

Governor's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

Approved May 12, 2009

GACHA
Red Lion Hotel SeaTac
March 10, 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,
ACSW
Steve Wakefield
Mark Garrett
Lara Strick, MD, MPH,
DTMH
Bob Wood, MD
David Lee, MSW, MPH,
LICSW
Darlene McLeod
Bob Harrington, MD
Wendy Doescher
Lance Kissler
Rev. Mary Diggs-Hobson

Members Excused:

Robert Carroll, Ph.D (c), RN,
ACRN

Members Unexcused:

Mendy Droke

Staff Present:

John Peppert
Brown McDonald
Tracy Mikesell
Lynn Johnigk

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Others Present:

Tara Wolff – State Board of
Health
AIDSNET Regional
Coordinators
Pierce County AIDS
Foundation
Tacoma-Pierce County
Health Department
Mary Jones

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by chair David Lee. Self-introductions were made.

The agenda was reviewed and the following changes made.

Add: National Quality Center Citizen's Group - Billings

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2009

It was moved by McCoy to accept the minutes as printed. Seconded by Harrington. Passed. There were three abstentions.

Chair Report – David Lee

The 2009 National African American MSM leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS was held January 22 – 25 in Atlanta, Georgia. Lee presented on encouraging HIV testing and care access for African American MSM. The HIV vaccine trials network presented during a plenary. Three to four attendees were from Seattle.

Lee also attended the 16th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Montreal, Canada in February.

Trainings

January 27 in Longview – Management of newly diagnosed individuals with HIV

March 7 – The annual corrections conference was held in Pasco. There were 25 attendees and six presenters including Strick. The new CDC recommendations for corrections were covered.

March 10 – A training is being convened today on opportunistic infections.

April 25 – The corrections conference will be conducted in Salem, Oregon.

June 11 – 12 – The annual HIV and nursing conference which is targeted to all nurses.

The AIDS Education and Training Center developed a web-based training on ora-quick for routine testing in rural areas and is partnering with Madison Clinic on monthly AIDS care conferences.

Vice Chair Report – Mark Garrett

State Planning Group is moving forward on developing a 5 year plan for July 2010. Planning arrangements begin at their March 26 meeting.

Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) – 2008 interviews are being concluded. The participation rate of 80 percent is not being obtained.

Care and Prevention – There are interviews conducted of patients who opt-in. This is an extension of MMP. The information gathered is given to the Early Intervention Program to determine service gaps and how the program is working.

On January 1, tracking of client level case management data began. Reporting begins July 1. Coordinated training for users is needed. The workgroup meets next on March 30.

Citizen Advisory Group – National Quality Center (NQC) – Judith Billings

Billings announced she was recently elected co-chair of the group. There are 35 committee members and all are HIV positive. The NQC is a quality improvement initiative funded since 2004 through an agreement with the Health Resource and Service Administration (HRSA) and aims to build capacity to improve the quality of HIV/AIDS care and services across the United States.

The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) – The Denver Principles project created 25 years ago by AIDS activists which is about self-empowerment is being reestablished. Individuals can join via napwa.org and membership for those who cannot afford it will be covered. Membership is open to all individuals, HIV positive or not. Members receive the POZ magazine.

DOH Report – John Peppert

The Tribal Bear Conference which addressed HIV, HCV, and TB was held March 6. Peppert and Diggs-Hobson participated in the conference.

A conference is scheduled for March 16 via iLinc to address changes in spenddown and the impacts to the Early Intervention Program (EIP). There will be discussion on how case managers can assist clients to move to insurance programs, encouraging clients under the Veterans Administration (VA) to use the VA, helping clients decide on plans that have more favorable co-pays, how to document spenddown, and assisting clients to access Medicaid and ways to meet their spenddown.

Budget

Federal – There is no new funding in the stimulus bill for FY 09. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may have extra funds for the current year for HIV.

State – There is no information coming from the capitol regarding the supplemental or biennial budgets and or shortfalls. The next revenue forecast is March 19.

Legislature

SB 5890 - Suspended HIV education in public schools through June 30, 2011. That provision is now removed.

SB 5588 – Suspending Boards and Commissions – included is the Washington State Health Insurance Pool Board for the 2009-2011 biennium. If the Board is suspended, so is the pool. The impact to DOH if WSHIP is suspended is estimated to be \$4.7 million annually.

Hillard made a motion to advise Governor Gregoire by letter regarding the issue and impact to the Department of Health with a copy of the letter sent to Senator Murray should WSHIP go away. McCoy seconded.

The motion was amended by Wakefield that legislators involved with GACHA and interested in HIV issues receive the letter also. Hillard seconded.

The amendment was passed. The main motion was passed as amended.

Department of Health is currently under a hiring freeze. Staff is being lost in HIV Client Services and it will be difficult to replace them.

AIDSNET Report – Wendy Doescher

A 2009 workplan is being developed. Budget impacts are unknown right now.

HIV Proposed Rule Changes – John Peppert

There are two issues that remain under discussion Peppert stated and he hopes some common ground can be reached. The two issues are:

1. What level of information needs to be provided to patients in order to provide HIV testing?
2. How long local health officials can retain name identifying records that include the patients name and the names of any partners.

Wood spoke about the positions taken by the AIDSNETs. The CDC issued recommendations in September 2006 around routine screening for those 13 – 65. Individuals and the public would benefit – awareness of infection is important for care and prevention purposes. The Council feels the benefits of routine testing out weigh any harm that may be done. The Council decided to eliminate barriers to testing to align better with syphilis or other disease.

Garrett spoke about the positions taken by GACHA. There is concern about not providing enough information to individuals getting tested. There should be some conversation at the provider level – explaining results of the test. Maintaining confidential testing sites is a must. Other concerns mentioned were around who provides test results to the patient and the stigma and misunderstanding that still exist.

The following comments were made.

- Is counseling necessary for each visit/each patient? What should wording in the rule be?
- Counseling can be onerous to physicians.
- There are accountability issues for physicians if the rule regarding counseling is not followed.
- Routine testing is encouraged in high prevalent areas or for those with high-risk behaviors. Universal routine testing should not be encouraged otherwise because of cost effectiveness issues and it skews what is needed in a comprehensive HIV program/plan.
- Impediments need to be removed for providers.
- Consumers may test more frequently if some barriers such as counseling are removed.
- Counseling should be done by providers with expertise who can make referrals for services, etc.
- Pre-test and post-test counseling should be separate from testing.
- Public health would like to have HIV tests covered by insurance companies as routine care? Does Washington cover such tests?
- There is provider reluctance to testing due to barriers of counseling.
- Public health wants to maintain anonymous testing.
- Strongly endorsed changes to accept basic consent for medical services.
- No requirement for special counseling is recommended.
- There should be no requirement for special/specific consent for testing.
- Retention of names (patient and partners) for one year is proposed. The AIDSNET Council thinks one year is reasonable. Currently, retention is ninety days. Information on sexually transmitted diseases is retained indefinitely.
- Some sort of consent for testing should be maintained.
- All records should be kept inaccessible and protected from the criminal justice system.

Next steps:

- Work with the Assistant Attorney General
- Work with the State Board of Health sponsor, Dr. Patricia Ortiz
- Meet with the Secretary of Health, Mary Selecky, and discuss policy recommendations
- Another round of stakeholder meetings to disseminate a hard draft of the recommendations.
- October 2009 – Briefing tentatively at State Board of Health meeting in Yakima
- November 2009 – Hearing for approval at State Board of Health (if approved, changes become effective after 31 days)

AIDS Awareness and Action Day – Judith Billings and Mark Garrett

Billings felt this was very successful. There were approximately 300 participants at the February 18 event. Forty-four of forty-nine districts were represented. During the morning, attendees heard information from Lifelong AIDS Alliance regarding current issues which included funding. Visits with legislators were made in the afternoon and the level of knowledge of some was broadened. The experience overall was good commented Diggs-Hobson who attended for the first time.

Correctional Issues – Lara Strick

The Pierce County AIDS Foundation is running a pre-release program for positives released to the community which is sponsored by the DOH. An individual was just hired to run the program.

The blinded serostudy of men who refuse to be tested for HIV on entry to the corrections system continues. The number of positives found is small.

Lauren Fanning, pre-release planner, was introduced. The Department of Corrections has received letters of thanks for Lauren's work.

Strick is preceptoring a mid-level provider at ICE in Tacoma.

Direct inmate education around HCV and HIV is being done by the Hepatitis Education Project currently. There is pressure to cut the program.

Employee updates for DOC: Chief Medical Officer is Dr. Steve Hammond who replaces Dr. Marc Stern; Director of Health Services is Ken Taylor; and a new Dental Director was also hired. The Director of Nursing will not be replaced at this time.

Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) – Jeff Schouten

All abstracts and plenary sessions from CROI 2009 are available at <http://www.retroconference.org/2009>. Schouten is also presenting at the Madison Clinic on March 17.

2009 Workplan – David Lee

- PrEP Presentation/Discussion
- Public Forum
- Budget: State and Federal level
- DOH Report

Other

- HIV/AIDS Stigma and Women of Color – March 14 cosponsored by African American Reach and Teach Health (AARTH) Ministry
- HIV/AIDS Women of Color Health Conference – April 3 cosponsored by AARTH Ministry
- Newly formed Seattle East African AIDS Coalition – recommended that Council invite them to a future meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.