

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, Inc.

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PILLS Committee

Minutes
August 12, 2005

Members Present: Jeffrey Bookhart, Patricia Terziani, Lynn Varricchio

Review of Minutes: The minutes of the June meeting were approved as distributed.

Ryan White Care Act: Lynn reported that Steve Waldron from the Syracuse Network had developed a position paper on the Reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act. She had provided some editorial assistance. The completed piece was submitted to Jay Freedman and Mona Skully at the AIDS Institute for their input. Once their suggestions were incorporated, Lynn submitted the proposed response to the Executive Committee and the document was adopted. She will now draft a letter that may be sent with the document to members of the congressional delegation.

It was agreed that the PILLS Committee would request member agencies and people living with HIV/AIDS send the letters to their congressional representative in early September as action must be taken before the end of the month on any new legislation. If new legislation is not developed, the current legislation would be extended. Extending the current legislation would be preferable to legislation that adopts the administrations principles. (See copies of the response adopted by RATFA which is attached.)

PILLS next step will be to identify people who are willing to meeting with congressional representatives to discuss our concerns. A sign up will be done at CAC for people who are living with HIV, and agencies will be invited to participate.

Mayoral Candidates Forum: The mayoral candidates forum has been scheduled for September 27th from 8:30-11 AM at Unity East Auditorium. There will be coffee and a breakfast rolls, at 8:30, followed by a facilitated forum from 9-10:30AM. We have talked about allowing the audience to submit questions to someone who would gather them and develop additional questions for the speakers, and submit these to the facilitator, or we could allow candidates to each be given about 3 minutes time for closing remarks. We need to decide this aspect of the agenda on Friday.

The questions for the forum were developed in May. Trilby has accepted responsibility for finding a facilitator for the forum.

The Center for Disability Rights was contacted, and they will advertise our forum, and we will advertise theirs as a way of putting the needs of people with various disabilities in front of the candidates at least twice.

A flier still needs to be developed to advertise the forum. Lynn will ask Pat to develop the flier.

C2EA On October 5th RATFA has been invited to be part of a public event in Syracuse as the Caravan to End AIDS comes through. The event will be in the afternoon, and we should try to get one or two car loads of people to attend. It would be desirable to have a press conference here in Rochester prior to leaving for Syracuse.

Lynn indicated that a number of PLWH/A have expressed interest in going to DC for the event. She proposed that RATFA rent a 7 passenger van that would go to Washington on October 8th and return on the 12th/13th. The C2EA planning committee is suppose to provide shelter and food as well as training for the participants. RATFA's cost would be for the van, gas and food for the participants on the way down and back. The cost of the van would be \$439 for a week. The committee has \$500 in its budget line. The question is whether the committee wants to recommend this activity. The two members present thought that it was a good idea. Patty indicated that AFC might be willing to provide funds for food for the trip.

Lynn will check with those signed up to see whether they are still interested.

Next Meeting: September 9th at 3:00 PM at FLHSA.