

Greater Washington STD Community Coalition Meeting

Minutes

Location: DC Department of Health
STD Control Program
717 14th St NW 10th Fl. Conference room

Date & Time: February 16, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

Attendees:, Tranita Gillis, Colleen Crowley, Paulette Jackson, Daniel Ehlman, Melissa Sellevaag, Emmanuel Pupilampu (DCSTD); Martha Aodom, (Arlington Co.), Anne Wiseman, Adam Tenner, Jeremy Ogusky (MTA); Gray Border (WWC); Maceo Thomas (CNMC)

Meeting Called 10:10am

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved without change by voice vote.

2. Coalition Subcommittee Updates:

a. Outreach Subcommittee update: Ms. Sellevaag provided an update on the Valentine's Day outreach events. 5000 condom packets with 10,000 condoms were distributed at events throughout the city beginning with National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Condom packets were distributed at LOVE the Club, PPMW event, CNMC event, Latin American Youth Center event, MTA event, UDC event and Different Avenues.

Discussion was held regarding future outreach events. Upcoming events include the PRIDE events in the city as well as National STD Month. Ms. Crowley stated that holding a summer outreach event would be a good idea as there is a long stretch of time between PRIDE and Halloween. She suggested calling the event "Hotter than July." The outreach committee will communicate via email to discuss upcoming events and a planning strategy.

c. Ad Hoc 501 (c) 3: Mr. Ehlman provided the update on this subcommittee. He reported that the committee was currently discussing the feasibility of becoming a 501 (c)3. At the last meeting the coalition was asked to look at the mission statements and identify possible board members. Mr. Ehlman received one suggestion of Mr. Raymond Blanks who is well known in the HIV community in DC. Mr. Ehlman stated that the board should be comprised of people who are connected to money and influence and ideally are passionate about STDs and HIV. He requested that names be brought to the next meeting.

Mr. Tenner posed the question to the coalition around why are we looking to become an independent non-profit rather than housed under another agency. Ms. Crowley identified funding opportunities as a main reason. Mr. Tenner suggested that a conversation occur with Ms. Baskerville of DCPCA about using their 501 (c)3 status to

obtain some small grants. He expressed concern about the amount of work that goes into maintaining 501 (c)3 status for such a small sum of money. He felt that the money could be obtained under another agency and he offered to speak with Ms. Baskerville.

The mission statements were reviewed and a lengthy discussion regarding the content and length ensued. Ms. Ehlman offered to bring back examples of other coalitions for the group to review at the March meeting.

3. Discussion: School Based Screening Project Update and Next Steps:

Mr. Tenner made remarks complimenting the DOH on the progress it has made in bringing urine based testing to the DC Public Health Lab. He inquired if a public statement was going to be made identifying this achievement. Ms. Sellevaag reported that the final working copy of the protocol was distributed via email last night. The coalition members were asked to review the protocol and provide comment at the next meeting- with the understanding that the document is a living document and will be modified as needed. The discussion was focused around next steps. Mr. Tenner stated that the subcommittee identified three potential areas that need to be addressed by the coalition: city council strategy, school board strategy, and a public media campaign; and specifically what can the coalition do to support the DOH in this process. Ms. Crowley reported for Mr. Royster that informal meetings have occurred with the city council members but they are not willing to publicly provide their support with the uncertainty of the school control. Mr. Tenner suggested that an education effort could begin at this time to ensure that the health committee and Victor Reinoso, Deputy Mayor for Education, are up to date on the information and program. Ms. Crowley suggested that the advocacy, public policy subcommittee draft a recommendation and bring it to the larger coalition meeting in March. Mr. Tenner stated that Mr. Ogusky of MTA has begun drafting a letter to the editor around the program to be used in conjunction with STD month in April. Mr. Tenner agreed to convene a meeting in the next 10 days to include Mr. Linsky, Mr. Chandra (DCPCA), Mr. Ogusky, and Mr. Royster to discuss this process. Mr. Tenner stated that is important that any statement made should be directly in line with the DOH message.

4. Essay Contest Update:

Ms. Sellevaag reported that the essay contest planning is underway. The topic was chosen by teens and is “how do STDs affect a teen’s social life: is the pleasure always worth the pain?” The teens are creating a flyer for the schools which Ms. Sellevaag will then usher through the DCPS approval process. The awards banquet is scheduled for Thursday May 3rd at the Sumner School. Letters for financial support are out and any other ideas are always welcome.

5. Woodson Students School Testing.

Mr. Royster was unable to be there but reported to Ms. Sellevaag via phone prior to the meeting that the Woodson kids have not progressed with the testing initiative due to heating problems at the school.

6. Community Calendar/Member Announcements

No community announcements

7. Meeting Evaluations

Adjourn at 11:20 am.

Next meeting March 8, 2007