

S.C. HIV Planning Council
Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2008
Brookland Baptist Church – Fellowship Hall

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Matt Jenkins, the Community Co-chair. Those in attendance were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and tell what agency or program they represented.

HPC Members present: Karen Bates, Troy Bowers, Aaron Bryan, Becky Carr, Karen Clinton, Atensia Earp, Teretha Fowler, Susan Fulmer, Mary Golden, Mahogany Graham, Christa Guicherit, Carlos Harris, Matt Jenkins, Pat Kelly, Virginia King, Mulamba Lunda, Wilhelmenia Mathais, Angel Payton-Harmon, Harry Primm, Jo Jo Rhines, Arlene Rustin, Enid Santiago, Pamela Shephard-McKnight, Larry Walton, Norlica Washington and Jason Williams.

Absent: Eli Branscome, Suzanne Freeman, Mary Carol Jennings and Gypsey Teague

DHEC Staff: Linda Brown, Barbara Charles, James Harris, Lewis Hicks, Roshan McDaniel, Noreen O'Donnell, Tony Price, Elona Rhame and Dorothy Waln.

Ex-Officio Members: Adrena Harrison and Denise Rivera.

Guests: Willie Simon, Jr. and Alfonso Franco.

Staff: Donald Wood

Minutes: The minutes from the December 11, 2007 meeting were approved with corrections.

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 also reviewed the evaluation from the December meeting.

STD/HIV Division Update

Dorothy Waln, acting Division Director, gave an update on the activities in the Division. She noted that everyone is working hard on pulling together the pieces for the new Prevention Plan which has to be completed this year. The document is very important because it provides a historical perspective of the disease in S.C.; it identifies the gaps in services and delivery; and it provides a road map for funding.

She also noted that both her and Lynda's jobs have been posted and can be located on the state's employment website. She also noted that Roshan's former job is also posted.

The Division is working on several grants and she is in the process of updating several Division policies to better reflect how things are currently being done.

Lunch

Call to Order: The meeting resumed after lunch, called back to order by Matt Jenkins.

Executive Committee Report: Susan gave an overview of the Executive Committee's conference call. She noted that she and Matt will be attending the upcoming HIV Prevention Leadership Summit (HPLS)

in Detroit in June. The Executive Committee has also agreed to pay for the registration fee for Mahogany Graham and the Care Services program area will be paying for her airfare and hotel.

Standing Committee Reports

Care and Support Services: Mahogany Graham reported that the Committee discussed the following items:

- The committee would like to explore studying the continuity of care within the jail and corrections systems.
- Adrena Harrison will be asked to present on her program and to provide the group with an idea of how we can help her accomplish the program's goals
- The committee established a sub-committee to develop a Care and Support Services needs assessment document.
- Discussed the need to include consumers in training decisions.
- Discussed the possibility of creating a standardized checklist of needs to ensure that clients don't drop out of care. It was suggested that the committee research best practices for guidance concerning the continuity of care procedures.
- The sub-committee will meet on April 4 via conference call.

Consumer Advisory: The committee met twice before the HPC meeting. At the first meeting, Troy Bowers was voted membership committee representative. At that time, the CAC decided to hold an orientation for all Committee members prior to the orientation for new HPC members and to give introductions and explanation of the committee at that time.

At the CAC orientation, Susan Fulmer explained the role of the CAC in the HPC to new members. Also, the committee discussed having a Town Hall Meeting for consumers at the state HIV/STD conference.

In addition, members expressed interest in creating a network to reach doctors, hospitals, and schools and see how much help they can get from the government.

Membership: No report.

Needs Assessment: Virginia King reported that the Committee discussed the following items during their committee meeting:

- The AAMSM data and the ongoing focus groups.
- The Youth Risk Behavior Survey that was conducted by the state Department of Education.
- Continued to review the transgender survey.
- Committee members will review the current target populations and make recommendations for the 2009-2012 plan. It was noted that emphasis needs to be on interventions targeting the following groups: Latinos/Hispanics, MSM, transgender, substance abusers and AA women.
- It was noted that the committee should look at gaps in services and interventions for all priority populations.

Prevention: Mulamba Lunda reported that the Prevention Committee discussed the following items:

People of Color Initiatives:

AAMSM Workgroup Update: The workgroup has released the findings from the Focus Group, which was held during the S.C, HIV/STD Conference in October. This information will be shared with the members of the Prevention Committee.

The group plans to expand its coverage area and will be conducting more focus groups around the state. A meeting will be held on March 5, 2008 to focus on a Media Campaign targeting AAMSM.

The focus groups will be coordinated through the funded agencies with the Expanded Testing Grant. The three funded agencies are AID Upstate, Lowcountry AIDS Services and SCHAC. The additional focus groups will be held in Florence, Myrtle Beach, and Orangeburg.

Currently, DHEC is partnering with DAODAS to provide training for individuals providing prevention and care services within the AOD system.

Request for Epi Data Project: During the Prevention meeting, Mulamba distributed the request for Epi Data submitted to Tony Price. Christa explained the purpose of the request, which is to find out the positivity rates of high-risk non-priority populations and determine if recommendations should be made to make additions to the priority populations currently listed in the SC HIV Prevention Plan. Tony expressed a need for clarification of the request. Mulamba will research notes from previous meetings to clarify specifics of the request and communicate this to Tony.

Project START: Christa distributed information concerning Project START, which is an individual level intervention (ILI) HIV, STD, and hepatitis prevention program for young men aged 18-29 who are leaving prison. Project START is listed as one of the 31 Best Evidence Interventions listed by CDC. Christa has been corresponding by e-mail with Charles Collins of the CDC. The project will enter the dissemination phase late summer 2008 and Christa has expressed an interest in being a part of this process. It was recommended that we form an Ad Hoc Group to look at what has been done in the past and bring findings back to the committee. The Ad Hoc Group will be Christa Guicherit, Elona Rhame, Larry Walton, and Dean Edwards or Sarah Branch from PALSS. Pat brought up the idea of getting information and input from individuals directly impacted with challenges of being released from prison.

The Prevention Committee will meet at 10 a.m. April 3 to hear a report from the Ad Hoc Group at this meeting. The follow recommendations were reported:

- Tony send out the timelines for documentation deadlines due to CDC to all committee members.
- Add a rapid testing recommendation for priority populations and/or alternate settings.
- Develop recommendations for interfacing with the Hispanic population. It was noted that this population is mobile, documentation is a problem and splitting the population may be barriers to care. The following book was recommended as a possible resource – “No Time To Lose: The SIDA Crisis Is Not Over” from the Institute of Medicine.

Mulamba asked for a commitment from all Prevention Committee members to review the S.C. HIV Prevention Plan, make notes, suggestions for recommendations to Chapters 3 and 4 and come prepared to discuss at our next meeting.

Division Updates

Prevention Update: Tony provided updates on DHEC STD/HIV Prevention Program activities in the central and regional offices as well as with community partners:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/stdhiv/index.htm> .

- DHEC hosted a statewide meeting of its twelve STD/HIV prevention contractors http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/stdhiv/docs/sharing_SC_DHEC_HIVPrevContractors_Rev2008_0131_Complete.pdf. The purpose of the February 12 meeting was to discuss administrative and programmatic updates.

- The CDC HIV prevention project officer will conduct a site visit with DHEC on April 2 and 3. The primary focus of the meeting will be on the new grant funds for the Expanded Testing Project in hospital-based emergency departments and community-based organizations.
- The CDC HIV Prevention Annual Progress Report is due to CDC by April 15.
- The 2009 HIV Prevention application for DHEC funding will be due sometime in September to CDC. Prior to DHEC drafting the funding application in July-August, the HPC (together with DHEC) will develop the revised SC HIV Prevention Plan this spring and summer.
- DHEC will soon begin to accept applications for the Program Coordinator II position that is part of the Expanded Testing Project. This is a temporary grant position that is currently funded through September 30, 2008. It is expected that the grant will be renewed for at least one more year on October 1 but there is no guarantee at this time. Applicants should have strong statistical data and report preparation (writing) skills. As Dorothy Waln noted in her morning update, state government information including job opportunities can be accessed at <http://www.sc.gov>. Employment is on the left side of the main page.
- The STD/HIV Division is excited about its Expanded Testing Project's collaborative effort between the three funded community-based groups and the HPC's AAMSM Workgroup. The community-based groups (AID Upstate, SC HIV/AIDS Council and Lowcountry AIDS Services) will be conducting focus groups with AAMSM. The results will be shared back with the HPC to develop further the plans to reach this priority population.
- The STD/HIV Division will continue to work with its Region staff to increase the public's access to rapid testing services throughout the state this year.
- DHEC's Statewide HIV/AIDS Resources and Information Network Guide (SHARING) <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/stdhiv/sharing.htm> has been updated. As part of the HPC's Care Committee requests in 2007, a new SHARING page has been added for the state's Ryan White Part C providers.

Care Services: Noreen noted that the division is seeing increasingly complex data requirements from our funders - HRSA and HUD.

- Ryan White Statewide Quality Management Coordinator has been hired - her first day is March 3.
- Ryan White Client Level Data will be required beginning in 2009.
- The division is currently in the midst of converting our data system from Provide to Provide Enterprise.
- The Ryan White staff is preparing the Minority AIDS Initiative grant application for submission in March
- The Ryan White staff is preparing the Part D grant application for submission in March
- ADAP Update - we continue to monitor our utilization and expenditures to assess the potential future need for a wait list.
- **HIV Care Crisis Task Force:** The task force will advocate for DHEC's request for an additional \$2.4 million for ADAP. They will also develop fact sheets with messages regarding: 1) Early detection; 2) Linkage to care; 3) Retention in care. The task force will also host a legislative breakfast in May.

Old Business

Roshan McDaniel provided the Council with an overview of the HPC Membership Survey that was completed in December of 2007.

New Business

Epi Profile: Roshan McDaniel provided the group with the most recent Epi data that has been released by the Division.

2008 Meeting: The following dates were chosen for the remaining meeting in 2008 – April 29, June 3, Aug. 19 and Dec. 2.

Training Update: James Harris provided the group with an overview of the upcoming STD/HIV Division trainings. It was noted that a CDC Train-the-Trainer training on Social Network Strategies is being planned. Once a date is finalized, the information will be sent out electronically.

Announcements: Susan noted that the 2008 S.C. HIV/STD Conference will be held Oct. 15-17 at the Radisson in Columbia.

Adjourn