



Central AZ HIV Prevention Advocates



**Full Group Meeting July 10, 2007
1366 E Thomas Rd. Suite 108, Phoenix AZ
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Jack Addington, David Aguirre, Delono Ashley, Lorraine Brown, Victor Byrd, Kathy Donner, Dr. AreNa Guthrie, Scott Haverstock, Kelli Houston, Dennis Huff, Barr Jenkins, Mary Leasor, Ty Lopez, Jim Miller, Diana Mitchell, Brin Scott, RJ Shannon, Lisa Shumaker, Larry Stähli, Cathy Torrez-Paddack, Jason Vail Cruz

Excused Absences: Alisa Cusseaux, Teisha Doyle-Shoudis, Erica Ferguson, Bev Foust, Trudie Jackson, Victor Pawlak

Order:

Larry Stähli called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. Larry reviewed housekeeping items. Introductions were made. Jason Vail Cruz volunteered as Time Monitor and Cathy Paddack volunteered as Process Monitor.

Gecko Grapevine:

Mary Leasor presented the group with a brief description of what the group's purpose is and its role as an advisory body to the AZ Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the statewide planning group, the HIV Prevention Planning Group of AZ (PPGA).

She provided the group with the co-chair contact information:

Mary Leasor	(602) 506-6009	maryleasor@mail.maricopa.gov
Dennis Huff	(602) 279-5262 ext 3201	dhuff@nachci.com
Larry Stähli	(602) 896-9300	ishnatah@mac.com

Members approved the May 8, 2007 minutes.

Cathy Paddack provided a PPGA update for members. The PPGA met on June 11, 2007 and heard updates from the national, state and regional levels. Members also had small group discussions to brainstorm future prevention strategies and how the state could organize differently.

Mary reminded members that the Research and Funding committee was hosting a capacity building workshop on July 14-15, 2007. There were a dozen people who registered. Mary will report on the event at the Sept. full group meeting.

Larry announced that the Membership Committee has its next meeting scheduled for Monday, Aug. 6, 2007 from 11:30 AM- 1 PM at the Maricopa County Dept. of Public Health offices at 4041 N Central Ave, Phoenix in the 15th floor Joshua conference room. He noted that the committee is working to host various prevention trainings on the off months from the full group meetings. The first training will be "HIV Prevention and Substance Abuse" presented by Cathy Paddack on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2007 from 4-6 PM at the Maricopa County Dept. of Public Health offices at 4041 N Central Ave, Phoenix in the 14th floor training room. This training is for Prevention Advocates members and the general community. Those who wish to attend need to RSVP to Mary by Friday, Aug. 10, 2007.

The Membership committee approved three new member applications: Jack Addington, Todd Evans, and Bev Foust. The group welcomed the new members.

The co-chairs will be hosting a New Member Orientation on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2007 from 4-6 PM at the Native Health offices (4520 N. Central Ave, Phoenix) in the 3rd floor conference room. New members as well as seasoned members who want a refresher are strongly encouraged to attend.

Dennis Huff presented the idea of the HIV Prevention Advocates holding a HIV Prevention Street fair/health fair. He had read that a group in New York, the Yonkers HIV/AIDS Providers Task Force (YHAPTF), has one each year. Members were given copies of the article as well as information from the YHAPTF website. Dennis and Mary suggested it could be a project the group works on during the full group meetings. The fair could be held in local shopping center parking lots and similar venues. Since it would take time to organize, the group could plan to host an event in the spring.

Cathy suggested working with the Hepatitis C Coalition since they have 501©3 status. RJ Shannon added that the Hep C Coalition wants to do a similar outreach fair. Cathy suggested collaborating more with the group and possibly joining together since its membership is down and many people are members of both the HIV Prevention Advocates and the Hep C Coalition. Mary suggested having a larger discussion at the next meeting when Bev Foust (chairwoman of the Hep C Coalition) could attend. Members agreed to put the discussion on the Sept. meeting agenda.

Ryan White Planning Council report:

Larry Stähli reported that the Planning Council received a 4% increase in funding which is good news, especially since other large metropolitan areas such as New York City, received decreases. The Council is still waiting to hear on the Minority AIDS Initiative funding that will be for a 3 year award.

The next Planning Council meeting will be held Thursday, July 12, 2007 from 5-6:30 PM at the Area Agency on Aging (1366 E. Thomas Rd) in the 1st floor conference room. All are welcome to attend. For more information contact Planning Council Support at (602) 506-5002.

Hepatitis C Coalition report:

Bev Foust and Victor Pawlak were absent and unable to give a report. The group will discuss ways to collaborate more at the Sept. full group meeting.

The next Hepatitis C Coalition meeting will be on Friday, Aug. 3, 2007 from 11:30 AM- 1 PM at the Area Agency on Aging (1366 E Thomas Rd. Phoenix). For more information, go to <http://www.hepcaz.net>

Project Hard Hat presentation:

Jack Addington gave the group an overview of Project Hard Hat. Project Hard Hat is a 501©3, grassroots organization that was formed in 2004. Its mission is to provide condoms out in the community. The group operates solely on donations and volunteer time. They provide condoms in 30 venues and gave out 121,000 condoms in 2006. Project Hard Hat also produces advertising materials for its program and wants to do more advertising on the internet. The group recently had a booth at the Pride event in Phoenix. Jack added that he is interested in collaborating with local prevention providers and can go out to events. For more information contact Jack at (602) 357-4390 or email him at jack@projecthardhat.org

Announcements:

- ⓧ Cathy Paddock reminded members about the SAVORlife fundraiser organized by the Aunt Rita's Foundation to benefit the smaller HIV/AIDS organizations. The event will be on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007 at the Sandra Day O'Connor United States Courthouse. Aunt Rita's is looking for corporate sponsors as well as artists to design plates that will be auctioned off at the event. For more information go to <http://www.auntritasfoundation.org>

- ✂ Cathy added that Aunt Rita's will also be the lead organization for the 2008 AIDS Walk of the Valley to be held in Oct. 2008.
- ✂ Jason Vail Cruz announced that the Phoenix World AIDS Day committee will be meeting Thursday, July 12, 2007 at the ADHS Offices (150 N. 18th Ave. Phoenix) in room 115B from 11:30 AM- 1 PM. The committee is planning the event to be bigger than last year. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting and help plan.
- ✂ The Rev. Dr. AreNa Guthrie announced that she is working with various churches to develop HIV ministries and get HIV testing into churches. She is training church members on HIV and is looking to partner with local HIV/AIDS organizations. Dr. Guthrie can be reached at (480) 238-5075 or apostle_arena@yahoo.com
- ✂ Lorraine Brown announced that HIV Testing Day on June 27, 2007 at the Fresh Start Women's Center was a success. Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon was tested on TV. Over 150 people were tested. She thanked all who helped in organizing the event.
- ✂ RJ Shannon added that she wanted to thank OraSure for providing staff to advertise the event and giving away Hep C home testing kits. Three ADHS staff also went to the Arizona Diamondbacks game the night before testing day and had a table. Next year they plan to do a presentation on the field. Ebony House will now be testing regularly at the Women's Center as a result of the successful testing day event.

DBHS HIV Early Intervention Program presentation:

Lisa Shumaker from the Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services, presented on the HIV Early Intervention Program. The program targets persons who have a behavioral health disorder. Lisa gave an overview of the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs) and the Tribal Regional Health Authorities (TRBHAs) that are contracted by ADHS to deliver behavioral health services. In Maricopa County, ValueOptions is the RBHA until Aug. 31, 2007 when it switches to Magellan. Cenpatico Behavioral Health is the RBHA for Pinal County.

The HIV Early Intervention Program is funded out of a federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block grant which says 5% (currently \$1.6 million) of the grant must be set-aside for the HIV services. The program serves persons with substance abuse disorders and offers HIV education, counseling, testing, case management and treatment engagement. The program is collaborating with the ADHS Office of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis C Services on items such as program standards, training and reporting.

Lisa highlighted the TERROS program funded by ValueOptions out of the HIV Early Intervention Program. The TERROS program provides mobile HIV services for substance abuse treatment sites and SMI case management sites as well as a drop-in center for homeless, substance abusing persons at risk for HIV.

For more information on the HIV Early Intervention Program, contact Lisa at shumakl@azdhs.gov

Meeting Adjourned:

Mary adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM. **The next full group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Area Agency on Aging at 1366 E. Thomas Rd, Phoenix in the 1st floor conference room.** Please contact Mary for more information at (602) 506-6009.

Minutes prepared by Mary Leasor, MSW, Central AZ HIV Prevention Advocates Coordinator.