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

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dean Goishi	Chi-Wai Au
Jeff Bailey	Ricky Bluthenthal
Mark Etzel	Danielle Glenn-Rivera
Evelyn Gonzalez-Figueroa	David Luis Herrera
Juan Carlos Ledesma	Ric Loya
Cleo Manago	James Miller
Nancy Pollard	Ruth Slaughter
Elaine Waldman	Nancy Wongvipat
Richard Zaldivar	Tony Zimbardi
Cathleen Bemis	Jean Armbruster

**ABSENT**

** Charles L. Henry	Sergio Avina
** Patricia Jones	John Copeland
** Cathy Reback	Vincent Lopez
** Ramon Flores	Cecil Ingram
Vanessa Talamantes	
Kellii Trombocco	
Latrice R. Dennis	
Rhena Carusillo	

**STAFF PRESENT**

Alvin Ransom	Elizabeth Escovedo	Kevin Harvey
Edith Muegge	Delia Sandoval	Oscar Garcia

\*Arrived after roll call

\*\*Excused absence

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** -The committee approved the agenda.

**MEETING SUMMARY** - The committee approved the September 2000, meeting summary.

**RFP Process**

**Dean Goishi** stated that **Mr. Henry** was unable to attend the meeting today because he was sick. They were unable to schedule a special meeting as was indicated at the last PPC meeting because of the schedules of senior staff at OAPP and the work on applications due in September. It was decided to have a short meeting today and devote most of the time to the pending issues of the RFP process.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Tony Inigues** expressed a concern about the possible closure of the Youth lesbian bisexual, transgender gay program at Bienestar on January 2001. These programs have been established since 1983 throughout the county focusing on youth and providing support. Those centers are located within the community, which provides easy access.

**Victor Sanchez.** It is unfortunate that this body does not have the guidance to implement the needs that are being addressed here. There is a gap in services for MSM youth of color by agencies with people of color.

Certain agencies have the staff to offer the services and the diversity that reflects the true roots in the communities. He asked that the PPC make this a priority.

**Kathy Watt** stated that she was really disappointed and cannot understand the reason there is no response from OAPP to the questions that were asked at the last PPC meeting. She wrote a letter to Mr. Henry the next day after the PPC meeting and has not received a response. She finds it very hard to believe that there was no one from OAPP that could come and share Mr. Henry's remarks.

**Sonia Gutierrez** stated that there are many women putting themselves at risk every day. Women have children. Those children grow up and have grandchildren. It is a cycle. Our job is to educate them and inform them of their options, and provide them with support. If it weren't for women we would not be here now.

**Regina Christian** lives in south central Los Angeles. If it weren't for the services she would not be able to educate her children and other family members about HIV and AIDS.

**Andria Stanley** stated that she has learned about HIV, and how to protect herself. These programs are needed.

**Rosanda Parker** stated that programs are needed to educate the children. There are so many ways of contracting AIDS. Children are having sex at 10 and 13 years old and having babies at 13.

**Victoria Shanon** lives in SPA 6, is a homeowner, pays taxes, and wants to know where her money is going. She has watched women and children in her neighborhood every day walk around lost and confused, getting shot and raped. Why are the women in South Central not getting help? Youth were granted money but without the mother, there would be no youth.

**Janell** has children and they have to grow up in this world and she needs agencies that she can guide them to. People talk about the American dream, but for whom?

**Stacie Charles** had her first child at the age of thirteen. Her mother did not make her aware of the basic things about how you get pregnant, how you contract diseases. If somebody had educated her mother about these she would have felt comfortable to talk to her children. An agency showed her about self-confidence, and how to protect herself, instead of being a mother on welfare. Now she has become a productive part of society. If mothers are not taught, there will be no future for our children.

**Crystal** we need to be more educated about high-risk behaviors. We need someone to teach us.

**Helen Fullilove** wants to have the knowledge to educate her children about STD/AIDS, so that they can have the skills to survive.

**Ruth Arriola**, mother of 3, had a mother who did not know or was too embarrassed to talk to her about preventing AIDS. It is unfair that people did not show up to hear the voice of the community.

**Natasha Woods** has a 15-year-old and 14 year old and she just found out that they are sexually active. She has no knowledge about diseases and how to protect her children from getting them. She needs the services now.

There was a lengthy discussion about the impact of the RFP process. The PPC members expressed their concern and frustration. Some of the questions and concerns were:

1. This issue seems to drag on. There always seems to be something going. There is always an excuse.
2. There is no reason why there is no one from OAPP senior management here today who can answer some of the questions and concerns of the community. There could have been an attempt made to have a senior manager from OAPP present. This issue could have been addressed as a priority.
3. This is an indicator of how the women's population is not a priority. In the past, issues were dealt with and now things are delayed for one reason or another.
4. When are these issues going to be resolved? What is the process? Where do we go from here? Since we know that the money that is left is supposed to go to MSM, can we get additional funding for women?
5. OAPP did not apply for state money for people of color and women. Women's issues need to be a priority and anything short of that is not acceptable.
6. Policies and procedures state that PPC members and advisors are accountable to their communities and will act as community liaisons by soliciting input from and reporting back to the respective communities. We have an obligation to the community.
7. A concern was expressed that perhaps the PPC members should express an apology to the community on behalf of OAPP for not responding quickly to the inquiry by the community. Some PPC members stated that they do not feel comfortable apologizing for OAPP and the apology should come from OAPP.
8. PPC members expressed their disappointment and concern that OAPP did not provide the written answers to the questions as indicated at the last meeting.

9. It was stated that they would very much like to see the formula for allocating resources that OAPP used.
10. The issue is that in doing the allocation process, the plan was not followed. Approximately 25% was designated for youth and 75% for adult women. This issue is not going to go away until it is resolved
11. A clear explanation of the formula used is needed. Because there are many components, when an explanation is received it is confusing. An explanation that was given raised an issue that would have implications for the one million dollars. How will that be allocated? If the same formula is used, we are going to face the same problems. The plan was not followed.
12. OAPP needed some kind of guidance on how to distribute funding between the SPAs. The six indicators that were weighed in and multiplied into what was in the plan to distribute the funding between each SPA were not shared with the PPC prior to the funding. Those weights resulted in the outcomes of the allocations that are the reason, for the disparities in the distribution of funds within the SPAs.
13. According to the funding priorities and the funding allocations described at the last meeting, Latinas and African American adult women who reside in East Los Angeles, downtown and south central Los Angeles County did not get any funding. As a human being that has some understanding of the way this epidemic is moving in Los Angeles County that cannot be allowed.

**MOTION # 1 (Motion passed)** that OAPP apologize to the community for not having senior OAPP staff at the October 5 meeting to provide the PPC with a report dealing with all the community questions raised at the previous two meetings.

**MOTION # 2 (Motion failed)** That the membership of the PPC express an apology to the community for not holding OAPP accountable to answering the questions and the concerns raised by the community.

There was a discussion about the meeting summary page 4, last paragraph, Mr. Henry stated that; “They anticipate about one million dollars in new resources based on the federal budget from CDC and additional funds from the state. This is one of the areas that was recommended for PPC review in terms of creating a longer transition from “existing reality” to “new reality.”

**Mark Etzel** suggested that he would be willing to draft a memo to OAPP on behalf of this body that can be shared among the executive committee regarding the following three issues of concern:

1. To express disappointment or frustration that there was no representative at today’s meeting from OAPP. Given the fact that this agenda item has been carried forward and is a priority, not only for the community but also for the PPC.
2. Are awaiting and want an explanation of the allocation process specifically to category D and how adult women at sexual risk for HIV seemingly were overlooked in the award process.
3. PPC members want a commitment from and in partnership with OAPP to identify additional funds for women at sexual risk that will not supplant the current funds but rather expand the funding base.

**Oscar de La O** stated that he was very supportive of any population with gaps in services and that population must be served. Before money is allocated, a process needs to be followed. The PPC followed that process by creating the Prevention Plan. PPC members voted on specific percentages for each population and the outcome was the money that was allocated. There was a detailed presentation by Maria Perez. Perhaps this group could ask her to present it again. The duty of the PPC is to make decisions based on epidemiology. Sometimes we are motivated to make motions when certain agencies, especially agencies that sit around the table, didn’t get funded and use this as a forum to allocate money to their own agency or the mobilization of a certain community when there are still gaps in other communities. It does not serve us well in the community. If PPC members feel that the Prevention Plan does not address the needs of a certain population then go back and revise the Prevention Plan.

**MOTION # 3 (Motion failed)** that the membership of the PPC convey to OAPP:

1. The delays in responding to gaps and prevention services for women are unacceptable;
2. Women’s funding must become a priority to address and close the gaps;
3. A crisis of HIV risk among women in Los Angeles County exists;

4. OAPP must become proactive and work with PPC and the community to identify and distribute women's prevention funds from local, state and federal sources immediately.

**Dean Goishi** commented that he wanted members to consider that they have not been presented with the data to change the process, the 2000 Plan. The issue is what happened in the last RFP process and the results. There may be a particular population that needs to be looked at. The process of trying to find additional funding may help in finding a solution. We cannot at this point change the plan. We need to look at gaps analysis. The gaps analysis is a larger issue than just one population. We need to look at the whole process, the plan, the resource allocation, and the outcome in reference to the current plan.

#### **BREAK**

**MOTION # 4 (Motion passed)** As a result of the crisis in funding for adult women at sexual risk for HIV infection, the PPC recommends that new funding received for HIV prevention by OAPP to the extent allowable by funders be directed to funding programs for adult women at sexual risk for HIV infection.

**Kathy Watt** stated that the dysfunction is loud and clear. She has figured out that OAPP has the big gap. How many positions are vacant in OAPP? Every single thing that comes out of there is late. Last year she lost augmentation money she was awarded because they did not have staff to process it. There was a discussion about staffing levels at OAPP. Dean Goishi stated that he would look into this and perhaps that could be made available to the PPC members.

**Kevin Harvey** as a former PPC member and as someone, who worked with the PPC for a long time, advised the PPC members that they should address concern in the subcommittees. It is not intended for OAPP to take that leadership role, when he was involved in the PPC. They wrote letters and they got responses.

#### **GAPS ANALYSIS**

There was a meeting on September 28. The purpose of the meeting was to set the agenda for a larger meeting. The meeting will take place on October 19, at 9:30 am at OAPP. The process will begin at that time. That meeting will be an organizational meeting. A co-chair will be selected at that time. At that meeting, it was decided that there were two objectives to assign: 1. Look at the plan, look at the results and come up with an analysis, also 2. Look at gaps in geographic areas. The list of the documents that would be needed from the various County departments and how to look at the data were also discussed. Epi, as well as CHIPTS and other research people who have information about what is going on in Los Angeles County also need to be included. It was mentioned that it was the understanding that the women's issue would be discussed at the gaps analysis meeting.

#### **Co-Chairs Report**

Patricia Jones will provide a detailed written report on the Syringe Replacement Program for Los Angeles County at the next Executive Subcommittee meeting. On September 18, Dr. Anna Long, Dr. John Schunoff and Dr. Fielding convened a meeting. The County is trying to develop guidelines for the implementation of the County certification or County sponsored needle exchange programs. The goal is to develop a plan. At that meeting the group identified additional groups of persons that should be invited to participate in the discussions that can assist in the development of the plan. It was recommended to invite women and youth that have experienced existing substance abuse treatment services. This would provide an opportunity for the work group to consider potential service barriers to clients who may be referred for treatment at the exchange site. A response will be developed to the Board of Supervisors

The co-chairs of the PPC and the HIV commission identified 7 areas for discussion. The 7 areas are listed on the back of the agenda. The goal is to work together in collaboration and attempt to bridge prevention and treatment services. This issue was tabled until the next PPC meeting.

#### **Sub committee Reports:**

## **Public Policy**

**Mark Etzel** commented that a meeting was held and County Counsel, Rose Belda, attended this meeting. There were three issues that the committee discussed with her.

1. To understand the process by which commissions are established in the county.
2. Review the process that the committee is proposing for establishing policy priorities and recommending positions on issues. Ms. Belda made some minor recommendations. Once those changes are made they will be presented to the body.
3. Review of the Brown Act.

In Los Angeles County commissions can only be established by an ordinance that includes the requirements for memberships. The Board of supervisors can only initiate an ordinance on action. Once the Board of Supervisors requests that an ordinance be developed to establish a commission that provides the green light to County Counsel to start working on developing that ordinance. Once that happens, it takes about 2 months to develop the ordinance before it goes back to the Board of Supervisors. The first time it is heard is to be introduced to the Board. It is acted upon at a subsequent meeting. Ms. Belda suggested that if we were exploring the possibility of becoming independent, to do light work with OAPP as well as the Health Deputies to see if there is support for the concept. Maria Perez has been working with the committee to see how other jurisdictions structure their care and their prevention advisory bodies. The committee will work on the pro/con list and present it to the full PPC.

There was a discussion about motions. The Brown Act is intended to ensure that the public is always informed that the action is taking place in a public meeting. A proposed action can be introduced from the body if that item was included in the agenda. It does not have to be spelled out in the agenda every time that there is an action item. There is some latitude in how those motions can be introduced. Sunset Review, Social Marketing campaign and HIV Surveillance were discussed. A process for establishing guidelines around HIV surveillance will be developed. Mario Perez and Gunther Freehill will be the contact persons

## **Counseling and testing**

**Bertell Ferguson** reported that World AIDS Day campaign was discussed. The following concerns were expressed; the community as a whole was not represented. Many clients would not identify with those images. Recommendations were made that the campaign should focus on free HIV testing and its availability. There is an issue regarding the word confidential. The community as a whole does not understand the difference between confidential and anonymous testing. Another issue was the lack of coordination and knowledge of agencies that serve recent immigrant populations. It was recommended to form a working group to coordinate these agencies to avoid duplication of services.

## **Youth and Leadership**

**Chi-Wai Au** stated that they discussed the revision of the needs assessment survey, which will be used at the Youth Forums and will be presented to the PPC. Instead of one large youth forum there will be 4 smaller ones.

## **Best Practice**

Goals and Objectives and a mission statement were established.

## **Evaluation**

Discussed the monthly report system. A copy of what the CDC requirements are was received. They are gathering information of the requirements that OAPP needs in the monthly report. They hope to work very closely with the gaps analysis.

## **Operations**

A mission statement was developed. They are reviewing the policies and procedures and also looking at how many seats are open. They will be discussing training needs. They will look at the mission statements and integrate them into the policies and procedures. They are also looking at attendance records for PPC members and will make recommendations to the Co-Chairs. Dean asked the Operations committee to take the lead in drafting a new letter to recruit new applicants to the PPC.

**Dean Goishi** stated that the Second District has requested that a representative from Counseling and Testing attend their meetings, which are held the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 am. The purpose is to explain the mission and objectives of that committee and how they work with various service providers within the Second District. They meet at T.H.E. Clinic on King Blvd.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Effective October 16: Los Angeles County Alcohol and Drug Program Administration Office, will be moving to 1000 Fremont 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Alhambra.

October 27: the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus will have a symposium. They will focus on language access, use, and substance misuse.

October 16 to 20: Breast Cancer Industry awareness month at, 2509 Pico Blvd. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, will host a mural (it is a traveling mural).

October 19: from 9:00 to 10:30 AM the speakers for the Colloquial at APLA will be Dr. George Ayala and Dr. Rafael Diaz. Their presentation will focus on prevention issues among MSM Latinos.

October 7: Youth dance at the AMASSI Center 8:00 PM.

October 9 and 10: KCET will have a program on drugs and the drug wars.

November 18: Women's Link will sponsor a conference dealing with the empowerment of clients.

November 4: the Gay Men of Color Consortium is having a testament conference for gay men of color at CAL State Los Angeles.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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