

Sexually Transmitted Infection Community Coalition Meeting

Minutes

Location: Arlington County Health Department
Fenwick Building
800 S. Walter Reed Dr.
Arlington, VA 22204

Date & Time: October 11, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Paulette Jackson, Colleen Crowley, John Heath, Melissa Sellevaag (DCSTD), Letitia Black, Jean Wilks, Claudia Queen (DCDOH) Irwin Royster (PPMW); Anthony Cook, Maegan Macrano (Unity), Gwen Anderson, Vanessa Jones (PG HD); Sifarra D. Martin (Arlington, DHS); Steven Hazel (NOVAM)

Meeting Called 10:10am

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

Review of minutes from September Meeting.

Minutes approved by voice vote

Mr. Royster thanked Arlington County for hosting the meeting.

2. Coalition Subcommittee Updates:

a. Ad Hoc 501 (c) 3: There were no updates from this committee.

b. Outreach: Ms. Sellevaag updated the committee on the planned Halloween outreach events. Representatives from several agencies met via conference call to discuss possible outreach events for Halloween. Suggestions were made to target the local college/universities. Ms. Sellevaag has made attempts to contact Dr. Carolyn Goode of HU to discuss engaging HU in outreach events specifically around their homecoming. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Jones of PG County Health Department reported that their program routinely tests on the campus of Bowie State on Wednesdays and will be doing so on Halloween and Homecoming (Oct 27th). *They requested assistance from counselors and phlebotomists for the testing effort. Screening will take place for syphilis and ct/gc.*

Ms. Sellevaag further reported that the outreach committee plans to supply the club Apex with condom kits for their over 18 night on Thursday Nov 1st as well as Freddie's Bar in Crystal City. It is the only "gay bar" in No Va and has historically been very receptive to outreach efforts. Finally the committee suggested participation of STICC in the High Heel Race on 17th Street on 10/30. Outreach will occur in the crowds supplying testing information and condoms. Two members offered to participate in the race as Madame Syphilis and Ms. Gonorrhoea to draw awareness to the STDs and testing opportunities. **All agencies are invited to have their clinic/agency information included in the Halloween packets for distribution. Contact Ms. Sellevaag to coordinate the collection of that information.**

c. Website: Mr. Ehlman was unable to attend but provided a report on the status of the website. The home page for the STICC website is complete and the other pages

will be ready to test in the upcoming weeks. Mr. Ehlman has been making contact with the providers identified on the website to ensure their willingness to participate and the accuracy of their information. He requested that as the website goes live to please check your information listed to ensure it is accurate. The website will have testing locations throughout the metropolitan area.

The InSPOT website will be up and running in a few weeks. The company managing the website is in the final stages of checking the accuracy of information for testing locations. Members will be notified when it is operational.

3. School Screening Update

Mr. Heath reported that the school screening project is moving forward with planning and execution. Mr. Heath is currently planning a meeting with Dr. Cano to discuss engagement with Chancellor Rhee. He believes that she will be more receptive than previous DCPS administrators. Mr. Heath stated that between now and the first of the new year the program should know where Chancellor Rhee stands on the issue.

A small group of the school screening committee is planning a trip to NYC to observe their program.

4. Location of next meeting:

Mr. Royster explained that STICC has been meeting at the Arlington County Health Department for the last 3 months. The members have been receptive to moving the meeting to locations throughout the metropolitan area in an effort to be inclusive of the surrounding jurisdictions. He asked for suggestions of locations that may make it possible to engage the community in the meetings. Ms. Marcano offered space at Unity Health Care's Upper Cardozo location at 14th and Irving Sts NW. She agreed to check on the availability of conference room space for the next 3 months.

All members felt it was important to engage the community in this coalition. The question was asked about the incentive for them to attend the meetings. Ms. Wilks stated that if community members are interested in being a part of the planning process then they have by in and don't need incentives. Mr. Heath stated that it is important that we keep the public in public health active. Mr. Royster raised concern about the time of the meeting and accessibility of the meeting for community members. Members raised some concerns about an evening meeting as traffic and work hours can make it difficult to consistently attend meetings. It was decided that the coalition will continue to identify ways to engage the community in the meetings with the goal of having concrete ideas by the January meeting to begin that process formally in the spring.

For the next 3 meetings at Unity's Upper Cardozo Center members agreed to engage the surrounding agencies: La Clinica Del Pueblo, Mary's Center and Latin American Youth Center. **If members have connections at those agencies they are encouraged to engage them.**

5. Strategic Planning for STICC

Mr. Royster reported that the steering committee met briefly and discuss the need for strategic planning. They agreed that four hours of planning time on a Friday or Saturday would be a good starting place and that additional four hour blocks may be necessary. **By January there will be an outline presented with an identified planning time.**

7. Community Calendar/Member Announcements

Ms. Wilks shared that Healthy Start of the DC DOH will be having their bi-monthly health fair on October 23rd in the main lobby of DC General.

Mr. Royster reported that on October 24th PPMW will be hosting an event to raise awareness about cervical and breast cancer from 12-2pm at their NE Program site.

Ms. Wilks stated that she would like to request Mayor Fenty to do a proclamation for the Halloween condom distribution, condom day in February and STD Awareness month in April. She will take the lead on that and enlist the assistance of Ms. Sellevaag.

Mr. Heath announced that effective October 1, 2007 the STD Control Program has merged along with the TB program with the HIV/AIDS Administration of the DOH. Dr. Shannon Hader the new director begins on Monday and the STD Program will be under her authority.

Prince George's Health Department will be screening for syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea at Bowie State on October 27th and 31st. Volunteers are needed for counseling and blood draws.

Adjourn 11:15am

**Next Meeting November 8, 2007 at the Unity Health Care Upper Cardozo Clinic.
Exact room location to be announced.**