

Black health matters.

Serving Black communities and Scarborough since 2008



TAIBU

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

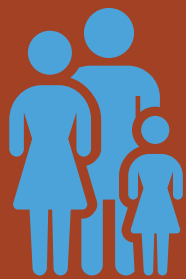
About TAIBU

TAIBU is a Kiswahili word used by well-wishers as a greeting that means "Be in Good Health".

TAIBU Community Health Centre is at the forefront of the delivery of community health and social services to Black communities across the Greater Toronto Area.

Our work aims to improve, promote and protect the health and well-being for Black populations through quality and culturally designed primary health care services and strategies.

Who we serve



71%
African/Caribbean/Black
22%
Asian/South Asian
3%
European/White

Gender



61%
Female
38%
Male
2%
Unknown

Client annual income

Under \$15K	25%
\$15K - \$35K	29%
\$35K - \$60K	15%
\$60K - \$90K	8%
\$90K	1%
Unknown	22%

Chair and executive director's message

"As an organization, we are now even more resolute in our journey to becoming a Centre of Excellence. "

We bring you this year's annual report amid difficult and challenging times. COVID-19 has impacted us in unprecedented ways. As a Black community, we have experienced and observed another painful cycle of anti-Black racism within our lives and across systems throughout the city. Coupled by witnessing the media attention of countless Black lives lost at the hands of police brutality, like George Floyd and Breonna Taylor in the United States.

Reflecting upon the founding vision of TAIBU, these incidents truly serve to affirm our determination over the past decade, as well as the need for our ongoing work. Systemic racism exists. Anti-Black racism is a public health crisis and its impact is manifested through various adverse health and social status outcomes in our community.

This year, we are proud of the Black mental health campaign led jointly between TAIBU and the City of Toronto's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit (CABR). Working closely with grassroots members and community organizations, we sparked conversations about the impact of anti-Black racism on mental health. This initiative culminated with the Mayor of Toronto declaring the first Monday in March as Black Mental Health Day.



Celestia Richards
President of the Board of Directors

Liben Gebremikael
Executive Director

Another significant highlight was our ongoing work in support of Indigenous communities in Scarborough. In June 2019, the Board passed a resolution to adhere to the principle of 'Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands'. Aligned with this commitment, we facilitated the creation of Scarborough Indigenous Mental Wellness Advisory Council. The Council has been spearheading several culturally appropriate and traditional affirming practices. The apex of its engagement being the launch of their first powwow ceremony in Malvern.

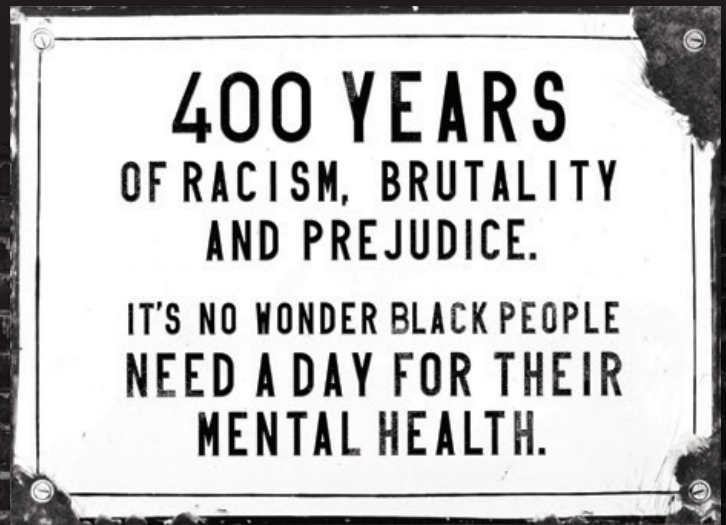
In 2019-20, through the Black Governance & Leadership Project, TAIBU engaged the Toronto Board of Health by delivering anti-Black racism training sessions. The project also provided governance training, capacity building and strategic planning workshops to community organizations, grassroots projects and other emerging Black-led groups with.

We thank the Board of Directors, our compassionate and dedicated staff, as well as our volunteers and members-at-large who have not relented despite overlapping public health crises.

Our community

TAIBU leads Toronto's first Black Mental Health Day

After months of collaboration and engaging talks about anti-Black racism and mental health, the City of Toronto, in partnership with **TAIBU**, formally proclaimed the first Monday in March as Toronto's Black Mental Health Day.



The significance of this first ever day, recognized the importance of mental wellness in the Black community and sparked conversations and events across the city.

Client survey



97%
agree programs and services are delivered in a comfortable language

96%
report staff treat them fiendly and respectful manner

89%
say programs and services accomodates those with physical disabilities

Our primary care team responds to COVID-19

When the state of emergency was declared across Ontario, the **TAIBU** team moved swiftly to meet the needs of the community. Primary, speciality clinical and essential care services were made available online. Virtual visits by phone and video were also made possible via the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN).

Teaming up to reform health care in Ontario

TAIBU joined over 40 health care service providers in Scarborough to support and shape an OHT dedicated to our community. To date, **TAIBU** has played a significant role ensuring that equity principles and the unique needs of Black, Indigenous and Francophone communities in Scarborough are considered.

Taking our seat at the table

TAIBU launches the Black Governance & Leadership Project (BGLP) in partnership with East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club, Alpha Kappa Alpha Toronto Chapter and University of Toronto- Scarborough Campus.

Support network for new moms in Scarborough expands

Since 2014, **TAIBU** in partnership with Toronto Public Health, Strides Toronto VHA Home Healthcare and Scarborough Health Network have been proudly supporting new mothers across Toronto's east end through the Scarborough Perinatal Network.

Youth project digs deep

Reports continue to show that youth who are not employed or in school face poorer mental, physical health. In 2019, **TAIBU** teamed up with partners across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area to introduce the From School to Success Pipeline Project (FSSP).

Taking on the challenge for better health

Nursing students supported The Black Health Challenge and its men's program by providing health screening as well as developing and facilitating culturally appropriate health education sessions under **TAIBU** supervision.

"We really need more programs like this. As men, we don't always take care of our health the way we should. It was great to learn so much about managing my sugar [diabetes] and other health topics."

Cecil, 73

TAIBU's first powwow celebration

In collaboration with the Scarborough Indigenous Mental Wellness Advisory Council, **TAIBU** hosted the first ever powwow celebration on June 1st, 2019. Held on the compounds of a high school, Lester B. Pearson Collegiate, over 300 participated.

Let's get going

To reduce inactive periods spent during long meetings, presentations and events, members of the Ubuntu Village were trained as Senior Fitness Instructors to energize and lead fun, short bouts of light physical activity.

"I never imagined that I could become a fitness instructor at my age, but here we are. The training was wonderful. I'm feeling great and it's good to be helping others stretch and live healthier."

Ester, 67

La célébration des cinq (5) années de services de santé en français dans la région du Grand Toronto

Ce fut dans un climat de grande convivialité que le Centre de santé communautaire TAIBU et nous, pionniers, partenaires, dirigeants, employés, bénéficiaires, nous sommes réunis le dimanche 27 octobre 2019, au Markham Convention Center pour la célébration des cinq (5) années de services de santé en français dans la région du Grand Toronto.

Un cocktail de bienvenue et de réseautage a lancé les festivités et l'exposition de différents projets diversifiés et culturellement adaptés réalisés tout au long des cinq dernières années ont servi de décors pour la salle. Les toiles peintes dans le cadre du projet Jouons à l'intégration à travers l'art ont été mises à vue au public. Ce dernier a eu pour objectif d'accompagner les nouveaux arrivants à faire face aux barrières d'intégration, briser l'isolement et être outillés pour une meilleure intégration sociale, professionnelle et économique au Canada. Ce fut l'occasion pour certains de nos clients de partager leurs témoignages sur le rôle important du centre dans leur vie au quotidien.

Nous avons également célébré notre incroyable personnel pour sa contribution dans le succès du Centre, nos partenaires pour leur dévouement à soutenir la vision de TAIBU en mettant à disposition de l'organisation leurs talents ainsi que les ressources nécessaires pour aider à répondre aux besoins de la communauté française. Les bénévoles qui disposent de leurs précieux temps pour supporter les programmes et la promotrice des services et Darling Émile pour sa grande contribution à la promotion de nos services en vue d'améliorer l'état de santé et de bien-être de la communauté francophone de Scarborough.

Plus de 300 invités étaient présents pour souligner l'apport de TAIBU en créant un espace en français pour se socialiser, partir à la découverte de soi et surtout s'informer pour une meilleure santé et mieux être.

Rappelons-nous que TAIBU a pu réaliser divers projets au bénéfice de la communauté francophone durant ces cinq dernières années. Citons entre autres : gestion des maladies chroniques, cuisine communautaire, premier soin en santé mentale, activités physiques, camp artistique, club de lecture, etc.

L'enthousiasme, le rire, la passion, un repas multiculturel, la musique et la danse étaient au rendez-vous à cette célébration pour contempler notre impressionnante histoire et notre avenir prometteur. Nous engageons à créer un monde meilleur où tous les hommes et toutes les femmes se sentent chez eux.

Celebrating the long-held tradition of storytelling

For more than five years, members of the UBUNTU Writing Group met weekly to reminisce and collaboratively create, using paint and words. The work celebrates moments from the collective pasts of the group's contributors, and is intended to inspire future generations.

In September 2020, the group's creations were captured, compiled and published in a collection, called REFLECTIONS Through Our Stories and Paintings. The Ubuntu Writing Group continues its work to share reflections and perspectives with the community.



REFLECTIONS THROUGH OUR STORIES AND PAINTINGS

Systems steeped in anti-Black racism

For many of our Black youth, the education system and growing up in Toronto can be a place of exclusion, degradation and even sociological, historical and psychological harm.

To ensure that every young person builds their self-, collective, and cultural identities, TAIBU continues to push the limits of addressing anti-Black and systemic racism. TAIBU has created a number of interventions that are directly targeted at addressing the systemic issues facing Black youth.

These projects are all a part of TAIBU's systems change efforts. These efforts will engage existing systems that are often rooted in systemic racism, colonialism and oppressive practices. These interventions will engage communities to make meaningful changes to their systems that will have lasting impact for Black and other racialize communities.

The **LEARN Mentorship Project** is designed to help youth address issues that they face in the school system, by using mentors who have recently faced similar issues.

The **From School to Success Pipeline Project** is a collaboration of various partners across the GTHA and is intended to help youth design their own systems to address their needs as related to access to education, employment and training.

The **PLUG Project** offers support and services to students and their families/caregivers in the Scarborough and Rexdale communities, who are facing suspensions, expulsion or other challenges in school.

Black youth who face mental health issues are some of the most difficult to serve. **The IMARA Generation Project** is working with Black youth to design solutions and interventions that are meaningful to the youth.



TA BY YOU

Of special note this year was the onset of COVID 19 and the effects of the restrictions placed on all of us. Thanks to our very competent staff, we were able to pivot quickly to provide care and services most needed.

The board and volunteers are very proud of the work accomplished during this unusual time.

Proudly, we will continue to provide support and services to our clients and the community, because we are always stronger #TAIBUTogether.

Liben Gebremikael

Executive Director

Management team

Abel Gebreyesus
Delford Blythe
Liben Gebremikael
Maheshi Thilakasena
Phil Johnson
Tameika Shaw

Admin staff

Cristina Padilla
Myrtle Smikle
Nadira Kalahe-Pathirana
Rosine Kambeu
Vivika Vimalanathan

Support staff

Fathima Ashroff
Fazilla Williams
Hong Zhao
Natasha Diwanji

Clinical staff

Ai Luong
Amna Iqbal
Dr Anu Jacob*
Askale Bayafers
Dr Audrey Dye
Dr Bedri Ahmed
Christopher Morgan
Denah Smith

Dr Deva Nicholas
Elnaz Saleh
Dr Fereshteh Mazloom
Francine Charpentier
Dr Girma Mekonnen
Jenny Huynh
Layeeq Fatima
Michelle Ohonsi

Nancy Akor
Dr Norma Baker*
Patricia Wright
Paulina Cavicchia
Piyush Jadav
Princilia Bobwa
Racquel Hamlet
Sally Asante

Community programs staff

Angeline McCarthy*
Chanelle Perrier-Telemaque
Darling Emile
Deshon Downer
Estella Williams
Kareen Marshall*
Kimberley Moore

Min Di*
Natasha Darko
Nenookaasi Ochrym*
Shawna Williams
Tanya Morris
Tia Bailey
Ulysse Guerrier*
Vijay Saravanamuthu

* No longer with the organization

The board

TAIBU Community Health Centre is a prime example of how a community can build its own tools to bring about genuine change. Since its inception, TAIBU has worked to advance socio-economic issues facing Black communities in the GTA, while helping to support, build and stand for community. Its work has been and is a critically important reminder that anti-racism, equity and fairness work cannot be built on a foundation of oppression and devaluation but one on Black excellence, community and intentionality. Over the past several years, as a Board member, I have had the pleasure to serve TAIBU, its staff and community to strengthen our foundation, expand our reach in addressing structural barriers and systemic anti-Black racism. Being part of the TAIBU community is a way for me to make meaningful contributions to Black communities in the GTA and continue the work that heightens Black excellence, Black inclusion and dismantles anti-Black racism. It is a space to listen, learn and be heard.

Financials

Expenses: \$6,324,093

Salaries, benefits & relief	53%
Other grants/projects	27%
General & operating	12%
Occupancy costs	8%

Revenue: \$6,327,033

Central East LHIN & MOHLTC	73%
Other grants/projects	26%
Other income	1%



In this photo:

Participants and facilitators of TAIBU's first Black Governance & Leadership Project (BGLP), Scarborough, January 2020

Thank you

The Board of Directors would like to acknowledge and thank our funders, program partners, donors, volunteers, staff and clients for their amazing contributions to **TAIBU Community Health Centre**.

Funders

Central East LHIN
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Public Safety Canada
Ministry of Canadian Heritage
Public Health Agency of Canada
City of Toronto
Legal Aid Ontario

Partners

Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre
Alpha Alpha Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Black Creek Community Health Centre
Black Health Alliance
CEE Centre for Young Black Professionals
Centre Francophone de Toronto
Confronting Anti Black Racism Unit
Conseil Scolaire Mon Avenir
Conseil Scolaire Via Monde
Diabetes Canada - Caribbean Chapter
Diversity Midwives
East Scarborough Boys & Girls Club
Entité 4
Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre
IMPACT N' Communities
Kay Creole
La Maison
LAMP Community Health Centre
Legal Aid Ontario

Malvern Prebysterian Church
Muslim Welfare Centre
Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre
Rexdale Community Health Centre
Ryerson University
Scarborough Health Network
Sickle Cell Association of Ontario
Strides Toronto
South Riverdale Community Health Centre
The SPOT
Toronto Community Housing
Toronto Police Services 42 Division
Toronto Public Health
University of Toronto Scarborough
VHA Home Healthcare
Women's Health in Women's Hands
Young Diplomats
Youth Assisting Youth



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