

**S.C. HIV Planning Council**  
Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 2, 2008  
Brookland Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order by Troy Bowers, the Community Co-chair at 10:12 a.m. Susan Fulmer, the DHEC Co-Chair, welcome the meeting attendees and asked everyone present to state their name and tell the group one thing for which they are thankful.

**HPC Members present:** Karen Bates, Troy Bowers, Eli Branscome, Rebecca Carr, Aaron Creech, Teretha Fowler, Suzanne Freeman, Susan Fulmer, Stuart Furtwangler, Mary Golden, Mahogany Graham, Christa Guicherit, Matt Jenkins, Patricia Kelly, Virginia King, Mulamba Lunda, Angel Payton-Harmon, Pamela Shepard-McKnight, Larry Walton, and Jason Williams.

**Absent:** Aaron Bryan, Karen Clinton, Harry Prim, Denise Rivera, Arlene Rustin and Enid Santiago

**DHEC:** Linda Brown, James Harris, Tessie Heywood, Roshan McDaniel, Noreen O'Donnell, Tony Price, Jake Ramsey, Andre Rawls

**Ex-Officio Members:** Adrena Harrison

**Guests:** Robert Hussey, Veronica Stephens, Lisa Lindley, Stacy Smallwood, Ken Haley, April Winningham, and Bambi Gaddist

**Staff:** Donald Wood

**Minutes:** Troy Bowers moved that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and approved by the Council.

**Presentation**

**Report from the African American Men Who Have Sex with Men (AA MSM) Focus Group:** Stacy Smallwood, MPH, presented his findings from the various focus groups that were conducted around the state with African American MSM. After the presentation, a question and answer and discussion session was held with the Council members and guests in attendance. The PowerPoint presentation is attached for reference.

**Report from the Consumer Town Hall Forum:** April Winningham, DrPH; Lisa Lindley, DrPH; and Stacy Smallwood, MPH, presented their findings from the Consumer Town Hall Forum that was conducted during the annual S.C. HIV/STD Conference.

**Report/Recommendations from the Membership Committee:** Troy Bowers presented the Membership Committee Report, which was approved by the Executive Committee and is put forward as recommendations. The following persons have been reappointed to the Council for another two year term:

- Troy Bowers – moved to Needs Assessment
- Teretha Fowler – Prevention
- Mahogany Graham – Care & Support Services

- Matt Jenkins - Prevention
- Mulamba Lunda – Prevention
- Adrena Harrison – Needs Assessment; moved from Ex Officio to voting.

The following persons are new members for the 2009-2010 term:

- Willie Simon – Hope Health Edisto – Care & Support Service
- Michelle McKinzie – DHEC Region 2 – Needs Assessment
- Nathaniel Oaks – Wateree AIDS Task Force – Care & Support Services
- Sarah McClam - PALSS – Care & Support Services
- Jo Bull – Central Carolina Community Foundation – Needs Assessment
- Daisy Johnson – Wateree AIDS Task Force – Care & Support Services
- Charmella Tyler - PALSS – Prevention
- Burwell Gordon - Rock Hill – Prevention
- Gary Crummell - Summerton – Prevention
- Ondine Denise – Catawba Care Coalition – Care & Support Services; Ex Officio member (non voting)

Arlene Rushton is a continuing member, but is reassigned to the Needs Assessment Committee.

**Reports on the Expanded Testing Grant:** Tessie Haywood had an emergency arise and was able to present her report. Matt Jenkins gave a report of the non-clinical activities of the Expanded Testing Grant, which includes activities implementing the Many Men, Many Voices (3MV) intervention.

**Committee Breakouts: The HPC meeting was adjourned for the Care & Support Services, Needs Assessment, and Prevention committees to meet.**

**Lunch:** The HPC meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

**Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need and Comprehensive Plan:** Noreen O'Donnell presented the draft of the Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need and the Comprehensive Plan that will be forwarded to HRSA by Jan. 5. A conference call will be held on Friday, Dec. 5 to answer any additional questions that members may have. Forms for the vote on concurrence with the SCSN and Comprehensive Plan were distributed. The completed forms should be returned to Donald Wood by Dec. 19.

**Report from the S.C. HIV/AIDS Care Crisis Task Force:** Bambi Gaddist, DrPH, gave an update on the activities of the task force. She also gave an update of the Southern Reach proposal that was submitted to the National AIDS Fund. The Task Force has elected officers and established a committee structure. Plans are underway for a legislative reception in April of 2009. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13, 2009. Interested persons should contact Dr. Gaddist.

**STD/HIV Division Update:** Dr. Rawls gave an update on the activities of the STD/HIV Division. She discussed how the recent state budget reductions will effect the overall operations of the department, including a potential waitlist for ADAP, reduced condom distribution, travel restrictions, etc. She also thanked everyone who participated in local HIV/AIDS activities related to World AIDS Day on December 1.

Dr. Rawls noted that the southeastern AIDS directors will be meeting in S.C. sometime during 2009 to discuss strategies for dealing with the current budget crisis nationwide and its ramifications for the Southern states. She presented a brief preview to the upcoming Ryan White funding that will be due to be reauthorized in 2009. She is also seeking funding to host conferences dealing with HIV/AIDS among African American Men and Women.

Rumors have been swirling that Dr. Julie Gerberding may be leaving the CDC. Dr. Rawls took questions from members and guests on issues related to the STD/HIV Division and funding.

**Prevention Programs Update:** Tony Price gave an update on the Prevention Program activities.

- The HIV Expanded Testing Project's Annual Progress Report (APR) for 2007-2008 is due to CDC by December 29. Upon request DHEC will share the APR with individual HPC members. Tony also shared copies of the Expanded Testing Project's Interim Progress Report for 2007-2008 and grant application for 2008-2009.
- DHEC submitted the CY2009 HIV prevention cost extension application to CDC in August. This maintains our CDC-funded HIV prevention programs for one additional year, at such time that DHEC will be part of a competitive grant application process with other states. The HPC gave 100% concurrence with the application during the August HPC meeting.
- DHEC received funds from CDC through an HIV prevention supplemental grant targeted to MSM. The major end goal of the funding is to develop a statewide strategic plan for HIV prevention among MSM. A secondary goal is to expand AAMSM HIV prevention services using the Many Men, Many Voices (3MV) intervention in two additional (rural) areas of the state.
- STD/HIV Partner Services (for partner notification activities conducted by DHEC) have been integrated in newly released guidance from CDC. Previously the guidelines were separate for STD and HIV activities.
- DHEC participated in a conference call with CDC regarding our state's perinatal prevention program efforts. CDC will conduct a site visit with DHEC in January for the perinatal prevention program.
- Syphilis elimination funds from CDC to South Carolina will end as of December 31, 2008.

### **Administrative Report**

Donald Wood, the HPC Administrator, gave the administrative report that included a snapshot of the Council's fiscal budget.

Expenses incurred since the last meeting: \$5,687.78

Year to Date Expenses: \$40,851.36

Council's budget balance: \$17,500 which includes \$10,000 of restricted funds.

**Executive Committee Report:** Susan Fulmer gave a report from the Executive Committee meeting that was held via conference call on Tuesday, Nov. 25. The committee approved the recommendations of the Membership Committee.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**Care and Support Services:** Mahogany Graham gave a recap of the committee's activities. They are in the final stages of developing the case manager survey. Once completed, the draft

version of the survey will be forwarded to the Needs Assessment Committee to review. The committee also advocated for establishing a hotline for consumers to report their concerns about DHEC and care-related issues.

Noreen O'Donnell also briefly discussed having the committee collaborate with Dr. Duffus on a project aimed at consumers who have re-entered care services. She also provided the group with an overview of the Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need and the updated Care Plan. The documents will cover a three-year period from January 2009 to January 2012.

Mahogany was reelected as Chair of the committee and Pam Shephard-McKnight will serve as the Membership Committee representative.

**Consumer Advisory:** Aaron Creech reported that the committee's next conference call will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 8. At that meeting, an election for committee chair will be held and the Membership Committee representative will be selected.

**Membership:** Troy reported that the Membership Committee is making plans for the upcoming New Member Orientation for February 2009.

**Needs Assessment:** Virginia King reported that the committee discussed upcoming presentations that would be helpful to the HPC (care data report, transgender survey analysis, etc.). Becky Carr was elected Chair for 2009; Adrena Harrison will be the Co-Chair; and Virginia King will serve as the representative to the Membership Committee.

**Prevention:** Mulamba reported that she has been re-elected as Co-Chair and Teretha Fowler will serve as the representative to the Membership Committee. The committee briefly talked about the Epi profile.

**Action Items:** The following motions were presented for approval to the full Council.

**Motion for providing HIV Testing, including rapid testing, in clinical and nonclinical (community) settings.**

**Motion:** The Prevention Committee moved to make the following revisions to recommendations related to HIV Counseling, Testing and Referral (CTR) Services in South Carolina:

- Include clinic-based testing offered in county health departments' clinics (any type DHEC clinic) for all populations.
- Include recommending HIV testing in routine health care settings such as hospital emergency departments.
- Include offering *rapid* testing, when practical, in any clinic settings.
- Rapid testing will be provided using DHEC-approved testing technology.
- Rapid testing should be provided in nonclinical (community) settings including venues that offer access to hard-to-reach, high risk populations. Careful consideration should always be given to such venues to ensure that they are aligned with all CDC and DHEC policies, protocols and quality assurance guidelines.
- HIV counseling and testing must always be provided with a plan for making appropriate referrals, particularly in regards to clients with preliminary or confirmed HIV test results.

**Action Item:** The motion was approved by the Council.

Aaron Creech presented the Prevention Committee's recommendation for the revised Internet Outreach Protocol:

**Motion:** The Prevention Committee moved to make the following addition to the list of recommended HIV prevention strategies for South Carolina:

Internet outreach activities in South Carolina should use the CDC-recognized National Coalition of STD Directors' National Guidelines for Internet-based STD and HIV Prevention: Accessing the Power of the Internet for Public Health, "Guidelines for Internet Outreach", released in March 2008.

As always in recommending national-level guidelines, the HPC Prevention Committee also recommends that there should be flexibility in the delivery of Internet outreach to include length of the online sessions. This flexibility is recommended in situations that still maintain the fidelity to the Internet outreach's stated core elements and other guidance as noted in the protocol. This flexibility is necessary especially in providing online services to persons from isolated and/or rural communities for which the Internet outreach may be among the first trusted encounters with a knowledgeable HIV prevention provider. These first-time prevention encounters may sometime warrant sessions that exceed the current SC guidelines of a five to ten minute session.

**Action Item:** The motion was seconded and passed.

**Adolescent Sexual Health Workgroup Update:** No report.

**SC STD/HIV Division Training Update:** Susan reported that James is working on compiling the calendar for 2009. The HIV/STD and SC Laws training has been divided into three individual trainings: HIV 101, STDs (clinical and non-clinical offerings), and SC Laws. She noted that Virginia King and Teretha Fowler recently attended a training of facilitators on the update of the SISTA intervention. The CDC is recommending that all SISTA trainers have (1) group facilitation skills training, (2) HIV 101 training, and (3) basic literacy skills. The intervention has changed and all current SISTA facilitators must be retrained in the intervention. DHEC is requiring that SISTA facilitators meet all CDC recommendations. A training will be held in the Spring, with priority given to current SISTA facilitators. Training on the d'Up! Intervention (designed for AA MSM) will be held in March.

**Statewide Strategy Roundtable on Latinos/Hispanics and HIV in S.C.:** Tony reported that Denise had approached him for guidance on getting the Hispanic/Latino Workgroup started.

### **New Business**

**Concurrence Vote on the SCSN and Comprehensive Statement of Need:** Susan Fulmer gave the group an overview on the guidelines for concurrence. The deadline for voting on the document is noon, Dec. 9. Members were advised to give or fax their completed voting form to Donald Wood, the HPC administrator. A conference call will be held on Friday to discuss any questions or concerns.

**Election of Community Co-chair for 2009:** Karen Bates nominated Troy Bowers to continue as Community Co-Chair of the HPC. The motion was seconded by Mahogany Graham. The motion was approved unanimously. Susan congratulated Troy and noted that he has been appointed to serve on the CDC's taskforce to develop the new Community Planning Guidance.

**Wrap Up:** Susan reported that the American Public Health Association is working with the incoming Obama administration on the development of a national HIV/AIDS strategic plan.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 24 in the Fellowship Hall at Brookland Baptist Church, 1066 Sunset Boulevard, in West Columbia, S.C. 29169.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.**