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Peak Vista Hosts Fellow of Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders

Colorado Springs, Colo. – Peak Vista Community Health Centers (Peak Vista) welcomes Habib Kourouma, MD, MPH as a Fellow of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, a flagship program of President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI).

The almost 100 Fellows experience six weeks of intensive executive leadership training, networking and skills building at a United States university. The Fellows then work with a leadership institute to focus on skills in one of three areas: Business and Entrepreneurship, Civic Leadership or Public Management. At the conclusion of the six week intensive training, Fellows attend the Presidential Summit in Washington DC.

Kourouma completed his university studies at Howard University and will complete his Public Management training with Peak Vista, leadership institute host.

“We are pleased to have Habib working closely with our providers and health centers,” stated Peak Vista president and CEO, Pam McManus. “Habib will not only grow his passion and confidence, but he will also grow as a leader and build lasting relationships by learning from Peak Vista clinical leaders, grassroots community organizers and US government policy makers.”

Throughout his journey with Peak Vista, Kourouma will gain new knowledge and understanding of partnerships and collaboration in healthcare, infectious disease management, prenatal and postnatal care, pediatric care and clinical leadership. At the end of his fellowship, he will also provide Peak Vista an analysis of the programs and services he worked with and an evaluation of Peak Vista’s work serving both urban and rural populations.

One of the main focuses in Kourouma’s Public Management training with Peak Vista is learning how to design a model of community collaboration and partnerships, one of the major challenges he faces in his position as District Medical Officer for the Ministry of Public Health of Guinea. This Fellowship provides Kourouma an opportunity to embrace ingenuity and work towards creating an integrated care or team-based approach model he can share and implement with healthcare leaders in Guinea. Peak Vista is an industry leader and has successfully implemented a program that will further expand the organization’s care team model targeted towards whole person health and reflect the Triple Aim principles: population care, experience of care and per capita cost.



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Kourouma is also working closely with Peak Vista’s Collaborative Care Clinic and the El Paso County Public Health Department; expanding his knowledge of HIV/AIDS and infectious disease management, also a challenge in Guinea. By working with Peak Vista’s Collaborative Care Clinic, Kourouma is learning to provide an interdisciplinary approach to healthcare for persons living with HIV or AIDS by simplifying the delivery of care and support treatment compliance.

Another challenge Kourouma faces in Guinea is that many women resist prenatal and postnatal care. Kourouma is working along-side providers and program directors at the Peak Vista Women’s Health Center to learn how providers can build and develop trusting relationships focused on the patient’s health and well-being as well as how to encourage women to become empowered and educated when it comes to their health needs.

In Addition, Kourouma is studying Peak Vista’s immunization and health education programs and how he could get funding for and implement similar programs in Guinea.

“I am grateful for this fellowship and opportunity to seek solutions to the healthcare challenges we face in Guinea,” Kourouma shared. “Peak Vista has greatly expanded my skill set and improved my understanding of new approaches and best practices in healthcare for patient populations facing access barriers to care.”

To learn more about the Mandela Washington Fellowship, please visit YALI.state.gov/Washington-Fellowship.

About Peak Vista Community Health Centers

Peak Vista Community Health Centers is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide exceptional healthcare to people facing access barriers. Established in 1971, Peak Vista now offers primary medical, dental and behavioral health services to more than 82,550 patients annually in the Pikes Peak and the East Central Plains regions. To learn more about Peak Vista, visit peakvista.org.

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