

# HIV Prevention Contractor's Quarterly Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2007

Third Ward Multi-Service Center  
3611 Ennis Street  
Houston, Texas 77004

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

## MINUTES

### Contractors Represented

AIDS Foundation Houston  
Baylor Teen Clinic  
Bee Busy  
Career and Recovery  
Donald R. Watkins  
FLAS  
FUUSA  
Houston Area Community Services  
The Warren Corporation

Incremental Marketing  
NAACP  
People With AIDS Coalition  
Positive Efforts  
Sage and Associates  
St. Hope Foundation  
SUMA Partners

### HDHHS Staff Present:

Geynille Agee  
Kirby Bonier  
Jose Cavazos  
Brenda Chapman  
Cynthia Cruz  
Roshunda Eastland  
Hyron Hall

Danielle Joseph-White  
Florida Kweekeh  
Beau J. Mitts  
Yvonne Newman  
Ereka Philip  
Larry Prescott  
Aimee Saindon

Brenda Simpson  
Anna Thomas  
Michael Thomas  
Cynthia Turner  
Cathy Wiley

**I. Welcome ..... *Beau Mitts, Administration Manager***  
**a. Introductions**

**II. Bureau Update**  
**a. RFP Process ..... *Beau Mitts***

There were 39 responses to the recent RFP. Phase I of the RFP process is complete. Phase II (external reviewing) will begin soon. It is projected for awards to be made and contracts drafted by the end of the month. New contracts should begin by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**b. Contract Continuation ..... *Beau Mitts***

Each agency should have received a letter for the continuation of services for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year to maintain the status quo. For the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year, contractors are to maintain the objectives for 2006. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the original award for 2006 is to be used for the first quarter of 2007. The Health Department has received the guidance for the completion of the Annual Progress Report. Contractors may be contacted for information or data in order for the report to be completed.

**c. PBC ..... *Beau Mitts***

The RFP contains two new counseling and testing programs, PBC and Targeted HIV Screening. Current contracts fund PBC only. The liaisons will monitor PBC standards for the first quarter of the year.

Question: What is the PEMS Process?

Answer: It is not known at this time. PEMS 3.0 has not been released, but it is accessible. The utilization of PEMS continues to be a discussion at the health department. A PEMS and Scanning Solution training is scheduled for Thursday. Please see Cathy Wiley.

**III. Training Unit Update.....Cathy Wiley**

The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter training calendar is complete and is to be placed on the City's website under HIV Resources. The calendar contains dates and information for trainings, meetings, CPG, task forces, contractors meeting, etc. and is updated daily. Some training is repetitive, such as PBC, Fundamentals of HIV, HIV Cultural Diversity, etc. VOICES/VOCES and SISTA have been confirmed. Waiting confirmation for Street Smart and Safety Counts.

Question: Is registration available on the website?

Answer: Yes, once you open the item, it will tell you how to register. We are in the process of creating an email address specifically for registration.

Question: Do we send the registration to you? (Cathy)

Answer: Yes, until the website has been developed

Question: Will the City provide basic HIV training for new hires?

Answer: Yes – Fundamentals of HIV or as an update for seasoned educators or workers

Question: Will the City provide certifications?

Answer: Participants will receive an Attendance of Completion for each course. A database is being developed to maintain this information.

Question: Is it ok for someone to take Fundamentals of HIV one day and go through PBC the next day?

Answer: Yes

Question: If a person has completed VOICES/VOCES, does he need it again?

Answer: No. Provide us with the date of training. Program liaisons look for that information when they are monitoring to ensure facilitators have the proper training.

**IV. Laboratory Unit Update .....Cynthia Turner**

The cooperation received from the contractors regarding the CLIA is appreciated. The only concern for the lab at this time is the ordering of supplies. Contractors should speak with Beau regarding the process for ordering supplies. The lab can only supply vacutainer tubes for specimens that are to be processed by the lab. Tubes cannot be supplied for other contractor programs that are not to be processed by the City lab. The lab does not provide gloves – only tubes, bags, and rubber bands.

**V. Surveillance Bureau Update ..... Shirley Chan**

Anna Alvarez is the liaison for PEMS Form D. The form is used for incidence surveillance, which is a new program that began in June of 2005. The surveillance bureau collects HIV lab and patient reports to determine if the infection is a new or old case. Data is compiled quarterly and placed on the website. If a patient has been diagnosed HIV positive, the agency should call surveillance regardless as to whether or not the patient has been notified. Beau added that as of January 1, partner elicitation is being phased out throughout the state. However, Houston has not made this move. There has been an increase in the number of field records for the DIS.

**VI. Presentation on Enhanced Syringe Access Program..... Legacy Community Health Services**

This is not a needle exchange program. It is a short-term program that is being funded by the City. The goal is to partner with pharmacies to provide clean syringes to persons without a prescription so that the person does not have to share needles. These are persons that use

needles to inject any type of drug. Pharmacies have been identified using the process of mapping zip codes of HIV and HCV prevalence. There is also an advisory group. The first meeting was in November and was attended by 9 community members. Participants are also taught how to dispose of the syringe.

- Question: When will you provide information on the pharmacies?  
Answer: We have not gotten pharmacies to sign on the dotted line yet.  
Question: Do you go with the outreach team? How will it happen for an active user?  
Answer: The user (IDU) has to have the equipment  
Question: Are there former or active users on the board?  
Answer: Yes, former but not active users  
Question: Do clients have to give identifying information?  
Answer: No  
Question: Do you anticipate any motivation for the program?  
Answer: No, motivation is not built-in  
Question: What is the cost of the syringes?  
Answer: Approximately 0.30 cents each or \$2-3 for a pack of 10

Clarification by Tina Megdal and Eric Roland – The goal is to get pharmacies that will not ask all of the questions to determine if the client is actively using.

- Question: How will you measure the program?  
Answer: If there is a variance in sales.  
Question: Will you collect demographics?  
Answer: No

## **VII. MSM Formative Research Data..... Steve Walker**

This research was conducted for the CPG to look at the MSM population in hopes of developing a program for this population that is adapted from the It's Real Campaign. The research was designed with key informant, intercept, and web-based interviews.

Results Overview:

- ◆ Latino and Blacks responded as something other than gay, bisexual, etc.
- ◆ 50% of the web-based interviewers self-identified as HIV positive.

10 Implications for further HIV infection identified:

1. GLBT leaders have opposite perception of the acceptance of gay men in Houston.
2. GLBT leaders have opposite perception of the number of gay men living in Houston.
3. Substance abuse is perceived as a problem with MSMs in Houston
4. A perception of lack of available social services and supportive services for gay men in Houston exists.
5. HDHHS is perceived as being uninvolved in health promotion services for gay men.
6. Gay men perceive a decrease in the availability of free HIV testing for gay men in Houston.
7. There is a decrease in the availability of condoms at bars, clubs, and other gay establishment.

8. Participants self-reported low knowledge of basic HIV/AIDS facts and prevention strategies
9. Respondents prioritized many other issues higher than HIV
  - ◆ Substance abuse
  - ◆ Erosion of the gay community
  - ◆ Homophobia
  - ◆ Stigma
  - ◆ Lack of cohesion
10. Gay men use the internet to identify sex partners.
  - ◆ Adam4Adam.com
  - ◆ American online
  - ◆ BigMuscle.com
  - ◆ Black gay chat

For more information regarding the research, you can reach Steve Walker at 832-724-3427 or [swalker@suma.com](mailto:swalker@suma.com).

**VIII. Mobile Clinic Update..... *Michael Thomas***

The mobile clinic will begin targeting adolescents in the future. The challenge is recruiting persons for testing. Beginning in February, the mobile clinic and syphilis elimination will have combined meetings.

**IX. Syphilis Elimination Update..... *Larry Prescott***

The end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter yielded an increase in testing. At the end of 2006, there were 102 new infections, which is more than in 2005. The Syphilis Elimination Advisory Council meets each 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward MPC.

**X. Announcements.....**

- a. Thanks to everyone that participated in World AIDS Day, 2006
- b. There will be a meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> for the 2007 National Testing Day in June and World AIDS Day , 2007, 12:00 p.m., at the health department.
- c. Let's Work It Out
  - ◆ Brown bag lunch for program managers, coordinators, and front-line staff to discuss and address issues of concern
  - ◆ Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 50 Waugh Dr.
  - ◆ First meeting will focus on networking and the referral processes
  - ◆ This group will try and meet every other month.
  - ◆ Contact Danielle Joseph-White for more information
- d. Documentary on meth use in the gay community will be presented at the Riveroaks Theatre, January 18<sup>th</sup>, with a question and answer session to follow.

**XI. Next Meeting:**  
 Monday, April 9, 2007  
 1115 S. Braeswood  
 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**Handouts:**

**1) Mobile Clinic calendar**

- 2) **Contractor Continuation Letter**
- 3) **Fact Sheet – Enhanced Syringe Access Program (ESAP)**
- 4) **HDHHS Training Calendar (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr)**