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January 22, 2006

Dear Member of the Boston Health and Human Services Community,

VISIONS is pleased to invite you to attend one or more of a series of trainings sponsored by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) and Mayor Menino's Disparities Project. The Boston Disparities Project is a comprehensive initiative to end racial and ethnic gaps in health. There is no cost to you to attend. The cost of your participation will be covered by a grant VISIONS has received from the BPHC.

VISIONS has been selected by the BPHC to conduct these workshops because of our twenty years of experience providing multicultural training, consultation, and technical assistance to organizations. This workshop series is designed specifically for members of Boston agencies and communities whose efforts have an impact on health; this includes health and other service providers, administrators, legislators, policy makers, and community leaders and members. Our aim is to increase your individual and organizational capacity to recognize, understand, and appreciate differences and their impact on health, and to apply this understanding to your work in ways that will reduce disparities.

These workshops provide a highly interactive approach to understanding the role of race and racism in challenging health disparities. Participants will enhance their existing skills and learn new tools to explore issues, problems, and strategies that can support their institution in addressing issues of race and ethnicity as related to health care and health disparities.

Through a series of exercises, readings and mini-lectures, we invite participants to identify and change barriers at the personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural levels. The goal is to ensure that all institutions whose work affects communities of color lead the way to racial equity in health.

Please review the enclosed workshop series overview, select your workshop preference and complete the enclosed participant

questionnaire, which will serve as your registration. The registration deadline is **February 17, 2006**. Once you have registered we will send you information regarding your workshop location. Please let us know if your organization would be interested in hosting one of these workshops at your location.

We are encouraging organizations to send bi-racial teams (a white person and a person of color) to these workshops to enhance multicultural learnings and to model organizationally multiracial ownership for healthcare disparities and their elimination. We look forward to partnering with you on solving racial and ethnic health care disparities.

Sincerely,

Valerie Batts, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

For more information about the workshop series, contact Lorie A. Miller at 617.541.4100. For more information about VISIONS, view our website at [www.visions-inc.org](http://www.visions-inc.org).