

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **AFRICAN-CANADIAN COMMUNITY COALITION TO HOLD TOWN HALL ON THE LACK OF APPROPRIATE MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS SERVICES FOR AFRICAN-CANADIAN YOUTH AT CAMH**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**APRIL 10 2017**

**TORONTO, ON** – At an urgently convened Town Hall at Scarborough Civic Centre, a community based coalition comprised of over thirty African-Canadian community organizations, health and mental health professionals, and youth, will gather to discuss growing concerns of anti-Black racism at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), and to share information and identify options for action.

The Coalition is justifiably concerned about:

1. The diminution of Canada's only public funded ethno-specific Mental Health and Addictions program for African-Canadian Youth at CAMH - SAPACCY (Substance Abuse Program for African Canadian and Caribbean Youth)
2. Over-representation of African-Canadian clients in clinical programs at CAMH
3. The lack of leadership and appropriate response to address anti-Black racism at CAMH, serious gaps regarding CAMH's clinical environment, and poor treatment of African-Canadian clients in CAMH's clinical care
4. The lack of African-Canadian representation on the Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership at CAMH
5. Deaths and over-restraint of African-Canadian men in the care of CAMH.

At the time of the Town Hall, the Coalition will release a joint statement calling on CAMH, the Minister of Health & Long Term Care, Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister with responsibility for Anti-racism, Toronto Central, Central, Central West and Central East Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), and the City of Toronto to demonstrate a higher level of accountability to African-Canadian taxpayers, and take immediate joint action to stabilize and expand the SAPACCY program.

**Date:** Thursday, April, 27 2017  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. EST  
**Location:** Scarborough Civic Centre, Council Chambers  
150 Borough Dr, Scarborough, ON M1P 4N7

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**For more information and to arrange interviews, contact:**

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**Lead Organizations:**

African Canadian Legal Clinic and Tabono Institute