

HIV PREVENTION PLANNING COUNCIL (HPPC)

Strategies and Interventions Committee

Thursday, November 2, 2006

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Minutes

Committee Members Present: Abbie Zimmerman, Emalie Hurliaux, Michael Cooley, Weihaur Lau, Dee Hampton, Dave Hook, Chandra Sivakumar

Committee Members Absent: Alix Lutnick, Joani Marinoff, John Tighe,

Guest: Sacha Facius (HPS Intern from Germany), Hank Wilson, Michael Petrellis

Professional Staff: Michael Paquette (HPS), Israel Nieves-Rivera (HPS), Vincent Fuqua (HPS), Aimee F. Crisostomo (Harder+Co. /note taker)

1. Welcome and Announcements

Abbie opened the meeting at 4:05 PM

2. Public Comment

- Michael Petrellis requested that the HPPC consider a two-year moratorium on all HIV prevention social marketing campaigns. He stated that DPH continues to present social marketing campaigns that are dividing the community. He mentioned the new Disclosure Initiative social marketing campaign which he believes is predicated on silence which is not okay.
- Hank Wilson informed the committee about the drastic reduction in funding for the Shanti drop-in lounge. He explained that the Shanti lounge is volunteer-driven and is organized as a social service for people living with AIDS; it is a place where a lot of people find social support and break isolation; it is a cross-generational and cross-class place that was always filled. Although it is not marketed as a prevention strategy, the lounge became a natural place for serosorting, where people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) met and bonded with other people. It was a cheap intervention, however, because of budget cuts to CARE funds, the lounge was reduced. PLWHA urged the Board of Directors of Shanti to keep the lounge open although it is now a much smaller place. Hank pointed out that no one from the HIV Prevention Section has voiced concern over the cuts to the Shanti lounge and urged its continuation.
- **Committee Response to Public Comment** – Dee Hampton asked whether the lounge is still in use and Hank responded that it is not used to the extent that it was before budget cuts because there is not much space available for the lounge.

He explained that unfortunately, people living with HIV/AIDS did not organize enough after the CARE budget cuts. Emalie agreed that this is an issue that should be considered by the council. She stated that there is not a funding stream that articulates services such as the Shanti lounge as an intervention. And that this should be addressed.

3. Approval of October 5, 2006 Minutes (vote)

There was a motion by Chandra to approve minutes. Emalie seconded it and the minutes were approved.

4. Committee Business

Committee business items were presented in writing. Israel pointed out that the Community Planning Group (CPG) survey for the CDC indicators will be sent out to council members in a few days. Betty or Israel can be contacted with any questions.

5. Debrief 11/12 HPPC Meeting

Abbie thanked the committee for their support during their presentation at the last HPPC meeting. The group agreed that they accomplished a lot. Abbie pointed out that there was one comment from the Council that she felt was offensive and a direct attack on their work. She thanked Emalie for addressing it publicly.

The group continued to discuss how the committee could have prepared the Council for their presentation, especially on the specific strategies, so that they could be informed and have a more constructive meeting. It was suggested that they could have made a pre-presentation to the Council or provided detailed written reports on the committee's work. It was agreed that it would have helped to have the Council involved early on especially on discussions around specific strategies. Some council members reacted strongly to the strategies that the committee proposed. On the other hand, the Council's reaction could also show that they are interested. Some members just did not react appropriately and may not have been prepared at the Council meeting by not having kept up do date on the committee memos and minutes throughout the year.

The committee does not have to make any edits to their recommendations presented at the Council meeting except remove the specific strategies.

6. Next Steps

The committee discussed whether they feel comfortable that they have laid the groundwork so that future committees can take their work forward. Some members thought that it would make sense to continue this committee and its work. Israel clarified that each year, HPPC has different committees. However, he asked whether there is anything that the committee now would like to work on through December that can be brought to Steering Committee.

Abbie shared that she feels strongly that some examples of structural interventions be included in the HIV Prevention Plan. Also, if the Council wants to be involved in coming up with the examples, that should happen. She suggested that there is need for more research and evidence-based information in order to get more Council buy-in around structural interventions.

Emalie suggested that the committee make a motion that there should be examples of structural interventions along with a definition of structural change and structural intervention in the HIV Prevention Plan. The Steering Committee can facilitate a discussion and obtain suggestions for developing a process that involves the Council in identifying the examples. In addition, the group would like to include research by Harder+Co. on evidence around the structural interventions.

Weihaur included that Steering Committee should take this on the first quarter of the year. Abbie added that she is concerned about new members on the Council. She suggested that mentors should inform new members about structural interventions and update them on the committee's recommendations.

Motion was made that examples of structural interventions be included in the HIV Prevention Plan and that developing a process, which should involve the HPPC and further research on structural interventions, for identifying these examples will go to Steering Committee. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

7. Evaluation and Closure

The committee agreed that they will not have a meeting in December. Abbie adjourned the meeting at 5:30pm.

* The minutes were prepared by Aimee F. Crisostomo and reviewed by Vincent Fuqua, Emalie Hurliaux, Abbie Zimmerman, Dee Hampton, Chandra Sivakumar, Dave Hook, and Alix Lutnick.

No meeting scheduled for December 2006.