

Approved March 10, 2009

Governor's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (GACHA)

Red Lion Hotel SeaTac

January 13, 2009

Members Present:

Tim Hillard
Jeff Schouten, MD, JD
Susan Fabrikant, MSW
(by phone)
Judith Billings, JD
Michael McCoy
Becky Mares (by phone)
Charles Emlet, PhD,
LCSW
Steve Wakefield
Mark Garrett
Lara Strick, MD, MPH,
DTMH (by phone)

Members Excused:

Bob Wood, MD
David Lee, MSW, MPH, LICSW
Darlene McLeod
Bob Harrington, MD
Robert Carroll, Ph.D (c), RN,
ACRN
Wendy Doescher

Members Unexcused:

Mendy Droke
Lance Kissler
Rev. Mary Diggs-Hobson

Staff Present:

John Peppert
Richard Aleshire
Brown McDonald
Lynn Johnigk

Ex-Officio Members:

Rep. Jeannie Darneille
(absent)
Rep. Norma Smith (absent)

Others Present:

Erick Seelbach, Lifelong
AIDS Alliance
Duane Wilkerson, Pierce
County AIDS Foundation
Kaijson Noilmar, HIV
Vaccine Trials Network

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by vice chair Mark Garrett. The agenda was reviewed and no changes were made.

Meeting Minutes

November 18

December 12

Page 3, 1st paragraph – change “re” to “are”

Page 3, 1st paragraph – add “new HIV” before “cases found”

Region 5 – change “Africa-American” to African-American”

Region 6 – change “Educational meetings are” to “An educational meeting is”

Region 6 – change “few medical providers” to “two medical providers”

It was moved by McCoy to accept the November and December minutes as printed.

Seconded by Billings. The November 18 minutes were passed as printed and the December 12 minutes were passed with corrections.

Vice Chair Report – Mark Garrett

Garrett expressed his excitement to be vice chair and is looking forward to learning more during the next couple of years.

Lifelong AIDS Alliance sponsored a gathering of HIV advocates in December to discuss budget issues and prepare for AIDS Action and Awareness Day on February 18 in Olympia.

A medical clinic, Internal Medicine Residency Spokane, recently opened in Spokane. Doctors of internal medicine in their residency will be mentored and HIV will be introduced into their training. The clinic offers a number of add on services such as dermatology, podiatry, and psychiatry. The clinic is serving approximately 20 patients at this time.

State Planning Group (SPG) – The group meets next on January 22. Current preventions and planning continues through 2010.

Medical Monitoring Project – Thirty percent of chart abstractions are completed. Four months are left in this cycle of the project.

On January 1, tracking of client level case management encounters began. A report on the information gathered is due to the Health Resources and Services Administration on July 1, 2009. The data will be entered into the CAREWARE system, but clarity is needed on what data/information will be tracked. DOH has been asked to develop guidelines for case managers on what data to gather. The goal is efficiency and quality control.

DOH Report – John Peppert

Budget – The Early Intervention Program will have a \$3 million reduction (15 percent). The Steering Committee is discussing and will recommend how to reduce expenditures to make the savings. The reduction to the Omnibus funds is \$1.5 million (10 percent).

Budgets on the local, state, and federal level are in a difficult situation and it is not clear how bailouts or stimulus packages will affect federal funding. The last meeting of managers from throughout the agency focused on budget issues.

The head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration resigned their position as requested by the incoming administration.

January 12 was the first day of legislative session. HB 1046, HIV testing for infants placed in out-of-home care, was put forward. The number of the bill in the 2008 Legislative session was HB 3119.

HIV proposed rule change - Approximately 20 participated in the second stakeholder meeting January 8 in Seattle. The second meeting in Spokane is January 16.

HIV Proposed Rule Changes – John Peppert

WAC 246-100-072, 207, 208, 209

Recommendations and suggestions for each section follow.

246-100-072

Leave in – (b) Shall inform the HIV infected person that the local health officer or authorized representative will contact the HIV-infected person for the purpose of providing assistance with the notification of partners.

(3 (was 5)) (b) – recommendation from Seattle meeting to delete or extend time period, “or within three months”

246-100-207

(1)(b) include "name will be given to health department"

Leave in - (1)(b)(iv) As appropriate, the availability of anonymous HIV testing and the differences between anonymous testing and confidential testing,

246-100-208

Leave in – (1)(b)(v) – The availability of anonymous testing, and why confidential testing is recommended for pregnant women;

The decision by consensus was to wait for the next draft for the Council to take a position.

Meeting and Membership – John Peppert

On December 18, Governor Gregoire emailed her Executive Cabinet regarding the issue of government reform and proposals around boards and commissions. In the email she stated, “Many state boards and commissions serve exclusively an advisory role. Many have been created by the executive branch without statutory requirements. Many are operated without regard to the many new opportunities for 24/7 communication through electronic information sharing.” She asked her Executive Cabinet to begin thinking about which boards and commissions to retain. The leadership team of Community and Family Health will discuss this issue on January 14.

The charge of GACHA was read:

- Assist the Governor in developing sound state policies on the HIV epidemic,
- Review and make recommendations about proposed HIV/AIDS related programs and legislation developed or presented by government agencies or other groups,
- Identify gaps in existing HIV/AIDS programs and services, and
- Provide the Governor a forum in which to debate issues related to HIV/AIDS.

The following comments were made regarding what contributions the Council makes and how it is unique from other HIV groups.

- The knowledge level of members
- The diversity of the group, positions, professions, speaking about HIV
- Council can redirect focus on the disease
- The Council continues to dialogue and work with other state agencies such as the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Much of the Council’s work around public forums is done by members – little impact to DOH staff
- Networking brings about better information which is presented to the Governor
- Forums for people living with HIV are held around the state
- The Council’s goal is around bettering services and care for HIV infected individuals – information changes based on science and the Governor is informed
- Clout of group statements versus comments from an individual
- Around some issues, Washington’s Congressional delegation is advised
- Advantageous to have Legislative ex-officio members participate in meetings

Ways to decrease meeting costs: meet via conference call; hold fewer in-person meetings; or meet in-person but use the agency’s office in Kent. Members want to continue hosting public forums.

The Executive Committee will set a meeting schedule for 2009 on their February 10 conference call. Developing a work plan for the coming year will also be discussed. Members will tentatively hold March 10 for the next Council meeting.

HIV Testing – Infants in Out-of-Home Care – John Peppert

HB 1046 relates to HIV testing of infants placed in out-of-home care and applies to infants under one year of age placed outside the home. Sponsors of the bill are representatives Rolfes, Roberts, and Morrell.

It was moved by Hillard that the Council not take a position on the bill at this time. Seconded by Billings. Passed with one abstention.

Correctional Issues – Lara Strick

DOC in collaboration with DOH is conducting blinded testing of men who refuse to be tested for HIV on entry to the corrections system. One positive was found out of 140 – 180 samples. One thousand tests will be completed.

The recently hired Community Linkage Coordinator is doing a good job.

An application for funding is being submitted to Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA).

Strick reported that HAART is available to inmates both pre and post sentencing. There was some anecdotal evidence this was not the case.

Medical Marijuana

It was moved by McCoy to table this discussion to a future meeting. Seconded by Hillard. Passed

March Meeting

Lunch presentation – Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) Schouten and Wakefield to organize

Other

- A query was sent to members to find out if they plan to attend the AIDS Awareness and Action Day February 18 in Olympia. Only one member responded affirmatively.
- African Americans Reach and Teach Health Ministry and the Northwest AIDS Education and Training Center along with the Northwest Kidney Center are co presenting HIV and Kidney disease among people of color on January 23.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.