americans account for almost half of all new infections in the United States each year (44 percent) as well as almost half of all people living with HIV. Black women account for 13 percent of all new HIV infections and the majority (64 percent) of all new infections among women overall.(1) While recent efforts have resulted in a 21% reduction in new HIV infections among black women more effort is need to eliminate the disproportionate burden of disease as compared to other women. Among Black men, the majority of new infections occur among men who have sex with men (MSM). Young Black MSM are severely affected and now account for more new infections than any other subgroup of MSM by race/ethnicity and age.(2)

As a licensed clinical social worker Mr. Brooks is keenly aware of the function of social systems and the impact of social policies on the health and wellness of diverse communities. Moreover, he possesses an exceptional blend of intellectual skills and social grace which we believe will contribute immensely to his success in the position of Director.

Mr. Brooks brings a wealth of experience to the Office of National AIDS policy from his role as the Senior Vice President for Community, Health, and Public Policy at the Justice Resource Institute where he successfully managed a division dedicated to serving young people and adults living with HIV disease. The success of these projects are a testament to his administrative acumen and his outstanding skills as a consensus builder.

The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network looks forward to working with Mr. Brooks and other members of the Obama Administration concerning HIV/AIDS and constructing an agenda which would benefit Black women and girls with and at risk of HIV/AIDS to ensure that an AIDS free generation becomes a reality.

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**About the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc.** The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN) is organized to provide leadership and expertise in the prevention and spread of HIV/AIDS and other health disparities that affect black women and girls nationally and internationally. The mission of the NBWHAN is to reduce the burden of morbidity, mortality and stigma of HIV/AIDS and other health disparities associated with gender, social, and economic inequities among Black women and girls.

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### **References:**

- 1.CDC. *HIV Surveillance Report*, Vol. 23; February 2013. HIV diagnosis data are estimates from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 6 U.S. dependent areas. Rates do not include U.S. dependent areas.
- 2.The Kaiser Family Foundation. Fact Sheet: Black Americans and HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet, March 2013.