



**May 24, 2006 - Meeting Minutes
Brookland Banquet and Conference Center
West Columbia, South Carolina**

Opening: The meeting was called to order by David Mattison, the Community Co-chair. David welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their thoughts and prayers during his recent loss. Susan introduced Karen Clinton, a new member with the Council and then asked the others members in attendance to introduce themselves and what agency they are from.

HPC Members present: Monica Adamian, Laney Brackman, Aaron Bryan, Karen, Clinton, Atensia Earp, Teretha Fowler, Suzanne Freeman, Andy Hall, Tonya Hucks-Bradshaw, Carmen Julious, Patricia Kelly, Virginia King, Annette Larsen, Mulamba Lunda, Kathyleen Pitner, Tim Pitts, Ivan Segura, and Larry Walton.

HPC Members absent: Rick Felder, Matt Jenkins, Les Knight, Norlica Washington, Clifton Williams.

DHEC Staff present: Kim Brown, Lewis Hicks, Lynda Kettinger, JoAnn Lafontaine, Roshan McDaniel, Tony Price, Chasisity Springs, Doug Taylor, and Dorothy Waln

Guests present: Heather Brandt, Ike Ogbuanu, Quasheema Antley, Rhondra Willis, Sandra Bush, Suzette Curry, Tiwan Kelly.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 22 meeting were accepted as presented

Administrative Report: Donald Wood, the HPC Administrator, gave the administrative report. He reviewed the documents for the meeting to ensure that everyone had a copy. He then presented the financial report and a revised budget for the remainder of the year. The reports were accepted as information. He also reviewed the meeting evaluation from the February meeting.

Committees: Following the administrative report, the group divided into committee meetings.

Lunch: Following the committee meeting, the group broke for a brief lunch.

Presentations

USC-Claflin EXPORT Center for Partnerships: Heather M. Brandt, PhD, CHES, presented an overview of the Partnership between the University of South Carolina in Columbia and Claflin University in Orangeburg to Eliminate Health Disparities in Cancer and HIV. The program is funded the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) of

the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its aim is to work with community leaders and the community to develop and implement community solutions to community problems.

Program's Major Goals

- To provide technical assistance to the community for planning, designing, adapting, implementing, and evaluating community programs, services, and resources
- To serve as a resource for the community by supporting community health efforts, speaker's bureaus, educational outreach, funding for community programs, and interactively connecting the community to the EXPORT Center's infrastructure
- To develop and implement programs, services, and resources to reduce HIV/AIDS and HPV/cervical cancer health disparities within the community, based upon existing community assets and through building partnerships and collaborations within the community
- To assist with capacity development of the community through training and educational opportunities for community leaders, faculty, students, and others, which will enhance sustainability and the community's ability to address future issues
- To evaluate the community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach, impact on the community, and health outcomes during the project period

The Epidemiologic Characterization of Individuals Newly Reported with HIV Infection in SC From May 2004 to April 2005: Ikechukwu "Ike" Ogbuanu, MPH, MBBs, from the University of South Carolina – Columbia and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control presented the findings of his recent studies. The studies objectives were:

- To characterize the HIV-infected population using CD4 and viral loads, in order to determine:
 - Stage of disease at initial diagnosis
 - Who the "late presenters" are
 - To raise questions regarding the potential impacts of late presentation
 - To promote discussion about *policy* changes to promote early diagnosis of HIV infection

The studies main conclusions were:

- HIV/AIDS is still a problem in SC
- Our outreach efforts are working, but we need to do more
- Primary prevention will save us money in the long run!

F.A.C.E.S. (Females Accepting Positive Change Equals Success) – A Statewide Approach: Rhondra O. Willis, Founder and Executive Director of the Vision Leadership Institute gave an overview of the programs goals and objectives. The organizations missions is to provide health promotion services, youth leadership development, and academic promotion to South Carolina

youth and provide HIV/AIDS Prevention/Education Services to young minority women between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five.

The F.A.C.E.S. program uses the SISTA intervention and targets African-American females ages 18-25 and trains them to become peer advisors.

Standing Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Susan reported that due to the budget cut only David and Susan will attend 2006 HIV Prevention Leadership Summit. Only David's travel will be paid for by the HPC. DHEC will cover Susan's expenses. Due to the budget cuts, there will not be any HPC financial support for the SC HIV/STD Conference. Consumer members will be encouraged to apply for consumer scholarships.

She also reported that consumers who participated in the Focus Groups project and requested a copy of the final report have been mailed the report. A few came back due to incorrect address. We will attempt to find the correct address and resend.

Care and Support Services: The committee received an overview PEMS from Doug Taylor and discussed the visualization of progress and how best to capture. The committee also agreed to review the Focus Group findings at the August quarterly meeting. JoAnn gave an update on potential Ryan White funding cuts and the group discussed how to reach consumers not in care.

Needs Assessment: The Committee discussed the submission of two requests for capacity building assistance: (1) Training on working with the transgender population and appropriately documenting services and (2) Training on on-line data collection techniques, obtaining informed consent, etc.

They also discussed data collection efforts currently being undertaken by Hispanic Outreach to assess HIV awareness among Latino communities in South Carolina. Rhondra Willis from the Vision Leadership Institute provided the group with a summary of SISTA project work currently being implemented in the Orangeburg area.

The group briefly talked about the NASTAD focus group project and the potential for having a graduate student conduct individual follow-ups as part of a practicum or final project.

Prevention: The Prevention Committee addressed the following topics during its committee meeting.

Project RESPECT (PR) - The committee discussed usage of PR in SC as a model for delivery of HIV pre- and post-test counseling (CTRS), in addition to using it for ILIs. Further discussion will occur in the future on its use in CTRS. PR received final approval of the PC to present as a motion to the HPC in the afternoon. The motion is to add PR as a recommended Program Model for ILIs in the SC HIV Prevention Plan for 2005-2008.

SISTA and VOICES - Input forms for these interventions were sent in March to DHEC prevention contractors, health department staff and HPC members. The purpose of the input forms was to determine what challenges the providers encountered with delivering the interventions and how they have made changes to accommodate the local needs of participants. On April 13, the PC had a conference call to discuss the findings. The findings were then shared with the national CBA provider during a DEBI training on May 23. These will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Safety Counts - An ad hoc group met via conference call and discussed concerns with the practicality of any SC provider being able to implement this intervention in the state in the near future. The PC will continue to look at other intervention options to reach AOD users at high risk for HIV.

Other: The committee will continue to discuss the best ways to involve PLWHA in prevention efforts.

Updates

Care Update: JoAnn Lafontaine reported Ryan White Title II, III and IV have recently experience cuts in funding. The Ryan White CARE Act has passed the Senate; however, it doesn't address adequately the needs of the southern states. DHEC is currently evaluating ADAP funding to hopefully prevent a waiting list from having to be established for drug assistance in S.C.

Prevention Update: Dorothy Waln reported a 2.9 percent cut in Prevention funding and gave an update on the current staffing situation in the HIV/STD Division. Renea Ellington has been assigned to South Carolina as of CDC Project Officers. She also noted that Robert Ray and the Surveillance staff are seeing an increase in the Syphilis infection rate among MSMs.

Old Business

Website: Donald noted that the HPC website is active and encouraged everyone to review the site and to recommend changes and/or offer suggestions to the Executive Committee. The website is www.schpc.org

New Business

Project Respect: The Prevention Committee made a motion to add Project RESPECT as one of the recommended program models for ILIs into the SC HIV Prevention Plan 2005-2008. The motion was seconded and passed by the full HPC.

DEBI Training: It was reported that the DEBI training went very well yesterday and was well attended. Members who attended the training agreed that it was very informative.

CDC Rapid Behavioral Funding Request: Susan reported that Melissa Cribbin from the CDC contacted her to advise her about funding available for the Minority Pride Rapid Behavioral Assessment, similar to last year's RBA. Susan investigated and found that the inaugural S.C.

Black and Latino Gay Pride event will be held in Columbia in June; however, the application for funding was due May 12 and there was insufficient time to process an application and conduct the necessary work for the RBA for 2006.

Susan suggested to the CDC that an RBA be conducted in conjunction with Black Biker Week for 2007. It was communicated back by CDC that HBCU Spring Break events and Minority Pride events are their primary focus, but that that was a good idea.

August Agenda Items: Members were reminded to submit agenda items to either David or Susan for the August 22 meeting.