

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, Inc.

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RAYS OF HOPE MINUTES 10/2705

Present: Jessica Akpan, Lucia Collindres, Sady Fischer, Esther Lorenzo, Orlando Martinez, Roscoe Skinner, Christine Vazquez, Victor Vazquez, Pat Zacharias.

Review of Minutes:

Roscoe motioned that the minutes be approved and Esther seconded it. The minutes were approved as written.

Feedback on Event:

The committee discussed Latino AIDS Awareness Day. The press conference went well, the food was good, the event was well organized and well supported by agencies. The attendance was the only disappointment. Only about 40 people attended. The lack of outreach was identified as the problem. Last year the Street Outreach Collaborative blitzed the area the week before the event. The committee thought that would be done again this year. However, we were not aware that the Collaborative was in transition and not functioning. Otherwise the event was very successful: 22 people were tested for HIV; 26 people had their blood pressure checked for hypertension and 24 had their glucose screened for diabetes. A high percentage of those screened for high blood pressure and diabetes had elevated levels and were advised to see their physicians.

Having attendees get a card stamped by at least 5 agencies turned out to be a good idea. 24 cards were received. Next year we should make a greater effort to make sure people fill out the information on the back.

Black AIDS Awareness Day:

February is Black History Month so the committee has decided to do some kind of event to target the African American population. Several ideas were discussed. Jessica informed the group that BLACA is planning an event and we should check with them before proceeding. One of the suggestions was to do an event at one of the colleges. Sady has a contact at MCC who she will call. The committee thought an event at Damon City Center would be a good place to reach young African Americans. Sady will report to the committee at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Our regular meeting day falls on Thanksgiving so the meeting has been scheduled for **Wednesday, November 30** at 1:00 pm at ARI.