



PENNSYLVANIA HIV PREVENTION COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

A quarterly publication of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of HIV/AIDS

Youth Theater Demonstration Projects

A formal progress report on the Youth Theater Demonstration Projects will be distributed at the 15 March 2000 meeting of the Planning Committee. This report is to serve as a brief update on the project.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this targeted Demonstration Project is to employ HIV risk-reduction principles and to endeavor to meet the primary and secondary HIV prevention needs of sexually active gay, bisexual, African American and Latino/a youth between the ages of 13 and 24, through a *theater-based, peer-based, outreach* intervention.

METHOD: The demonstration project is based on the NiteStar theater program (New York, New York). Through theatrical presentations (knowledge and skill-based scenarios) by peers and a series of follow-up, facilitated discussions (led by an HIV prevention and group specialist and including the young acting company), high-risk youth in a variety of venues will be target.

This Demonstration Project will be implemented on four (4) levels:

Track I: actors
Track II: small groups
Track III: large group
Track IV: small group

For year two of the project, agencies will be focusing only on Tracks I, II, and III. Track IV (small group with repeated contact over time/knowledge, intention, and behavior change) will be introduced in year three (2001) of the project.

LOCATIONS: The following agencies have been funded to implement this project in Erie, Pittsburgh, and Wilkes-Barre:

Artists Incorporated (Erie, PA), Pittsburgh Playback Theater (Pittsburgh, PA), Wilkes University (Wilkes-Barre, PA)

PROGRESS: 1 July 1999 to 31 December 1999 was a start-up and pilot phase for the projects. During this time the agencies, recruited a young acting company, developed scenarios that emanated from young actors, established a community advisory board, rehearsed the scenarios, participated in HIV prevention workshops, attend a technical assistance conference (September 1999) in Pittsburgh, enlisted local community experts to provide technical assistance, created monitoring/evaluation instruments, and conducted a minimum of two (2) pilot performances.

The University of Pittsburgh staff conducted site visits with each of the agencies and observed one of the agency's pilot performances. Following the site visits in November and December 1999,

Pitt provided feedback to each agency regarding their pilot performance and the development of their projects to this point. The pilot phase of the project will continue until 31 March 2000. This will allow the agencies to continue to refine their productions and to incorporate the feedback gathered during the pilot performances.

FUTURE DIRECTION: The 2000 Request for Continuation of Funding (RCF) was distributed to the agencies during the week of 10 January 2000. Each agency is required to submit a progress report, 2000 workplan, goal and objectives, and budget for year two of the project. Completed RCFs are due 14 February 2000.

From 1 April 2000 to 31 December 2000, the agencies' goals will be to reach a minimum of 2,500 youth from the target populations (sexually active gay, bisexual, African American and Latino youth, ages 13-24).

Again, the 1999 progress report will be distributed at the March 2000 Planning Committee meeting. For additional information, please contact Michael Shankle at 412.383.2612 or at shankle@stophiv.pitt.edu, or John Faber at 1.800.445.9573 or at faber+@pitt.edu

Community Co-Chair Election

At the November meeting of the HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee Richard L. Shaw of New Hope, Bucks County was re-elected to serve as the Community Co-Chair in the year 2000. Ric has been a member of the HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee since 1995 and served as the Co-Chair in 1999. Ric has been active with HIV prevention and care services since 1987 and works at a construction firm.

The Community Co-Chair serves with the Department of Health Co-Chair Joseph M. Pease in setting the agendas and convening the meetings. In addition Co-Chairs resolve Planning Committee conflicts, assist in coordinating subcommittees, and represent the Committee to the public. **The most important task of the Co-Chairs is to ensure that a comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan is developed in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

Managed Care and HIV Prevention

Advice relative to HIV prevention and managed care was presented at the January meeting of the HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee in Harrisburg. Jeff Levi, Ph.D. Assistant Research Professor at the Center for Health Services Research and Policy, George Washington University

presented the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) managed care-purchasing specifications for the prevention and medical management of HIV/AIDS. Carol Ranck, R.N. (former Committee member), Director of the Special Needs Division of the Bureau of Managed Care Operations, Office of Medical Assistance Programs, Department of Public Welfare presented the Pennsylvania managed care program.

Specifications for managed care organizations were reviewed through a series of meetings to verify their accuracy with State Medicaid and public health officials, health care providers, managed care organization representatives and consumers. Due to variations in purchasers; financing options, policy preferences, and legal duties, there is no single correct method for covering and delivering care, particularly in an area as complex as HIV/AIDS. These specifications offer technical assistance to public and private purchasers interested in tailoring their contracts to create high quality systems of care for people with HIV/AIDS. All provisions are modular and can be used either in their entirety or on an item-by-item basis and integrated into other purchasing documents. The specifications are posted on the Center for Health Services Research and Policy's website (www.gwu.edu/~chsrp).

Carol Ranck provided the Committee with an overview of the managed care system in

Pennsylvania and what they can accomplish relative to HIV prevention. Provider education, member prevention education programs, partnering with community services organizations, and disease management were some of the topics of discussion. To further the discussion a dialogue could be developed with state channels such as the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee or the Managed Care Association of Pennsylvania.

The HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee established an ad-hoc HIV Prevention and Managed Care Subcommittee to further examine how the Committee can work within the Pennsylvania system to promote HIV prevention within managed care.

Year 2000 Plan Update

The Year-Two Update of the multi-year HIV prevention plan submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention submitted in September 1999 has been approved with less funding than what was requested. The Plan Update directs the funding of several community-based HIV prevention interventions that were outlined within the September HIV Prevention Community Planning Update newsletter. In addition, the Plan Update addresses several of the concerns raised within the independent federal review of the multi-year Plan submitted in September 1998. Most striking is the shift in priority populations from the initial 13 identified within the multi-year Plan.

Due to a much more comprehensive development of the epidemiological profile the following priority populations have been presented: (1) Black Male injection drug users (IDU) and their female sex partners, (2) White men who have sex with men (MSM), (3) Black MSM, (4) Hispanic male IDU and their heterosexual sex partners, (5) Black female IDU and their sex partners, (6) female heterosexuals, (7) White male IDU and their heterosexual female sex partners, (8) White female IDU and their sex partners, (9) Hispanic female IDU and their sex partners, (10) Hispanic MSM, and (11) currently incarcerated substance users and those with a history of incarceration and substance use. The Prevention Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee is developing an instrument to continue to refine the process of selecting priority populations.

The Committee will be concentrating on focus groups and key informant interviews for each of the identified priority populations over the next two years. In addition, time is set aside at each Committee meeting to discuss from the expertise of the Committee each of the priority populations. The model presented by John Encandella, Ph.D. of the Pennsylvania Prevention Project is that the Plan is supported by the epidemiological profile, needs assessment, and evaluation. All three areas will need continual refinement. However, since last years concentration focussed on the epidemiological profile and the evaluation is ongoing with special funding for the development of comprehensive

evaluation, needs assessment is the current supportive leg needing improvement.

The Plan Update was highly praised for the epidemiological profile as being innovative in its excellent graphic representations of data, thorough narrative, break out of urban from statewide epidemiology, and a collaborative process between Epidemiologists and non-Epidemiologists to produce an accessible and useful planning tool. Reviewers also noted that the implementation of Youth and Young Adult Round Tables to incorporate outside community input into the planning process is exemplary.

New Committee Members Orientation

New Committee members will be selected in mid February for a three year term on the Committee. They will participate at an orientation for new members on 14 March and attend their first Committee meeting on 15 March. There will be about a 25% turnover in Committee members this year. In particular, members are being sought in the Ryan White Regional HIV/AIDS Planning Coalitions of the North Central, South Central, and TPAC counties surrounding Philadelphia. In addition, members from the African American and hemophilia communities are needed.

Community-Based Initiatives 1999 Summary

Serenity Hall of Erie is funded for a Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) street outreach demonstration project. This project will provide primary and secondary HIV prevention among African American and Latino MSM's, many of whom have drug histories. This project will increase exposure and access to HIV/AIDS information, distribute condoms, bleach kits, and literature. The Association of Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) model of street outreach will be utilized. In addition, the project will provide education and prevention with pre/post counseling and testing using Orasure. Referrals will be made for clinical and social support for health and mental health care, substance abuse treatment and services, and other daily living needs.

AIDS Resource Alliance of Williamsport will also provide an MSM street outreach project to African Americans under 25 years of age. This project will increase HIV awareness, motivate the development of skills and ability to assess and reduce HIV risk-related behaviors and make healthy behavior choices, referrals for comprehensive health care and supportive services, substance abuse referrals, building community networks to support HIV prevention, linking with the local community leadership development and community-wide planning components of the Pennsylvania Prevention Project

in Williamsport, engaging in one-to-one street contacts, and distributing bleach kits, condoms, and literature.

AIDS Community Alliance will provide street outreach to injection drug users (IDU's) and their sexual partners in the Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Lewistown communities. This project proposes primary and secondary HIV prevention to IDU's through drug and alcohol treatment programs, using peers in recovery to assist others in avoiding infection and transmission.

York Health Corporation will provide primary and secondary HIV prevention to African American and Latino/a IDU's and their sexual partners through street outreach. This project proposes increasing accessibility of services for primary and secondary HIV prevention, HIV risk reduction and education, reinforcing outreach efforts by providing referral and access to primary medical and dental care, case management services and a range of clinical, supportive and clinical social services, and services for daily living.

New Directions for Treatment Services will provide street outreach to Latina and African American women to reduce perinatal transmission. The project proposes providing HIV antibody testing and counseling, providing case management and referral services, conducting peer prevention and education groups through "home parties" and "baby showers," distributing condoms and literature, ensuring prompt drug and alcohol treatment for

pregnant women, and referring for comprehensive health care.

The Community Leadership Development Initiative (CLD) was designed to promote HIV counseling and testing among men who have sex with men and racial/ethnic minorities. CLD groups across the state have been meeting since 1995. Those groups have sponsored numerous events around HIV prevention, emphasizing counseling and testing as the first step. In 1999, CLD groups were active with minority and MSM groups in Erie, Williamsport, and York.

The Community-Wide Planning Project (CWP) began in 1997. The goal of the project is to replicate the state community planning process for HIV prevention at the local level. The initiative focused on assisting community groups to design HIV prevention interventions tailored to local needs and to develop proposals that could be funded to implement the intervention. The anticipated outcome of the effort is a funded proposal that evolves out of the community planning process based on "best practices," important elements in local HIV prevention programs. The most effective planning takes place at the local level, the most effective planning includes broad, representative participation from the community, and those individuals most affected by the disease must be full and active participants in each phase of the planning process. Currently Community-Wide Planning is taking place in various stages in the Erie, Williamsport, and York.

HIV Prevention Community Planning Profiles

The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) recently released the third in a series of multiple case studies of community planning. This is a continuing effort by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to evaluate the HIV prevention community planning initiative. The following are just a few of the highlights of that report. Most planning groups (CPGs) have restructured some or all of their committees to improve their efficiency. As the initial momentum of the planning process abates, CPGs are experiencing member "burnout" and a loss of membership. A key challenge is achieving a membership that not only represents the epidemic but also possesses the skills to participate in a process that is becoming more sophisticated and demanding as it matures. Nonetheless, even those critical of the initiative acknowledged it has become an important force in shaping the local and national dialogue concerning HIV prevention and has transformed approaches to HIV prevention and relations between participants in the process.

stophiv.com Internet Project

Since the opening of the stophiv.com web site in July 1997, the Internet site has undergone numerous changes and advancements. In July 1997, the Pennsylvania Prevention Project

Internet site became publicly accessible at URL: <http://www.stophiv.com>. This site is now listed in over 700 search engines and directories. On 24 November 1997 an official web access counter was added to the main homepage. The counter tracks the number of "hits" or how many times the page is accessed. As of September 1999 the site has experienced over 163,112 hits, with an average of 173 hits per day. The average session lasts almost 13 minutes, while the most popular day is Wednesday, and the most popular time is between 2 and 3 PM.

The Pennsylvania HIV/AIDS Service Provider Resource Directory is a secondary prevention continuum of care directory that assists clients, providers, family, and friends in locating needed services. The Resource Directory contains over 1,325 HIV/AIDS service providers from across the Commonwealth covering a wide range of services. Currently, clients are able to locate services and/or providers by clicking on a county of reference. After selecting a county, the database displays all of the services available in that county.

In addition: (1) the homepage contains access to the current multi-year HIV Prevention Plan, the Year Two Plan Update, and the current epidemiological profile. (2) Current research indicates that personal perspectives are one of the most effective methods of prevention. The Project continues to gather personal perspectives or stories related to HIV/AIDS and post

them at the web site. (3) The Pennsylvania Department of Welfare Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program have made available online the SPBP eligibility requirements and applications. The program also provides free viral load testing to eligible individuals. (4) A "Facts and Myths" section has been developed to assure that individuals have access to general information about infection. (5) The Internet staff continues to work with the members of the Pennsylvania Young Adult Roundtable project to develop and maintain their web page which functions both as an educational piece for other young adults and serves as a communication link to the members of the Roundtables. (6) A funding announcement list server has been developed. (7) Selected pages of the stophiv.com web site are currently being translated into Spanish.

The stophiv.com web site has been awarded the Pennsylvania Site of the Day Destination and the American Public Health Association Annual Health Education Materials Contest Award.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PHONE GUIDE

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This Newsletter Is Now Available
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[This newsletter is produced at the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Prevention Project for the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Division of HIV/AIDS Pennsylvania HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee. In addition, this quarterly newsletter is intended to keep the traditionally non HIV Prevention community posted of the activities of the Pennsylvania HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee and is distributed by the Division of HIV/AIDS]