



Loretta V. Davis, President & CEO Institute for Population Health



Alice G. Thompson, CEO Black Family Development, Inc. Chair, Mayor's Task Force for the Well-Being of Children and Families



Vernice Anthony, Director, Department of Health and Wellness Promotion

Mayor's Task Force for the Well-Being of Children and Families Ninth Annual Leadership Breakfast

Still relevant after 50 years, The Mayor's Task Force for the Well-Being of Children and Families hosted its Ninth Annual Leadership Breakfast on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Detroit Yacht Club.

Attendees included human service workers, parents and the broader community. Now in its 51st Year, the Mayor's Task Force continues to focus on education and advocacy efforts in the five areas of parents, annual needs assessment, outreach and engagement strategies, education and support activities, and audio visual and written materials.

Welcoming remarks were given by Loretta Davis, President & CEO, The Institute for Population Health, and Deborah Simmons, Executive Director, Mayor's Task Force. Vernice Anthony, Director, Department of Health and Wellness Promotion, brought greetings from the Honorable Mayor Mike Duggan.

The theme of this year's event was "Building Family Resilience Through Community Partnerships: Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect." "We were honored to have as our guest speaker, Donna Lackie, Early Childhood Consultant and Great Start Director, Oakland Schools. She shared with us the ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Study, which focuses on the relationship of adverse childhood experiences to adult medical disease, psychiatric disorders, and sexual behavior, and its implications for healthcare. The ACE study informs the field of medical and social science as well as practitioners, and better arms us in our work to prevent child abuse and neglect. The information presented will help to expand the trajectory of the Task Force's work in the areas of policy, advocacy, professional development and information and education," stated Alice G. Thompson, CEO, Black Family Development, Inc. and Board Chair, Mayor's Task Force.

The Leadership Breakfast closed with a Memorial Tribute to Deborah Strong, who made her transition on October 27, 2013. Ms. Strong was an ardent advocate for children and families and is remembered for her work with the Great Start Collaborative; the Michigan Department of Human Services; and the Children's Trust Fund, where she once served as Executive Director. Deborah was an advocate for the work of the Mayor's Task Force.

As the Mayor's Task Force continues its work, it will create a culture that plans for and embraces the joy and positive outcomes of childhood, training to parents, caregivers, organizations, and the broader community. We will continue to support and advocate for policies or policy revisions that support the well-being of children and families.

For further information regarding The Mayor's Task Force for the Well-Being of Children and Families, call 313.309.9300 ext. 1310.