

# ROCHESTER AREA TASK FORCE ON AIDS

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## Prevention Committee

November 17, 2004

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Michael Campo, Debra Dent, Allen Forbes, Bill Kress, Lelia Seals, Lynn Varricchio, Charles Wright.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October meeting were approved as distributed.

**World AIDS Day:** Lynn indicated that there would be a dance and music program scheduled on World AIDS Day at Unity Church that would raise funds for the TEAM program, and the following Saturday evening there would be a community wide free program at Kodak's Theater on the Ridge. Allen discussed the Livingston County Task Force's testing initiative. Lynn indicated that there would be a church service in Bath, and that Arnot had planned a candle light vigil in a park in Elmira.

Livingston County Task Force's chair, Lisa Beardsley will be one of the individuals recognized by the Network at the World AIDS Day recognition luncheon on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**National Testing Day:** Jamie Sparacino and Michael Booth have agreed to co-chair National Testing Day. Lynn will be talking to Jamie about setting up an initial meeting.

### **Membership on Prevention Committee:**

The issue of consistent presence and how to involve rural counties was discussed. Lynn indicated that she planned to meet with the HIV/Hepatitis/STD group to see if there might be a way to have that group have representation on the Network and work with them on a regular basis to get input from rural public health providers.

At this point Ontario and Seneca counties do some things together. And Livingston County Task Force has done conferences for the Faith Community, Substance Abuse Providers and two testing initiatives. Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties are split between this region, Syracuse and Broome areas. Joan Cain from Arnot Ogden is on the Network's Executive Committee. We need to explore ways of working with these three counties. They have all participated in National Testing Day with us.

Agencies which we would expect to be part of the committee based on their receiving prevention grants are: Center for Health and Behavioral Training, Action Front Center, AIDS Rochester, AIDS Community Health Center, Rural Opportunities, Inc., Huther Doyle, MOCHA, Westside Health Service, Anthony L. Jordan Health Center, Baden Street, and county health departments across the region.

The meeting time was discussed. Some people feel that Friday afternoon at 3PM is not a good time for a meeting. However, this was the time that members chose. Those present agreed to move the meeting to 2PM on Friday afternoon, and reconsider the time of the meeting next year.

### **Areas for Collaboration:**

Those present felt that prevention activities provide a good opportunity for collaboration. Among areas that members thought that agencies might collaborate in a "Recovery Net" model were:

Best practice harm reduction education;

Substance abuse referrals;  
Best practice harm reduction programs for people who have been sexually abused;  
Best practice harm reduction programs for people with serious and persistent mental illnesses;  
Best practice programming for people coming out of prisons;  
Best practice harm reduction programs for people who wish to quit smoking;  
Referrals for exercise;  
Best practice programming for seniors who engage in high risk behaviors;  
Referral for treatment and harm reduction for people who repeatedly acquire sexually transmitted infections;  
Referrals for Hepatitis C treatment;  
Best practice for harm reduction, pre-post test counseling, for the deaf.

**Deaf Initiative:**

It was decided that the next meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> would be dedicated to a discussion of how we can collaborate most effectively to reach out to the deaf population. NTID does HIV testing at the Student Health Services. Probably the focus should be for the deaf in the general community. It was decided that the following people would be invited to assist the committee decide its approach:

Patty from NTID student health services;  
Caroline Stern and Steve Barnett who are physicians who work with the deaf community;  
ARI  
A deaf member of the Consumer Advisory Council.

It was agreed that after we get a sense of what the medical providers are currently doing, and what PLWA think and what ARI is doing, we would later involve Deaf AIDS Core, Matt Starr of the Health Association and Steve Lovi of the Center for Disability Rights for their input. Keeping the groups small when there are deaf people present usually improves communication. Lynn will contact the physicians and PLWA. Allen will contact NTID. Michael will make sure ARI people are here.

**Announcements:**

Oral Rapid test does not require that agencies be CLIA certified.  
There will be a 1 day training by CHBT on using the test in early 2005.  
ARI and Westside are getting the Oral Rapid tests. ARI has found that 90% of the people calling to be testing at ARI want rapid testing.

There are some issues with the oral rapid test. For one thing there is a 3.5 week half life on the controls that you must use. Second is that they are subject to temperature extremes. This is a problem for using them on the mobile units. However, the company has now developed bags for temperature control.

**There being no further business. The meeting was adjourned.**

**Next Meeting: Friday, January 21 at 2:00 PM at FLHSA. Interpreters will be present.**