

## Public Invited to Community Meetings on Disproportionate Rate of African-American Child Deaths in Sacramento

Blue Ribbon Commission's draft recommendations discussed, input sought
The public is invited to community meetings to hear draft recommendations of the Blue
Ribbon Commission on Disproportionate African-American Child Deaths.

Monday, April 1 – 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Greater Sacramento Urban League 3725 Marysville Blvd., Sacramento 95838 Tuesday, April 2 – 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Paratransit, Inc. 2501 Florin Road, Sacramento 95822 Thursday, April 4 – 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. St. Paul Baptist Church 3996 14th Ave., Sacramento 95820

Each year the Sacramento County Child Death Review Team (CDRT) found that African American children consistently die at a disproportionate rate higher than all other children. They are twice as likely as Caucasian children to die from a variety of causes before their 18th birthday and represent 12% of our population, and 22% of all child deaths. Deaths caused by third party homicide, infant sleep related deaths, child abuse and neglect

Concerned by this data, Supervisor Phil Serna established a Blue Ribbon Commission in 2011 to address this critical issue, and in 2012, convened a series of community meetings to seek broad community input. The Commission is comprised of stakeholders, service providers, health professionals, community leaders, policy makers, parents and grandparents. Members met regularly in workgroups to focus on particular areas such as maternal and perinatal health, infant sleep related death and homicides. They developed specific targeted recommendations that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in May 2013.