

Approved w/correction September 22, 2009

GACHA
Holiday Inn Express
May 12, 2009

Members Present:

Tim Hillard (by phone)
Susan Fabrikant, MSW
Judith Billings, JD
Michael McCoy
Charles Emlet, PhD,
ACSW
Mark Garrett
Lara Strick, MD, MPH,
DTMH
Bob Wood, MD
David Lee, MSW, MPH,
LICSW
Bob Harrington, MD
Wendy Doescher

Members Excused:

Robert Carroll, Ph.D (c), RN,
ACRN
Darlene McLeod
Jeff Schouten, MD, JD
Becky Mares
Steven Wakefield
Rev. Mary Diggs-Hobson
Lance Kissler

Members Unexcused:

Mendy Droke

Staff Present:

John Peppert
Brown McDonald
Lynn Johnigk

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Others Present:

Erick Seelbach, Lifelong
AIDS Alliance
Todd McCollough, Bristol
Myers Squibb

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by chair David Lee. Self-introductions were made.

The agenda was reviewed and the following change made.

Add: AIDS Watch - Billings

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2009

It was moved by McCoy to accept the minutes as printed. Seconded by Billings. Passed.

Chair Report – David Lee

The Seattle Transitional Grant Area received a 15 percent increase in funding from \$6.1M to \$6.9M.

Trainings

May 19 – AIDS Clinical Conference at Harborview Medical Center – Dr. Barnabas from Fred Hutchinson to present

June 4 in Moses Lake at Samaritan Hospital

June 11 and 12 – annual HIV and nurses conference on the University of Washington campus

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

Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) – Aggressive work is being done to reach 400 interviews in 2009.

On January 1, tracking of client level case management data began of those under Ryan White Part C and case management. This is a requirement of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Demographics and quality of care information is being gathered and each client's data is assigned a unique identifier. CAREWare is the primary program local providers will use to upload data to the Washington State DOH for additional encryption and submission to HRSA.

The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) and POZ Magazine are sponsoring the Denver Principles Project. The project goals are to reestablish the principles and increase self-empowerment. Membership in NAPWA is being solicited and will be covered for those unable to pay. The Pharmaceutical Research Manufacturers of American (PhRMA) was asked to donate to the project. Information is available at napwa.org.

Membership:

- The Governor's Office is working on reappointments. Peppert read an email from Stacey Tichenor, Boards and Commissions Assistant, stating her boss was reviewing applications and considering some issues. Peppert will follow-up in one week if no response received.
- Sending letters regarding low attendance will be discussed on the next Executive Committee call
- Darlene McLeod submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately.
- Susan Fabrikant is leaving the Spokane AIDS Network on June 25 to work with her husband in his business.

DOH Report – John Peppert

Legislature

HB 2360 stalled on the Senate floor. Representative Darneille explained the goal of the bill is to streamline services with the least impact to clients. She has asked Governor Gregoire to pass the bill by executive order.

State Budget

- The Early Intervention Program (EIP) was reduced by \$500,000 each year of the biennium. These reductions are manageable and can be taken internally. The EIP Steering Committee began working on possible changes in 2008 and made recommendations on ways to cut costs. The program has a 98% cap on expenditures.
- The reduction to the AIDSNETS Service delivery system is \$1,067,000 which will be taken in the first state fiscal year.
- In Family Planning and Reproductive Health, there is a reduction of \$500,000 in the first year and \$3.5M in the second year of the biennium.
- The Department of Health is required to reduce administrative costs by \$7.7M which will affect staff and programs. Tiers of cuts have been sent to Agency management for review and decision making.

Federal Budget

The annual National Association of State and Territorial Directors (NASTAD) meeting was held May 2 – 5. Peppert made hill visits to Mark Rupe, the Governor's policy person in DC, and staffers from the office of Senators Murray and Cantwell and Representative Inslee. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act is scheduled to sunset on September 30, 2009. Reauthorization does not seem high on anyone's agenda. There is an appropriation authority being sought within the President's budget if the Act is not reauthorized. Jeff Crowley, Director

of the National AIDS Policy Office, spoke at the meeting. His expertise is around healthcare financing.

NASTAD is sponsoring a meeting around the efficacy of syringe exchanges and how to implement one. Brown McDonald, DOH, and Michael Hanrahan, Public Health – Seattle and King County are invited attendees along with David Purchase, Point Defiance AIDS Project.

HIV/AIDS and STD programs have received a slight increase in funding for the next fiscal year.

AIDS Watch – Judith Billings

AIDS Watch was April 27 – 29 and was attended by over 300 individuals. Billings and Hillard made hill visits to all Congressional offices except Representative Rogers-McMorris.

Informational packets were left at each office and Hillard received calls from several staffers asking for additional information.

There is a consensus document (areas of dissention also included) which has signers from 170 organizations. Policy priorities stated within the document are to:

- Create a national AIDS strategy,
- Expand the federal role,
- Improve Medicare,
- Improve Medicaid,
- Strengthen Ryan White programs,
- Promote evidence-based prevention,
- Do away with abstinence education funding,
- Increase appropriations,
- Pass the Real Act, and
- Lift the ban on federal funding.

The consensus document is available to the following websites: NAPWA; FAPP; and the AIDS Institute. NAPWA's site also includes HIV funding information.

Public Forum – David Lee

Whether to host another public forum, as the Council has in past years, was discussed by the Executive Committee in April, but no emerging issue was identified. Hillard suggested that a public forum could focus on the impact that current budgetary and policy changes might have on HIV service delivery. After much discussion and by consensus, the Council decided to have a meeting of stakeholders. Discussion would center on current changes and proposed changes, and ways for the community to be proactive in order to lessen the impact of these changes, and to possibly direct the future of HIV/AIDS services and prevention in the state. Representatives from the following groups would be invited to this meeting would include local health jurisdictions, AIDS service organizations (ASOs), Ryan White funded clinics, the AIDSNet Council as well as Representative Darneille. Representative Darneille stated that such a forum would be helpful for her to represent the community when policy and funding changes come before her.

Next step:

Lee requested an ad hoc committee be established for the purpose of pulling together a public forum to decide on forum content and stakeholder participants. DOH will coordinate.

AIDSNET Report – Wendy Doescher

The AIDSNet Council has been following HB 2360 closely.

Correctional Issues – Lara Strick

The Department of Corrections (DOC) will provide condoms to inmates for extended family visits. The policy will be reassessed if problems arise. Strick asked if GACHA would want to take a stand on condoms in prison. The Executive Committee will discuss at their next meeting.

The blinded serostudy of men who refuse voluntary HIV testing on entry to the corrections system is being completed. One thousand tests were done with two cases found.

A recent report followed up on the eighty-eight seroconversions found in the Georgia prison system over an eleven year period. It was found that the risk behaviors of those individuals decreased after their diagnosis.

The University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) is partnering with their Department of Corrections around effective drug treatment strategies in the prison setting. The partnership will focus on four areas.

Some inmates are now being billed for the HIV medications they receive while in jail. Access to medical care is guaranteed for individuals but there can be a charge for medications administered.

Barriers to Routine HIV Testing – John Peppert

The final draft of the revised WACs will be presented at meeting on May 21 in Olympia and June 16 in Spokane. Here is a summary of the revisions.

- Local health officers authority to conduct HIV partner notification
 - Strengthen the requirements for local health officials to contact a health care provider to seek the provider's recommendation prior to initiating contact with an HIV positive person.
 - It is no longer required for provider consent to be obtained by a local public health officer prior to contacting the HIV positive person.
 - It is required for full post test counseling and referral to be part of the partner notification process.
- Retention of partner notification records that contain both information on the HIV infected person and needle sharing or sexually partners is extended from three month to twelve month.
- Consent for HIV testing, pre and post test counseling

Domestic partner is now included with spouse in this revision but could be removed depending on pending legal action.

Routine HIV Testing – David Lee

The complete presentation is attached.

There was discussion about payment of testing at the end of the presentation.

It was moved by Hillard that a letter be sent to Governor Gregoire recommending passage of a law similar to California's regarding payment for routine HIV screening by insurers and asking for her support of bills on the federal level regarding screening. Seconded by Strick. Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.