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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, November 1, 2001  
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  
St. Anne's Foundation Conference Room  
155 North Occidental Boulevard-Los Angeles, CA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mario Perez	Jeff Bailey
Richard Zaldivar	Ricky Bluthenthal
Sergio Avina	Gordon Bunch
Tony Bustamante	Sandra Cargill
Mark Etzel	Ramon Flores (L)
Danielle Glenn-Rivera(L)	Edric Mendia
James Miller	Veronica Morales
Cleo Manago (L)	Vicky Ortega
Keisha Paxton	Ricki Rosales
Frank Roque	Vanessa Talamantes
Kellii Trombacco (L)	Nancy Wongvipat

ABSENT

Chi-Wai Au  
Kevin Kindlin  
Juan Carlos Ledesma  
Gail Sanabria  
Emma Robinson

STAFF PRESENT

Elizabeth Escobedo	Dean Goishi	Oscar Garcia
Gabriel Rodriguez	Rene Seidel	Anna Soto
Delia Sandoval		

**ROLL CALL** - Roll call was conducted. A quorum was present.

**CHIPTS COLLOQUIA SERIES** – Couples Intervention - by Deborah Koniak-Griffin, RNC, Ed.D. FAAN P  
Professor/Principle Investigator UCLA School of Nursing.

**Deborah Koniak-Griffin, Janna Lesser**, co-investigator from UCLA School of Nursing and **Robert Verdugo** and **Oswaldo Cruz** community collaborators from the Latino Family Institute at Bienvenidos Family Services, conducted the presentation. The purpose of the study was to conduct a two-phase project leading to the design and pilot testing of an HIV prevention program for young parents. The University AIDS Research Program funded the project. Copies of this study were provided.

Next month **Dr. George Ayala** will be presenting his work on Social Discrimination & Health: The Case of Latino Gay Men and HIV Risk

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

**APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY**

The committee approved the Meeting Summary for October 4, 2001.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Sofia Kong** announced that on December 1, 2001 the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team would have a World AIDS Day event. The theme will be Food as Art and the program will be youth focused. Flyers were available.

**Ariel Rivera and Alvaro Canton**, conduct outreach to churches through a program called "Proyecto Fe" which is a collaboration between Bienestar and The Wall Las Memorias Project. In the near future they will be providing a report to the PPC about the program. For the past 12 months they have been involved in conducting needs assessments and training to churches. An ecumenical breakfast will be held on November 15, 2001, for the clergy they have worked with throughout the year. A World AIDS Day event called "Noche De Las Memorias" will be held at Lincoln Park, on December 1, 2001 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. On November 9, 11, and 15, 20, Sunset Free Clinic will sponsor a play called "The Colorina," about HIV/AIDS and transgenders, at the Complex Theatre, 6470 Santa Monica Blvd, Hollywood.

**Uyen Bui** reported that AIDS Project Los Angeles is conducting an Evaluation Training program to assess CBO's capacity of prevention and care services. They will be conducting a needs assessment starting next year to gather data about evaluation needs, and to develop a training program, a pilot test will be conducted during the month of November and December to test their survey. Flyers were available.

**Miguel Martinez** announced that the second annual Transgender Youth Symposium is scheduled for November 16, 2001. They have about 50 slots for transgender youth. If interested call 669-2390.

## **OAPP REPORT**

### **CDC Application**

**Mario Perez** reported that OAPP has not heard from CDC about the final CDC cooperative award for 2001. About \$32 million was requested to complement state and local resources. Our local prevention program is estimated to be about \$45 million. Currently our award is \$13 million with about \$1.5 million in supplemental award. The technical review to the cooperative agreement has been received. CDC has asked OAPP to provide modification in the area of return rates for counseling and testing (HTC). We proposed an overall return rate of 85% for all persons tested for HIV to our publicly funded programs. CDC has asked to ensure that the return rate for all persons tested HIV positive be 90%. A response to CDC with that adjustment has been made. We are challenging our providers to develop strategies to ensure the return rate is increased.

A number of strategies have been developed to increase return rates. For people testing confidentially there still continues to be a considerable proportion of tests for which we need to rely more on follow-up intervention. A follow up strategy is in place for persons who do not return for their results. Providers are now reimbursed to make sure that either through a post card or through some other contact people return for their results. We rely on the effectiveness of HCT providers and the pretest counseling session to articulate the importance of returning for the test results for anonymous testing. The requirement in the contracts to have strategies in place will help raise the anonymous testing return rates.

### **HIV Counseling & Testing (HCT)**

Currently OAPP is engaged in contract negotiations for all of HCT awards that have recently been recommended. That negotiation process is not yet complete. The process has been more challenging than was anticipated. The process will outline for providers the HCT goals for the next few years. These are multiple year contracts. OAPP is making sure that these services are focused on behavioral risk groups and ensuring that providers have clear strategies to focus the HCT resources on those BRGs most at risk for infection. The office is making every effort to ensure the distribution of testing resources across all SPAs based on need.

### **World AIDS Day**

OAPP will be sponsoring a World AIDS Day event on December 1, 2001, at the Los Angeles Music Center. A number of local Elected Officials have been invited, as well as the Governor. At that time the annual OAPP/HIV Counselor of the Year Award will be presented. HCT providers were encouraged to nominate individuals.

### **Prevention for HIV Infected Persons (PHIP)**

There have been some recent organizational changes at OAPP impacting the Prevention Services Division. The Prevention for HIV Infected Persons program has been transferred to the Prevention Services Division. Magdalena Esquivel and Frank Roque who manage that program have now joined the Prevention Services Division.

### **Partner Counseling Referral Services (PCRS)**

**Mario Perez** commented that there are a number of HCT staff throughout the county who have not been trained in PCRS. In the contracts there are new requirements to have some agencies begin to provide PCRS. OAPP continues to work closely with the STD Programs to develop a training plan for those services.

### **Evaluating Local Interventions (ELI)**

An ELI training was conducted this morning for agencies that are part of the pilot phase of this program. The duration of the pilot will be about 4 to 5 weeks. Broader training will be provided by the State sometime next year. The State has developed this web-based system, in response to the CDC requirement that we better capture some of our intervention services. The web-based system will be conducted through a California DHS server and will allow us to capture all the data that is currently collected through a paper system. The system will incorporate some of our care reporting goals and ensure consistency with the current data that is collected in the monthly reports. It is hoped to fully implement the ELI program by July 1, 2002. The implementation of ELI will currently affect some of the health education and risk reduction and prevention case management programs. At present, it will not yet affect our HCT reporting which will remain using the HIV 5 form.

### **RFP:**

#### **Capacity Building RFP**

Gabriel Rodriguez provided a brief update several RFPs. There are details in last month's summary regarding the initiatives that are out right now. The Capacity Building RFP was released and the due date is November 29, 2001. There is a Bidders Conference scheduled for Monday November 5, 2001. The capacity building RFP contains 3 categories. 1. Technical Assistance and Infrastructure Development; Identify an organization to manage qualified experts and consultant services that provide capacity building activities to our HIV/AIDS service providers to develop their infrastructure and their ability to implement programs through out a continuum of HIV care. Continuum that the commission has recently adopted and that strongly integrates HIV prevention and care. They will be required to conduct assessments of agencies and work with existing assessments to identify the capacity needs of our HIV AIDS service providers. 2. We want to establish within this RFP our service provider community development coalitions. One for Latinos and one for African American population. This is an initiative that would need to cover all of Los Angeles County. It is intended to develop capacity in communities to articulate education components and to advance a Latino and African American HIV/AIDS agenda at the local, state, and federal levels as a unified voice for Los Angeles County. 3. Coordinated Provider Networks, this is a rebid something we released last year to ensure we have service provider networks in all 8 Service Planning Areas. We were not able to find a provider in 3, 5, & 8 to implement initiative for SPA 3.

#### **Corrections Demonstration Project**

This RFP will have components for peer education and support, risk reduction counseling, and HCT within Los Angeles County Jail System. It will include the HCT dollars that were designated for the jails in the HCT RFP that were not awarded. Funds that were not awarded will be resolicited under this RFP. These components will complement a larger demonstration project which includes transitional case management, training for medical staff within the jails, training for corrections staff within the jails, as well as development of education materials that are sensitive and specific for people who are incarcerated or in the jail system. This is very different from a prison HIV education or Risk Reduction Program. It is more challenging because of the jail setting and the high turn around and movement of inmates within the jail system.

**Mario Perez** commented that OAPP would provide an overview to all the successful HCT, and HERR rebid providers, on December 7, 2001. Some of the reporting requirements and evaluation, planning, Quality Improvement (QI) requirements of the contracts will be reviewed at that meeting.

The office continues to be engaged in discussions with the Sheriffs Department on the implementation of HCT Services. OAPP recently recommended for funding both the Sheriffs Department and a community based organization to provide testing services within the jails.

OAPP has recently recommended funding an initiative to target gay men in public and commercial sex environments. The office continues to work with both of those providers, AHF and APLA to make sure that we move forward with the resources as effectively as we can.

### **CO-CHAIRS REPORT**

#### **Attendance**

Richard Zaldivar commented that within the PPC there is a number of members that constantly miss PPC meetings and a number of sub-committees and ad hoc committees. He will make sure that there is a complete report to the community of those individuals who are supposed to be here and who are not. He also commented that the attendance of the PPC members at the PPC and also at the subcommittee level would be monitored. PPC members

are expected to attend and participate in the PPC meetings and sub-committees. There was a discussion about roll call. The following clarifications were made; roll call will be conducted at the beginning and at the end of the PPC meeting, an excused absence will no longer appear on the attendance it will either be marked with an 'A' for absent, 'P' for present or 'L' for late.

### **Recruitment**

The PPC is in the process of recruiting to fill approximately 6 vacancies. The application forms were included in the packets. It is hoped to fill the vacancies by early February 2002. The applications on file will also be considered. It was stated that the problem with the current PPC applications on file is that occasionally some candidates are no longer interested in membership to the PPC, or the address and or telephone number is incorrect. The recruitment will fill gaps based on the grid of the current PPC membership, which is included in the packet.

**Jeff Bailey** stated that we are committed to ensure that the membership of the PPC reflects the epidemic and the expertise needed for prevention planning and he encouraged those populations underrepresented within the current PPC membership based on the grid to apply. The Operations Sub-committee is serving as a nominations committee and also conducts twice a year orientation for new members, and for existing members. The Operations Sub-committee reviews the PPC applications and forwards the nominations to the Executive Sub-committee. The Executive Sub-committee reviews, approves and forwards the recommendations to the OAPP Director for final approval.

There was a lengthy discussion about the Policies and Procedures. It was clarified that PPC members are elected for a two-year term and may continue another two-year term. The following issues will be discussed and clarified at the Executive Sub-committee meeting:

1. How to encourage PPC members to attend PPC meetings and stay through the meetings
2. The two absences.
3. The actual date of the term expiration limit.
4. The OAPP Director making the final appointment of the new PPC members based on the recommendations by the PPC.

### **State of California Representative**

A comment was made that the State Representative has not attended the PPC for the last 4 months. The Governor of California cut \$4 million in prevention funds in the State of California. There is a possibility of an additional 15% cut across the board for the next physical period.

**MOTION:** A motion was made, seconded, and approved that the PPC write a letter to the State Office of AIDS and ask for a replacement person to represent the State of California that will attend the PPC on a consistent basis.

### **Social Marketing**

**Jeff Bailey** reported that there are a number of partners engaged in the social marketing process. They interviewed three specific agencies this past Monday that they would like to bring on to create, and disseminate the social marketing campaign. A decision will be made on Monday. Hopefully in the long run it will also address STDs in general.

### **Syphilis**

**Tony Bustamante** provided an update on syphilis. A list of the STD Clinic Schedules was provided. The list is being updated on a monthly basis and can be download at [www.lapublichealth.org](http://www.lapublichealth.org) and scroll down to STD. Included in that web site is a calendar with the schedule of their STD mobile van clinic, which provides outreach. The 2002 calendar will be posted shortly. A partner counseling referral services workshop is scheduled for December 4, 5, and 6, 2001. Participation is limited. They are limiting the workshop to 12 participants. If interested call him and he will fax a registration form. They are looking for participation by the actual counselor who is doing the counseling on a daily basis. To this date the overall syphilis rate for 2000 was 282, this year it is 297. For MSM, men who have sex with men, for the year 2001 we have 139 cases and for the year 2000 we had 96. There is an increase of 45 cases.

**Jeff Bailey** stated that when a person calls the 800 number, they are only given information about the major larger clinics. He suggested that the STD program expand the number of clinics listed and also the one that is on the hot line in order to give people more of an opportunity to find clinics in their own geographical area. Tony Bustamante responded that part of the mobile van, they also have a listing of their community partners that have conducted STD outreach and provide STD testing. For example LA free clinic.

A working group to coordinate outreach services in the local bars and bathhouses has been started. The purpose for this is to obtain some coordination of services within those environments to ensure that agencies can collaborate and find out who is going to be where and find out also for our gaps analysis where people are not going that they need to be. If interested in obtaining more information about this group call Jeff Bailey. Monthly calendars will be provided to those agencies doing MSM outreach.

The STD program is working with the syphilis-working group to provide them with the information of what venues are being named and to assist them in coordinating their efforts. Different individuals made the following comments.

1. It is important to look at some of the details of the report that are being released by the STD program to make sure that we are being as directive with our efforts as possible. Earlier reports suggest that the impact or the increase continues to be in some-sub groups more than others. It may mean that we are doing a better job with some of our interventions in some groups than others.
2. It is important for us to look at the full picture of what the impact has been. As a planning body it will be useful to ensure that we have programs that are responsive and that we have coordination among the agencies. There is benefit to looking at how some of those cases are spread out.
3. Last year a lot of agencies that were not routinely testing for syphilis are now routinely testing for syphilis, and they are more aware of the symptoms that are suggestive of syphilis. That is a big reason why there are more cases.
4. Some of the qualitative data may help inform the social marketing campaign.
5. Last year we established and maintained very good relationships with a lot of the sex clubs and bath houses and this year we are finding some more of the contacts are actually meeting up in regular bars. That is going to be where our work also needs to take place which is now going back and establishing better relationship with the bars because that is one area that we have lost some ground on.
6. Presently 69% of those individuals with lesion syphilis cases are also co-infected with HIV.
7. It is important that we make sure that services are being coordinated to not over saturate the clientele with messages and then risk them not listening to anything prevention providers are saying.
8. Maybe we need to be considering regular bars by looking at the location, and the circumstances. There needs to be at some point some consideration of what are we not doing right, or what can we be doing differently that might be more effective.
9. Rethinking if we can bring smaller group interventions into some of the venues that can accommodate that.

### **Strategic Planning**

**Jeff Bailey** commented that the implementation phase of the Strategic Planning process is moving forward. At the beginning of this month they had the opportunity to inform and educate the Health Deputies about the reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act, the work of the PPC, and their participation in their roles as Chief Elected Officials. The elected officers are Core Planning Partners in the Strategic Planning Process. The consultant is in the process of finding mechanisms to begin to hand off some of the work to working groups, the planning process, and move forward the implementation phase.

**Mark Etzel** commented that it is more apparent with some of the committees about where some of the linkages will exist. For example the Public Policy Committees of the PPC and the Commission are already working together. The PPC and the Commission will be linked with corresponding committees to work on Strategic Planning activities such as the Needs Assessment.

### **Executive Briefing:**

Jeff Bailey commented that on December 6, 2001, Prototypes, OAPP and the PPC, will be sponsoring and hosting an executive briefing to engage in a community discussion about how to respond and advocate to ensure that no further prevention dollars are lost for Los Angeles County. He encouraged those interested to attend and support that event.

## **SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Youth Leadership**

**Sergio Avina** reported that a Youth Leadership Sub-Committee application was included in the packet. The application is only for membership to the Youth Leadership Sub-committee membership. It is due on December 12, 2001. If you need more information about this call Elizabeth Escobedo at 213-351-8130. It is expected to have

an 8 to 10-core group membership of the sub-committee. An Orientation for new members is planned for either January or February. The facilitators will be rotated to foster leadership, attendance and experience. They will be including an icebreaker in the beginning of the meetings. They will be distributing a fact sheet on information about the PPC and the Commission at those meetings. This month's meeting will be held at Bienestar La Casa located in East Los Angeles. Those agencies receiving funding from OAPP to provide services for youth were asked to encourage youth to attend the Youth Leadership Sub-committee meetings.

The Youth Leadership Sub-committee was commended for their work. Mario Perez commented that we need to continue to re-orient people who are not familiar with the community planning process if we are going to be successful with inclusion and representation. He challenged the core group of the Youth Leadership Sub-committee to identify a strategy where significant timely resources are not being invested but there remains a mechanism to inform and bring new potential members up to speed with the work and activity of the subcommittee.

**Sergio Avina** commented that earlier they committed to the challenge of fostering youth leadership. They identified to sub-contract and have someone help to condense the CDC guidance and the 5-year HIV Prevention Plan to accomplish that goal. He commented that those two tools are needed to communicate to newcomers about the PPC process. **Mario Perez** responded that he would make sure that Mr. Henry knows about that request.

**Mario Perez** mentioned that OAPP has required contractors funded by OAPP to attend monthly PPC meetings. He stated that community planning does not just include folks who are providing services. The impact of HIV spans beyond the 80 providers and we need to think about who needs to be at this table that is not a person providing a prevention service.

### **Best Practices**

Kellii Trombacco reported they are prioritizing interventions by BRGs and ethnicity. They will continue their literature search of evidence based interventions by BRGs. They will be developing a formulary to be used in allocating funds based on the BRG. They will review the existing interventions, the epidemic data, the different SPAs, monthly reports, and current funding in Los Angeles County to develop that formulary.

### **Evaluation**

**Nancy Wongvipat** reported that they reviewed the CDC application. At their next meeting they will go through it and compare it with their current work plan to see if they have to reprioritize their action work items. They will also be drafting the PPC sub-committee surveys and plan to implement those at the January PPC meeting.

**Pamela Ogata** commented that currently the CRAS (Countywide Risk Assessment Survey) 2001 needs to go through the IRB (Institutional Review Board) process once again. Jeff Bailey reminded those who had questions around violence last year on the CRAS survey that this is the appropriate time to provide input.

**Jeff Bailey** commented that part of evaluation is the ongoing gaps analysis. He recommended to the Evaluation Sub-committee that they may want to look at a quarterly research colloquia material that was at the back table as a way to find out what current research is going on. Although that may be more about specific services and not prevention, it might be a way to get prevention into that discussion and find out what research is going on. He also encouraged those who have a current contract and do not have an approved evaluation plan, to have those done and completed and approved.

### **Operations**

**Danielle Glenn-Rivera** reported that they have been working on the PPC applications, the recruitment criteria, and looking at the gaps. She commended Sandra Cargill because she has been working on this alone.

**Commission - Vanessa Talamantes** reported that the Commission approved Vickie Ortega and Edric Mendia as new Commissioners.

### **Joint Public Policy (PPC and Commission)**

**Mark Etzel** reported that Dr. Sovine the consultant for the Strategic Planning Process attended the last meeting. The primary focus was to finish discussing the 5<sup>th</sup> shared area, which is a responsibility of the two committees. The two committees are meeting on a monthly basis to address shared areas in the Strategic Planning Effort. One of the activities is strengthening our relationships with elected and appointed officials. It is hoped that through

events like the briefing that is being planned in December, their scope will broaden and meet with State officials throughout the State Office of AIDS as well as elected officials. They also are looking at the draft guidelines for syringe replacement. Those guidelines are still pending at the County level and have not been forwarded to the Board of Supervisors. The committee is going to look into the status of those guidelines.

The committee is in the process of developing a letter on the issue of the transgender women who were being stopped by the police around having condoms and sex work. Shirley Bushnell will help target some groups for discussion on this issue.

**Vickie Ortega** reported that on October 23, 2001, the City of West Hollywood had a meeting with its constituents about their plan to close down a venue. Mark Etzel from the Public Policy Sub-committee commented that he would contact her to discuss the possibility of working on a letter to send to the City of West Hollywood to keep that place open.

#### **Retreat Ad Hoc**

**Vanessa Talamantes** reported that the Retreat ad hoc committee has identified February the 7 and 8 or February 21 and 22 as potential dates for the Retreat. A survey was handed out to all PPC members to complete. They are planning to have a pre-retreat meeting at the February PPC meeting to discuss rules and responsibilities, the history, and policies and procedures of the PPC.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Jeff Bailey** reported that the next quarterly meeting of LAUSD would be held at the Chamber of Commerce on November 7, 2001. Primarily teachers attend. He suggested that it would be helpful to have a PPC voice in those meetings by those who have youth based programs.

**Jeff Bailey** stated that the PPC would like to send one member to the Ryan White Youth HIV conference in January or February. If interested in attending submit your name to either co-chairs, and the reasons why it would benefit you and this body for you to attend.

**Mario Perez** commented that the reassigned contract managers to agencies would be finalized shortly. Those assignments are being accomplished with a SPA-base focus. There are some programs that do not fit with the SPA-base approach, especially instances where the program serves multiple SPAs.

**Ricky Bluthenthal** reported that Drew University has an HIV center called Drew CARES. They have two job openings, one for Project Coordinator and one for a Research Assistant. Descriptions of both job positions were available. If interested contact him or Keisha Paxton.

OAPP and CHIPTS are co-sponsoring a skill building conference in January 17, 2002. The focal point will be HIV prevention strategies for men of color. It is free and everyone was encouraged to attend. Flyers were available.

On November 15, 2001, there is a CDC HCT Guideline update. If interested, register with Mary Lee Garay from OAPP.

**Shirley Bushnell stated** that on Friday night at 10:30 p.m., channel 11 will provide a documentary on the transgender population and some of Cathy Reback's study will be part of that documentary.

It was commented that on Thursday the first meeting of SPA 8, MSM/W was held. Another meeting will be held on December 13, 2001, to include others who may not be from SPA 8. The purpose of those meetings is to hear success stories and to find solutions because they are having difficulty in finding the MSM/W population. They are working in collaboration with the Long Beach Department of Health.

A series of five prevention guides titled What Works In HIV Prevention produced by AIDS Action were available. The topics of the guides are; What Works in HIV prevention; for Gay Men, for Incarcerated Populations, for Youth, Women of Color, and for Substance Users.

**Ramon Flores** commented that Bienestar will be hosting its annual 'Unidos en Esperanza,' a World AIDS event at the Placita Olvera, Our Lady Queen of Angeles on December 1, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Jeff Bailey** commented that today is Frank Roque's last meeting as a member of the PPC. Frank is employed by OAPP and has decided to step down. Frank was thanked for all his work and acknowledged for his perfect attendance while a member of the PPC.

**Nancy Wongvipat** stated that APLA's POWER Positive Wellness and Renewal Program is having a community forum on transgenders living with HIV at TheVillage on November 15, 2001 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Flyers were available.

**Jeff Bailey** commented that the Gay and Lesbian Center in San Francisco AIDS Foundation is advertised with a lot of team work with regards to the California AIDS ride, however both agencies will be continuing to do what is now called the AIDS life cycle. On December 1, 2001 they will be doing sign ups for those writers who are interested in participating in this event.

The meeting ended with a moment of silent prayer or meditation.

#### **ADJOURNEMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.  
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