



# PENNSYLVANIA HIV PREVENTION COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

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

## **New HIV Prevention Committee Members**

---

The planning process for the development of the year 2000 HIV Prevention Plan has been accelerated. The appointment of new Committee members and their orientation was moved from April (appointment) and May (orientation) to February and March respectively. This will provide two full days in May to commence development of the Plan.

New Committee members, Jazmine Brockington of Pittsburgh, Sonny Concepcion of Erie, Lewis El of Pittsburgh, Rodrigo Gereda of Kingston, Lorraine Hazlett of Roslyn, and Dianna Pagan of Hamburg were appointed. Shaista Ajaz of King of Prussia was also elected by the Young Adult Roundtable Executive Committee to serve on the Committee.

Six of the seven new Committee members attended a one-day orientation on 16 March in Harrisburg and their first Committee meeting on 17 March. Each new Committee member is assigned a mentor from the current experienced Committee. Mentors assist new members in the logistics of attending and participating as well as provide much needed interpretations and support in the process of developing the annual HIV

prevention plan for the Commonwealth excluding Philadelphia.

Applications were distributed throughout the Commonwealth as well as posted on the [stophiv.com](http://stophiv.com) website. An adhoc Committee composed of current Committee members reviewed the applications and made recommendations for membership. Particular attention is placed upon gender, racial/ethnic, and geographic parity of the Committee. In addition, the Committee must also represent the current HIV/AIDS epidemiological profile in Pennsylvania.

The Committee is now composed of 40 members with Joseph Pease Director of the Division of HIV/AIDS as the Health Department Co-Chair and Richard L. Shaw of New Hope as the Community Co-Chair. The group is poised to begin developing the Plan at two-day meetings in May, July, and August for submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by Friday 17 September.

## **New Demonstration Projects for 1999**

---

The Pennsylvania Prevention Project at the Graduate School of Public Health with funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Health will fund various

community demonstration projects commencing in 1999. The priority populations follow the Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan for 1999 as well as the community demonstration project guidelines adopted by the Pennsylvania HIV Prevention Planning Committee in January 1998.

(1) A three year staged process is to be utilized to develop community demonstration projects. The first two years are to be supported with oversight and monitoring from the Pennsylvania Prevention Project staff. Oversight and monitoring could be continued within the third year if unique circumstances indicate the need. (2) Community demonstration projects are aware from their inception that this is a three-year process and in particular the third year will be spent in developing alternative support and funding if the project is successful with its HIV prevention intervention. The community demonstration projects will be involved in all phases of the planning for self-sufficiency and termination of their funding from the Pennsylvania Prevention Project. (3) If Community demonstration projects are successful their development and process of HIV prevention will be written for dissemination to other communities. If community demonstration projects are not successful final evaluations will elucidate key issues and pitfalls

for future HIV prevention interventions.

A demonstration project is an intervention with the intended purpose of testing innovations and having potential for replication. This “testing” is done with evaluations that implement or approximate scientific methods. The Pennsylvania Prevention Project requested and received proposals that are currently being evaluated for implementation this summer in the following areas:

A demonstration project in the Lehigh Valley, which is **targeted at the prevention of perinatal HIV transmission among Latinas and African American women in the communities that constitute the Lehigh Valley**. This community-based project will endeavor to meet the HIV prevention needs of Latinas and other women of color through a program that includes comprehensive health care, particularly prenatal care, a comprehensive network for referrals, education, skills-training/development and behavior change.

A demonstration project in Central Pennsylvania, which is **targeted for the prevention of HIV transmission among injection drug users and their sexual partners, with an emphasis on Latinos and African Americans in the communities that constitute Central Pennsylvania**. This community-based project will endeavor to meet the HIV prevention needs of Latinos, African Americans, and other people of color who use injection drugs. This program will include:

primary and secondary HIV prevention; coordinated system of referral for comprehensive health care; referral network for substance abuse treatment; educational programs or risk reduction, skills-training/development and behavior change; and a system of referral for other human services.

A demonstration project in four sites across the state, **Northwestern, North Central, Southwestern, and Northeastern Pennsylvania, targeting men who have sex with men (MSM), especially MSM of color**. This program will include: primary and secondary HIV prevention; coordinated system of referral for comprehensive health care; referral network for substance abuse treatment; education in risk-reduction, skills-training/development and behavior change.

A demonstration project that **targets youth in the areas of Erie, Pittsburgh, and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton**. This targeted demonstration project will be based on HIV risk-reduction principles and will be an adoption of the Nite –Star theater program (formerly STAR Theater) in New York City. This targeted demonstration project will endeavor to meet the **primary and secondary needs of gay, bisexual, African American and Latino/a youth between the ages of 13 and 21 through a theater-based, peer outreach intervention**. Youth from local Young adult Roundtables and from the Young Adult Roundtable Executive Committee will be involved in the formation,

implementation, and evaluation of this demonstration project.

### **Community Planning Leadership Summit For HIV Prevention**

---

The fifth Community Planning Leadership Summit for HIV Prevention was conducted at the Pittsburgh Hilton and Towers from Wednesday 24 March through Saturday 27 March. Pennsylvania, as the host state, formed a host committee that participated in the review and selection of abstracts; created an exhibit booth; provided poster sessions, workshops, and roundtables; provided “best practices” for a swap table; worked with securing entertainment; provided guides to the city of Pittsburgh; created and staffed a lounge for persons living with HIV/AIDS; and recruited volunteers to serve as session monitors, to assist in registration and logistics. The Host Committee was composed of members from the Pennsylvania HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee, the Philadelphia HIV Prevention Planning Group, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Prevention Project of the Graduate School of Public Health University of Pittsburgh.

This year’s event had over 1,000 participants representing many of the 65 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HIV prevention funded jurisdictions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) subcontracts with the National Minority AIDS

Council (NMAC) with co-sponsors representing the Academy for Educational Development (AED) and the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors for this annual event. The Summit is presented in partnership with Advocates for Youth (AFY), American Psychological Association (APA), Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC), and the United States – Mexico Border Health Association (US – MBHA).

The opening plenary provided an engaging historical review of the Congressional Black Caucus' securing of \$156 million for the State of Emergency for HIV/AIDS in the African American Community. This year's pathway topic and theme were incorporated into one goal: "Measuring Our Success." Workshop, roundtable, and poster session tracks included Effective Interventions, Managing the Process: Leadership Skills for Community Planning; Parity, Inclusion, and Representation; and Steps of Community Planning. In addition, each participant jurisdiction provided copies of materials considered "best practices" of HIV prevention community planning at a Saturday morning swap session. Pennsylvania provided information on Young Adult Roundtables, Youth Empowerment Project, A Guide to Community Organizing for HIV Prevention Among Adolescents and Young Adults, Community-

Based Initiatives and Leadership Development, the award winning sotphiv.com web-site, and HIV Prevention: A Unique Collaboration Between Government, Academia, and the Community. Participants enjoyed the brisk weather of the Pittsburgh community and evaluations and conversations indicate much was gained from the sessions as well as networking.

### **Pennsylvania Young Adult Roundtables Continues 1999 Recruitment**

---

The Pennsylvania Young Adult Roundtable project, now entering its fifth year and funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health/Division of HIV/AIDS, is one means of providing the PA HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee with HIV prevention needs assessment data for young people.

This year the Lehigh Valley was relocated from its current home in Allentown to the Reading Area. The Roundtable project was expanded with the addition of a new Roundtable based in the Harrisburg area.

Once again, we are seeking assistance in recruiting new Roundtable members. As in the case each year, we are seeking new members to compensate for the thirty percent attrition rate among Roundtable members in each group: Erie, Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, Pittsburgh, Suburban Philadelphia, Wilkes Barre, Williamsport, and York.

The groups resumed meeting the last week of February 1999, at which time all members went through an orientation of the project. It was decided to continue recruitment until May 1999.

Roundtable members are typically sexually active youth between the ages of 13 – 21 and at risk of HIV infection. In 1998, the Roundtable Executive Committee identified which youth are most at risk for HIV infection and, therefore, most qualified to participate in the Roundtables. Youth who are most at risk for HIV infection are youth who are: participating in unprotected anal, oral, or vaginal sex; sharing needles; gay; bisexual; African American/Latino men who has sex with men (MSMs); living in urban (city) environments; injection drug users; living in low socio-economic conditions; sex workers or runaways; heterosexual females, especially, African American and Latina; STD/STI positive; or HIV positive. Roundtable members should be mature enough to participate in a group with peers and to discuss planning needs and other HIV-related issues.

Roundtable groups are facilitated by University of Pittsburgh staff and meet every other month for three hours. Adult members (mentors) of the PA HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee attend Roundtable meetings, which are closed and confidential. Each group is comprised of specifically targeted young people, for example: sexual or racial minorities. Each member is paid an honorarium for

participation in and travel to meetings.

If you know of youth that fit the above criteria and would make a valuable addition to the Roundtable process, please contact John Faber at 1.800.445.9573 before May 1. This is an opportunity to empower young adults in your area and improve the HIV prevention effort. For more information, visit the Roundtable web site at <http://www.stophiv.com/yart> or call 1.800.445.9573.

*[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 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]*

#### COMMUNITY PLANNING PHONE GUIDE

Joseph M. Pease  
DOH, Co-Chair  
**(717) 783-0572**

Richard L. Shaw  
Community Co-Chair  
**(215) 598-7500**

Rodger L. Beatty  
Facilitator  
**(412) 383-1775**  
**(412) 383-1513 FAX**

This Newsletter Is Now Available  
Online At <http://www.stophiv.com>