

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, Inc.

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SERVICES MEETING December 2, 2004

MINUTES

Members Present: Wendy Mancuso, Chip McDaniel, Annie Piazza, Melanie Poorman, Nancy Prowell, Ellie Rivera, Janice Simmons, Ann Williams, Lynn Varricchio

Minutes: Minutes of the November meeting were approved as sent.

Agency Update:

Chip reported that HART is now fully staffed. Debra Ramirez has been hired as a program specialist, and Kerry Abdella has been hired to coordinate specialty services. The Health Association is now part of DePaul. They are in the midst of many transitions.

RATFA: Lynn indicated that she has tickets for the World AIDS Day event at KODAK if any of the organizations need more.

ACHC: Nancy announced that Pricilla Hardy is now on the NYS Prevention Planning Group.

Westside: Melanie announced that the affiliation with A.L. Jordan is going very well. Westside has Ora Quick and plans to implement rapid testing at Brown Square.

VNS: Wendy indicated that VNS has a new computer system that requires that each patient and their information get reentered manually.

VLSP: Ann announced there will be a Wills clinic Wednesday, January 26th at ARI . Please have clients register so that there will be ample materials for everyone. Call Julie Petroske at 295-5709 or Ann Williams at 295-5708.

Training Needs:

The following ideas for future training programs were proposed:

- Boundaries: helping staff set boundaries; staff/client boundaries; staff/staff boundaries; boundaries for case managers dealing with physicians;
- Grief—suggested Theo Munsen

- Understanding What Various Sacred Texts say About homosexuality:
Darrell Lance
- Dealing with Difficult People in the work environment –Chip will get EAP material from his agency

Annie indicated that ARI offers a 3 hour update training for staff that is required by the AIDS Institute. She will send the schedule to the agencies. Contact Michael Campo to reserve places for your staff. There followed a discussion about the possibility of getting some senior staff waived from the current AI training requirements. There may be some alternatives for staff, talk to Annie or your contract manager.

Proposed Survey:

Lynn reviewed the survey that Western NY uses to assess needs and PLWA behavior. She suggested that this region might use it as Buffalo could then be used as a benchmark. The tool is 40 questions, which are mostly multiple choice. (see attached).

Annie indicated that she opposes surveys with the current client population. She believes that focus groups work better. Melanie agreed with Annie. There was no support in the group for using the survey tool.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 6, 2005 at 8:30 AM at ARI.