

Meeting Report April 24, 2007

A quorum equals 9 people. A quorum was present at this meeting.

Attendance

Present

Ann Dills
Bobby Edelen
Aunsha Hall
Beth Harrison Prado
Charlie Kessinger
Theresa Mayfield
Tim McAdoo
Bruce Mullan
Kathleen O'Malley
Monica Smith
Paul Trickel
Krista Wood

Representatives

Terry Stallion (Dr. Carl LeBuhn)

Excused

Gary Fowler
Robert Stone
Deborah Wade

Absent

Michael Logsdon

KDPH Staff

Karin Bosh
Merinda Brown
Trista Chapman
David Clark
Luta Garbat-Welch
Michael Hambrick
Sigga Jagne
Greg Lee
Stephen Ulrich

Guests

Lloyd Kelly
Mahjabeen Rafiuddin

Meeting Overview

David Clark, State Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bobby Edelen read the KHPAC ground rules and introduced two of the present new members: Tim McAdoo and Theresa Mayfield.

Administrative Changes

Sigga Jagne, HIV/AIDS Branch Manager announced that Luta Garbat-Welch, has submitted her resignation, effective April 27, 2007. Sigga assured KHPAC that the vacancy will be filled as soon as possible. In the interim, Luta's duties will be shared by David Clark, Stephen Ulrich, and Greg Lee. Time at the end of the meeting will be devoted to farewell issues for Luta and KHPAC members.

Working with Legislators

Sigga Jagne introduced KHPAC guest speaker Lloyd Kelly, Executive Director of the Illinois-based “Let’s Talk, Let’s Test Foundation” (LTLTF). In 2000, Lloyd began working with Illinois State Representative Connie Howard and the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority on HIV issues for Black women in Illinois. They held “town hall” meetings, but few came to speak their minds in front of Rep. Howard. People said they were afraid of losing their agency’s funding. Lloyd held a “family only” meeting of Black ASOs in 2002. LTLTF was formed from this private meeting of Black service providers, where it was determined that an organization was needed that would look out for their interests because they were unable to get resources that other larger agencies were able to secure. By World AIDS Day 2002, they had arranged for 75 Black ministers to all give the same sermon on the need for compassion for those infected or affected by HIV. The following month, Wayne Watson (the Chancellor for City Colleges of Chicago) asked LTLTF to test at City Colleges during spring semester registration. Lloyd agreed before he considered the cost of the tests, but Rep. Howard immediately made the funds available. LTLTF did 765 tests in one week. Working with the Chicago AIDS Foundation, they realized how disproportionate the funding was compared to the epidemic’s impact on the Black community. When they learned that Chicago’s AIDS Walk was going to contribute \$0 to Black CBOs, LTLTF formed the 1st Annual African American HIV/AIDS Walk. The walk was held on a Sunday, and 93 churches participated to raise funds for LTLTF. This effort emphasized the uneven playing field between multi-million dollar agencies with fulltime grant writers and small Black CBOs struggling for funds.

Within a month after the walk, 22 Black service providers and 9 Black members of the Illinois Legislature met together for the first time to discuss HIV/AIDS. Service providers expressed their financial needs, and out of this meeting came the impetus to assist them legislatively. Legislators said they wanted to hold hearings about AIDS in the African American community. Four months later they held the first joint meeting of the State Senate Appropriations Committee, House Health and Human Services Committee, and the Black Caucus to talk about AIDS and Black people. That ultimately led to the creation in 2005 and 2006 of the Illinois African American HIV/AIDS Response Act and Response Fund (hereafter referred to as the Act). A copy of the Act was provided to each member at the meeting.

Charlie Kessinger expressed his concern that things will never change so easily in Kentucky because AIDS is still seen primarily as a “gay” issue. Lloyd stressed that the Black community in Illinois shared the same thought. So at the hearings he presented the epidemic as strictly a “public health” issue to the legislators and made it a point to bring HIV infected Black women as speakers. Nearly 250 people were there to testify at the hearings. He compared the cost of a testing program for Illinois to the total cost of treating people with HIV (\$786 million) – funds that could be used elsewhere if HIV were better prevented. Lloyd recommends finding out what is important to the legislators (such as juggling budgets) and to work from that angle. For example, Lloyd had Black ministers to think about the amount of tithe-givers their churches will lose if the spread of HIV continues its current course.

Lloyd pointed out that most HIV funds go to direct services for people living with HIV, and that prevention needs a lot more funding, especially for the uninfected. Otherwise the underlying message of the funding pattern says “it’s okay to get HIV, because we’ll take care of you then.”

The Act pulled together by the Illinois legislature includes testing of prisoners on entry AND exit, with an opt-out clause for any prisoner who chooses to not participate. Sigga Jagne and Stephen Ulrich shared information on a bill that had been proposed in Kentucky to test prisoners only at their exit from the system (bill failed). Furthermore, the bill provided for disclosing former prisoners’ HIV status to local health departments, spouses, and others.

The Illinois Act also makes funds available on a non-competitive basis, further helping to level the playing field for all CBOs wishing to receive funds to provide prevention services. The group discussed accountability issues of this approach, and their “one bad apple” concerns.

Lloyd reminded all that Illinois is also largely a rural state (except for Chicago and Springfield). Several members were concerned whether this success was due to LTLTF being Chicago-based, and how this may or may not work here. Lloyd stressed these points:

“If we can do it, you can do it. It’s just your approach to the issues. White agencies just aren’t effective in Black communities.”

Accomplishment of the Act:

- 10 years are funded.
- \$3 million for 1st year.
- 50% of the funds go to direct grants (non-competitive). These range from \$20,000 – \$75,000 and go to 38 CBOs and 14 faith based organizations.
- 50% goes to LTLTF to build infrastructure and support its HIV testing mission.
- Rather than targeting African American communities per se, they target geographical areas based on HIV epidemiology.

Ann Dills and Sigga discussed how KHPAC and the Kentucky HIV/AIDS Advocacy & Action Group (KHAAG) can and should collaborate more. KHAAG can pay for meeting space when they hold meetings.

Year-End Report Update and Discussion

Paul Trickel reminded the group that the Year-End Report would be due September 1. The executive summary really needs to tie all the pieces tightly together, since this is often all that is read.

Paul worked with the group to arrive at the following issue points:

Inmate reentry program

- Provide for opt-out
- Evaluate current reentry plan/legislation
- Reconnect with Terry Carl
- Unable to provide direct HRSA services in jail
- Funding
- Education to staff and individuals
- Disclosure
- Halfway Houses (many are private)
- Part B connection is allowable

CDC's recommendation for physicians to do routine testing

- State law mandates counseling
- Adequate literature
- Funding
- Medical information access (pdf files e-mailed to doctors)

Distribution of condoms (jails/schools)

- Distribute information, too
- Two more legislation pieces (Education/Corrections)
- Legality of sex in prison
- Coercive sexual behaviors
- Study of populations
- Public health issue, not a "gay" issue
- Condoms reduce system's cost of AIDS treatment and the likelihood of lawsuits for exacerbating HIV exposure in Corrections.

Cross cultural sensitivity/Privilege Technical Assistance Discussion

Mahjabeen Rafiuddin (UK Student Diversity Engagement) discussed her approach to providing technical assistance on cultural competency. Mahjabeen's training is more experiential, focusing on personal awareness and growth. She also has many contacts with minority organizations. The lack of adequate diversity in KHPAC was discussed. Members agreed among themselves to consider inviting Mahjabeen to provide TA to the group.

Update on Needs Assessment

David Clark reported that Dr. Jeff Jones has submitted his budget for implementing KHPAC's needs assessment (\$34,500). At the May 29 meeting KHPAC will review the survey tool and make final recommendations. Ann brought up the fact that executive directors (of clinics, etc) have ultimate say over surveying their patients, and that KHPAC will need to get this survey out to key players as soon as possible. There is also the concern of some clients being over-surveyed since they are served by more than one participating provider. David said the co-chairs will discuss these issues more before the assessment begins.

Kentucky HIV/AIDS Planning and Advisory Council

By Laws/Policies and Procedures

Ann Dills reported that KHPAC needs to create an ad hoc committee to draft stronger bylaws, policies and procedures. This ad hoc committee would probably meet monthly for a while. Ann asked for 3 volunteers, which are:

1. Beth Harrison Prado
2. Ann Dills
3. Bruce Mullan

Membership Update

Bobby Edelen announced that KHPAC has received a letter of resignation from Jimmy Johnson. Also, Cynthia Shannon is due for removal for absenteeism. Charlie Kessinger motioned to accept both member removals presented, Ann Dills seconded the motion. General consensus approved the removal of Jimmy and Cynthia from KHPAC membership.

Tim McAdoo recommended doing exit interviews on members. Ann Dills said that she would take this issue to the new ad hoc bylaws/policies/procedures committee.

KHPAC Administrative Changes, continued

Luta shared some of her feelings about resigning from her position and departing from KHPAC. Several members expressed their sincere gratitude for Luta's professionalism and demeanor as she lead in navigating the merger of CPG and the Advisory Council. Luta wished the group well, and hopes to stay in touch.