
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
HIV PREVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE (PPC)
A Select Committee of the Commission on HIV Health Services
600 South Commonwealth Avenue, 6th Floor • Los Angeles CA 90005-4001

MEETING SUMMARY
Thursday, May 4, 2000
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
St. Anne's Foundation Conference Room
155 North Occidental Boulevard-Los Angeles, CA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patricia Jones	Dean Goishi
Chi-Wai Au	Sergio Avina
Jeff Bailey	John Copeland
Danielle Glenn-Rivera	Evelyn Gonzalez-Figueroa
Cecil Ingram	Cheryl Kono
Juan Carlos Ledesma	Vincent Lopez
Ric Loya	Cleo Manago
James Miller	Cathy Reback
Ruth Slaughter	Kelli Trombocco
Elaine Waldman	Nancy Wongvipat
Richard Zaldivar	Tony Zimbardi
Latrice R. Dennis	Robin Davis
Jane Rollins	

ABSENT

**George Ayala
Ricky Bluthenthal
**Mark Etzel
Ramon Flores
Vincent Lopez
**Nancy Pollard
**Vanessa Talamantes
**Rhena Carusillo

STAFF PRESENT

Maria Perez	Mario Perez
Ernesto Hinojos	Valerie Ruelas
Sophia Rumanes	Magdalena Esquivel
Delia Sandoval	Oscar Garcia

*Arrived after roll call

**Excused absence

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA The committee approved the agenda.

MEETING SUMMARY

Cathy Reback commented that she noticed that the minutes this month outline what took place but there wasn't dialogue of motions and discussions that took place in the previous meeting. She stated that there was, "a lot more conversation about a particular topic that was not represented in the minutes, and therefore was not part of the public record." She stated that she remembered, that Maria Perez gave an update of the RFP process, and was asked by the committee to have a letter go out to the public stating that the process was delayed. Maria Perez responded to the affirmative that she would get a letter out immediately within the next day or two, and that was not reflected in the minutes. Patricia Jones commented that follow up will be initiated and the necessary documentation will be added. The committee approved the meeting summary with the correction noted by Cathy Reback.

ADDENDUM TO April 6, 2000 Meeting Summary:

During a discussion about the RFP process **Maria Perez** went into a lengthy discussion about the reason for the delay of the RFP process. Some of the comments she made were: “in trying to make your job a little bit easier in responding to the RFP process, we made our job a lot harder, because we had to then take each application and sub divide it into the sub categories for which each one of you responded, and then try to identify the appropriate budgets as well as the appropriate scopes of work that went with each one of the applications.” A lot of time was spent trying to separate and trying to put the packages back together in an organized manner for review by the Review Panels. **Cathy Reback**, thanked Maria Perez for explaining the process, but she stated that she felt that it was the responsibility of OAPP to notify the agencies that submitted RFPs, that there would be delays. She stated that on March 21, 2000, “it was put forth by the Evaluation subcommittee to take back to your office that a fax would go out.” “We haven’t received a fax. There are several agencies not represented here and I think that they deserve communication. They spent a lot of time and energy on these proposals, and they deserve communication to that extent.” Maria Perez responded, “unfortunately, the recommendation that the subcommittee made was not shared with me, I have the staff working on a letter that is supposed to go out to everyone.” There were no other motions that were not already reflected in the previous meeting summary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Watt, Executive Director of Van Ness Recovery House, stated that she was really angry and sad because she did not understand the reason that there is no communication from OAPP about the prevention RFPs. She stated that, two months have gone by since a notification was supposed to be sent out. She stated that “we have been failed in communication.”

Maria Perez responded that the first phase of review panels have been completed. More problems have been encountered. The actual write up of the review panels has taken longer than was anticipated. She commented that, a letter was drafted, almost immediately after the last PPC meeting, but for any number of reasons all internal, the letter was delayed in getting out. She stated that she will assume full responsibility for that, but there were a number of very difficult review panels. She commented that during the initial planning of the timeline, “we were not very thoughtful or realistic enough in terms of how much and what needed to get done.” She apologized for the delay and stated that it is a lesson that was learned. A letter will be sent to everyone who submitted a proposal as well as to other folks who are interested. She will try to get it out this week.

Dean Goishi commented that the Co-chairs assume responsibility to convey to Mr. Henry what has been stated and hopefully a representative from OAPP, or Mr. Henry, can come and address the committee. A **motion** was made that the PPC request for the second time that OAPP demonstrate its respect for community based organizations by sending out a memo updating proposers on the RFP process, including anticipating timelines for completion. The PPC requested that this be completed no later than May 15, 2000. The motion was seconded, and moved by consensus. It was commented for the record that over the course of the last two months there has been a breakdown of trust between the community based organizations and OAPP because there hasn’t been any acknowledgment of the client’s needs and the services that are provided. A recommendation was made that in the future, during the RFP process, the PPC assign an ADHOC committee to address concerns and also to provide OAPP with a letter of intent from those agencies who may be submitting RFPs to provide a better plan both for the community and OAPP. Dean Goishi, commented the PPC is still in the reorganization and structuring process and he felt this was an important issue that would be brought up in the Executive committee, or the operations committee. A **motion** was made, seconded, and moved by consensus to refer to the executive committee and operations committee to discuss how to improve the RFP process, so that we don’t run into problems that OAPP has been facing.

There was a discussion about the funding and the ending period. **Valerie Ruelas**, Prevention Unit OAPP, explained that current Prevention programs that were ending in July have all been extended through December 31, 2000. The agencies whose contracts were extended were notified several months ago.

Cathy Reback voiced for the record that other areas of concern were: that the contracts that are currently in place were based on proposals that were written in 1995, five years ago and budgets have not changed and

agencies are operating with budgets that are 5 years old. Some agencies have retained staff the entire 5 years and have been unable to give them salary increases because the budgets are old. There are no supplies left, there's no cost of living increase or agencies have given salary increases and wiped out supplies. The budgets of these contracts are actually a hardship on the agencies and are costing the agencies a lot of money by dipping into discretionary funds or additional fundraising activities to try to stay alive. There doesn't seem to be any recognition from OAPP of the hardship that this has caused the individual small non-profit agencies. A discussion was held about the extension of the current contracts. A concern was voiced with respect to the possible flexibility during the six months within the contracts to make some minor changes to do something about how the epidemic has changed in regards to people's perceptions and attitudes. The following are some of the comments made regarding the notification of the extended contracts: "We had no idea that the contracts were being extended to December 31, 2000." "We were told to write the scopes of work for December 31, but we were also told that they would only be for six months maybe 9 months." "The fact that there was a 12 month scope of work, was not an indication, that it would be a 12 month contract." Clarification was made that part of the confusion was that OAPP has state and CDC funds and that the CDC contracts were funded for 12 months. A question was asked whether a letter would be sent to agencies with notification that their contracts were extended. It was clarified that when the extensions were processed each agency was notified on an individual basis and the scopes of work were renegotiated at that time.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

In the last PPC meeting members were asked to review the Goals and Objectives, at their next subcommittee meetings. A discussion was held about the Goals and Objectives. A **motion** was made, seconded, and moved by consensus, that each subcommittee make, as part of their on going work, the evaluation and monitoring of the goals and objectives contained in the county's application to the CDC. **Dean Goishi** reminded PPC members that each member is required by the policy and procedures manual to participate in at least one subcommittee. The Operations subcommittee has not been structured and needs members. That subcommittee assumed the responsibility of membership and bylaws.

Syphilis Outbreak:

Robin Davis provided an update on the syphilis outbreak. As of this morning, there are 87 outbreaks related syphilis cases. They are defined as: men who have sex with men, and individuals who have reported contacts in the public venues, bath houses, sex clubs, bars. The 87 include 70 cases of residents of Los Angeles County; 3 cases from Orange County; and 14 from Long Beach all tied into the same outbreak. 78 of the 87 have identified themselves as men who have sex with men and 8 individuals are transgender. One case is of unknown sexual orientation. The racial make up of the cases: 2 Asian Pacific Islander, 11 African Americans, 39 Hispanics, and 35 whites. The median age is 36 years but it ranges from 20 to 52. 47 of these cases are known to be HIV infected and 31 were receiving medical care for HIV at the time of their syphilis diagnosis. Since the outbreak was determined in late March, enhanced screening has been implemented in a number of different venues in working with several community-based organizations. Since late March, screening has been implemented in the men's central jail for all individuals who have been identified as men who have sex with men. To date testing has been provided to 387 individuals; 13 of which have tested positive. HIV testing has also been offered and 30 cases of HIV have been identified, it is not clear at this point whether this are new cases of HIV or individuals who may have been tested and already knew their positive status. AIM which is the organization that provides HIV testing to the adult entertainment industry has tested all of its 322, members and has had no cases of syphilis. The county's HIV EPI program and Long Beach Health department have implemented testing in the sex clubs and bathhouses. To date 101 people have tested and two people have tested positive for syphilis. Long Beach has provided testing to a club, which is at the south end of the county and they have identified 3 new cases of HIV and 2 new cases of syphilis, out of 22 people tested. The STD program has implemented enhanced outreach through mobile vans working with various communities, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings in target areas mostly Silver Lake, West Hollywood and Hollywood area. Out of the 440 people who have been tested 3 new cases of syphilis have been identified. 97% of the individuals in the jail have agreed to preventive treatment. All of the cases that have been identified in jail have indicated having sex while incarcerated. Every case of syphilis that is identified is interviewed for sexual partners and other individuals

who they think may be at risk. To date of all the men have been interviewed, and only 3 women have been identified as sexual contacts.

The Board of Supervisors mandates a response to the outbreak. The first part was to launch an immediate media campaign; 450 thousand dollars were identified for that purpose. The first part of the campaign will be launched on May 15. An intense media campaign will be conducted in core areas of Long Beach, West Hollywood, Hollywood, Silver Lake, Pico Union, East Los Angeles, Crenshaw area, South Central Wilmington, and downtown Los Angeles. The media campaign is going to include nine large billboards, small bulletin boards, flyers in restaurants and bars and bathrooms, bus benches, mobile billboards, print ads in various publications, radio ads, work on the internet; to be located in each of those core areas. The feedback provided by the community was to focus on syphilis that it's curable. Samples of the campaign were passed out. The Board asked for a rapid condom distribution plan. If groups have a need for condoms they can contact the STD 800 hotline number. As part of the Board's package, they approved the purchase of a new hotline that can have more capacity and more menu options. As of right now the outbreak, as the data is indicating, is confined to men who have sex with men.

Ernesto Hinojos explained that OAPP would be providing training in collaboration with the STD program for providers, bathhouse and sex club workers. All prevention providers and primary providers will be invited to attend a series of seven training. A one day training will take place on May 17, followed by six 3 hour training's in May and June. Presently a survey is being conducted to determine the type of outreach activities that are currently being conducted in the County and decide where the gaps are. Also to determine appropriate strategies to use and identify where additional outreach is needed. In addition a meeting will be held on May 9, to provide a presentation of findings of the survey. Letters have been sent to medical providers informing them about the outbreak, and to be vigilant in taking sexual histories of their clients. The campaign will run for three months. At the end of three months an assessment will be conducted to determine how effective the campaign was and to inform the Board. **Sergio Avina** passed out a promotional flyer that Altamed has been distributing to the community regarding syphilis.

There was a discussion about the bureaucracy and the length of time it takes for some of the agencies to develop a relationship with their local County Health Department.

Public Policy Committee

Mario Perez provided a brief overview of the last meeting and explained that the Commission of HIV Health Services is currently considering a Sunset Review document that was made available at the last Commission meeting. The document explains the purpose and intent of the Commission. The Commission is required to explain its role in the community. The document describes the structure of the Commission. Currently the PPC is a select committee of the Commission. During the Public Policy meeting there was a discussion about the current structure of the PPC and it was decided to have a discussion with the body to consider the following three options:

- 1st Option; to keep the PPC in its relationship to the commission as a select committee of that body.
- 2nd Option; to recommend a collapsing of the PPC into the Commission, there would be one body conducting, planning, prevention and care services much like the state of California.
- 3rd Option: to initiate a complete separation of the PPC from the Commission.

The Sunset Review document was due May 3rd. The description of the work of the PPC in the Sunset Review document was not sufficient in describing the work and the task that the PPC takes on as far as planning around prevention issues. The committee recommended that an addendum be made to the Sunset Review to highlight the work that the PPC has accomplished, by including language from the existing Prevention Plan. Another recommendation was to ask Maria Perez to look at the possible procedures and steps that need to be taken in considering the three options that are available to this body.

A discussion was held in reference to the three options. Some of the comments were: More information and research from OAPP about the procedures involved are needed. Need to know about other groups and their experience of splitting up and would like to have the full scope of information. The possibility of bringing outside expertise to help facilitate the process was discussed.

Maria Perez stated that she has been asked to identify the process needed, in terms of the administrative and legislative aspects, of becoming an independent body. Also to provide the experience of others who have either joined or decided to separate altogether. She will provide feedback. A poll was conducted to get an idea of where members were on this subject.

Co-chairs Report

Patricia Jones stated that every year the National Minority AIDS Council, in collaboration with the CDC, sponsors a number of community leadership trainings around the country. She attended training sponsored in Alaska. It created an opportunity to meet with other community planning group members. Many issues were discussed, including membership and recruitment with others including members from rural communities. Many issues were very similar to those addressed by the PPC. Dean Goishi suggested that it might be good to hear from the rural areas of Los Angeles County, as possible presenters.

Dean Goishi, reported that the HIV/AIDS Strategic Planning Oversight group, which is a collaboration and partnership between the Commission, PPC, OAPP, and Health Deputies, is getting back on track and the meeting has been set for this month. The purpose is to develop a strategic plan for Los Angeles County, both Patricia and Dean is the official representative from the planning body. **Melanie Sovine** is the consultant that has been contracted to guide the County through this process.

CDC

Maria Perez commented that a request from CDC was received, to complete a supplemental application that would eventually become part of the base funding. The deadline to submit the supplemental application is May 30. Little guidance was provided. This funding is restricted to 3 categories MSM, adolescent, and transgender. It is estimated by OAPP that an additional 600,000 to 900,000 will be added to the base award. The guidance received states that existing gaps in the prevention application need to be met. The difficulty in justifying any gaps since final decisions about RFPs have not been made has been conveyed to CDC. CDC has indicated their willingness to be flexible, as long as focus is maintained on EPI and the evidence that was submitted in the application. Input from the PPC was requested concerning specific areas where these funds may be allocated. Some of the suggestions were: Allocate money to MSM adolescents, to focus on how to get young MSM into services, provide them with adequate services to meet their needs and ensure they do not become infected. Use the money to do creative outreach by supporting programs that already exist. Use the funds for technical assistance and capacity building.

There was a lengthy discussion about the needs of the agencies. The PPC members were reminded that their role was planners not advocates. It was stated that an important responsibility was their charge of planning prevention services in this county and not advocating for specific groups.

OAPP REPORT

Maria Perez reported that the wall was supposed to be up on Saturday, unfortunately it was delayed because the image was produced outside of Los Angeles and did not arrive on time. It should be installed today. The images for the rest of the campaign are still under development. Work is being completed for counseling and testing days on June 29, 2000, to include advertisement on benches and other work.

The California HIV Planning group, met last month and is in the process of working out a formula for prevention plans for California, Los Angeles County and San Francisco. The majority of members did not want Los Angeles County and San Francisco to be considered for prevention state funding since both are directly funded through CDC. Los Angeles and San Francisco are the only cities who have a cap, which is 10% for the

first year. There is a process being worked on, to determine whether other health departments, if funded in the future, will be held to the same standards as Los Angeles and San Francisco. The initial discussions were that if other local health departments were funded they would not be held to the same standard as San Francisco and Los Angeles Counties.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Subcommittee

Patricia Jones reported that the committee met and Mark Briggs the co-chair of the Commission was in attendance. He shared his ideas and gave an update on the priority setting process that the Commission is currently involved with and the Sunset review process.

Public Policy - There was no report.

Counseling and Testing Task force - There was no report.

Youth leadership

The Annual Youth Forum was held on April 22. The Youth Forum was a great success. A special thanks was given to all those who participated. **John Copeland** was acknowledged for his hard work with the Youth Forum.

Best Practice/Standards

Kelli Trombacco stated they are working on obtaining information from other PPC groups around the country for review and to get some direction. Next meeting will be on Monday May 15, 2000.

Evaluation

Nancy Wongvipat reported that the committee recommended expanding the PPC survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the subcommittees, since most of the work is accomplished in subcommittees. The survey will be implemented at the June PPC meeting. The committee reviewed the 2000 Goals and Objectives, the committee will continue to refer to those goals and ensure the timeline is followed accordingly. The Community Risk Assessment Survey was modified and was sent for approval. The Evaluation subcommittee now meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:30 PM –4:00 PM. The co-chairs are **Jeff Bailey** and **Nancy Wongvipat**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Copeland - The Southern California Conference on Stimulant Abuse in Gay Men, will be held in West Hollywood, on May 19, 2000.

Richard Zalvidar – He is involved in a letter writing campaign. The goal is to collect over 1200 letters, which will go to the State Assembly budget committee, a request from state assemblymen Gil Cedillo. The purpose is to complete the AIDS Memorial Wall, “Las Memorias” at Lincoln Park. Address the letter to the Governor and to the chairs of the assembly and the senate budget committee. When completed send them to his office.

Mario Perez- In the packet is a draft of the needle exchange guidance for your review. Transgender Talk 2000 will be on June 18, 2000 at The Village. 1st one in Los Angeles.

There was a moment of prayer and silence for those who have died of AIDS and **Bob Craig**, publisher of, Frontiers, who recently passed away.

ADJOURNMENT

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