

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, Inc.

Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency
1150 University Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
Phone 585-461-3520 Fax 585-461-0997 TTY 585-461-4075
E-mail ratfa@flhsa.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 14, 2006

MINUTES

Members Present: Julian Brown, Roberto Burgos, Joan Cain, Trilby DeJung, Renee DeVore, Sady Fischer, Bill Fox, Bob Lebman, Joy Messinger, Lynn Varricchio, Fran Weisberg.

Opening: Renee opened the meeting at approximately 10:00. Bob moved approval of the minutes. Joy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Joan reported that RATFA Inc. has \$17,363.39 on hand. At the Finance Committee Meeting today, work will begin on the 2007 RATFA Budget as the Fiscal Year begins in January. Any Committee that expects to have income or expenditures that vary from 2006, the chairs of those committees are asked to contact Joan or Pat as soon as possible so that the committee can develop a budget.

Coordinator's Report: Lynn announced that she had received a verbal resignation from Rev. Sharon Jacobson due to health problems that impede her travel. The information will be communicated to the Nominating Committee.

World AIDS Day: Lynn advised the committee that Pat Coury Doniger has agreed to be the speaker for World AIDS Day. Lynn has asked her to address the issue of the HIV epidemic in the heterosexual community. With a focus being that if we are to keep faith with youth, and women of color we need to more aggressively combat STDs.

Awards: The Executive Committee next discussed awards. Erik Libey will be receiving the Commissioner's Award. It was recommended that Pricilla Hardy be awarded the Jill Gonzales Award for outreach and education. After considerable discussion, Julian moved and the Committee voted unanimously that each year the Executive Committee would make three awards consistent with the theme that year for World AIDS Day.

With this year's theme being "Keep the Promise" the Committee determined that recognition should go to: Bill Valenti, ARI, the Vaccine Trials Unit, and PRYD. (Because this recommendation, contradicted the recommendation to honor three individuals or groups each year, the coordinator sent a follow up email for guidance.)

Agenda for Luncheon: It was decided that there would be no head table. Wait staff should be advised which tables should be served first, based on the need to participate in the program.

Timing: @ 11:15 Bus leaves from ARI
Noon: Renee welcomes guests and thanks community for Keeping the Promise
12:05 Ashley Youth Testimony
12:10 Wade Norwood Benediction
12:11-12:45 Lunch
12:45- 1:00 Awards
1:00-1:15 Pat Courey Doniger
1:15 Joy Messinger Poem

By 1:30 the program should be over and people able to be on their way.

Dental Data

Lynn reported that she has had a conversation with a dentist from the AIDS Institute who was making inquiries about access to dental programs for people with AIDS in this region. At this time we have 15 dental programs that serve those on Medicaid and those with HIV that are well distributed across the region. The amount of dental care actually being received we had some information we were able to provide to him. The dentist has actually developed a survey tool to more fully assess dental and oral health services being received. While he sent it out across the state it got very little response. I indicated that he should contact Dr. Myerwitz at Strong and the three of us might jointly sign a letter and send it to the 15 dental programs we are aware of.

Members questioned our doing the work. Lynn responded that she was simply willing to be a signatory to the letter, with the quid pro quo that we would get a copy of the data that the AI dentist obtained after it was analyzed. The AI's dentist was very interested, and planned to call Dr. Myerwitz. The Executive Committee expressed no additional concerns, as long as RATFA staff weren't collecting/analyzing the data.

Lynn reported that a final version of the AIDS mortality survey is now out. Staff from Strong have put the survey into an access tool that can be accessed on line, which facilitates data entry and data analysis. We hope to be able to look at data at the end of Dec. At that time we will also be summarizing our other findings. In Jan. Dr. Agins, from the AI wishes to come and meet with the committee. We plan to share both findings and barriers to studying mortality update.

Proposed Realignment of FLHSA staff to Serve the Network

Lynn distributed a proposal for an alternative paradigm for staffing the Network. As proposed the total number of FTE's would increase. This would happen by reducing Lynn's time to 50% and using several FLHSA personnel to staff some of the epidemic monitoring and committees functions. Assignments would be based on staff expertise and constituents to which they naturally relate. Lynn indicated that she would continue as the coordinator and meet with staff as a group on a monthly basis to assure work is being accomplished and everyone is "on the same page."

Bob and Renee expressed frustration that they had not been contacted by FLHSA leadership. Bob stated that passed experience has shown that the role cannot be accomplished on a part-time basis.

Fran indicated that FLHSA staff thought we were being responsive to issues raised by the AI staff about being more responsive to rural areas and communities of color.

Renee indicated that she felt that if the AI has such issues they should be brought to the Executive Committee which is the board of the Network. Renee acknowledged that Fran's being new to FLHSA and her prior experience with being responsive to contract funders may explain staff's response. However, Renee perceives the matter to be a boundary issue. Specifically, RATFA was designated to be the Network by the AI. While RATFA chooses to have FLHSA staff the Network and enter into contract with HRI, the responsibility for the Network should rest with the Executive Committee. The Network does the planning, sets the priority, and develops the work plan.

Bob added, that in light of an AI proposed budget cut of \$30,000 the Executive Committee needs to be the entity that deals with the AIDS Institute. He told Fran that there is precedent for these proposed cuts, and the Executive Committee has stood firm that they were not acceptable. He asked Lynn to supply staff with charts that had previously been developed that looked at essential network functions, other functions RATFA has assumed, as material critical for reviewing staffing options. (see chart attached)

Trilby explained that the last time the AI indicated that they would cut \$30,000, RATFA responded that it would disband the Network and the money was found. She acknowledged that the current federal reauthorization issues, are a different context, but it is important that the AI deals with RATFA's Executive Committee.

Fran acknowledged that she was unaware of this history, and welcomed the opportunity to sit down with Committee and decide together the best way to proceed on the grant and staffing for the Network. Prior to the next meeting, Fran will meet with Executive Committee leaders.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 12 at 8:30 AM at FLHSA.