

# Sexually Transmitted Infections Community Coalition (STICC)

## Meeting Agenda

[www.sticc.org](http://www.sticc.org)

Mission: To foster partnerships and focus strategies to prevent and control sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area.

*Location:* Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington  
Downtown Conference Room  
1001 Connecticut Ave NW  
Washington, DC

*Date & Time* January 8, 2009, 11: 00 a.m.

*Attendees:* Letitia Black, Colleen Crowley, Melissa Sellevaag, John Heath (DOH STD); Dorinda Williams, India Hay-youth representative (PPMW); Bernard Jackson, (NOVAM); Gorkie Balthazar, Anne Wiseman (MTA); Gwen Anderson (PGHD); Augusto Paredo (WWC); Martha Andom (Arlington HD); David Hoover (Inova); Darryl Bryant (Howard Univ Health Center); Debby Dimon (Alexandria HD); Maxine Harris, Marshalee Lewis (Women's Collective); Denise Bellows (Univ. MD); Christopher Bryant (StreetWize foundation); Michael Officer (DC Children youth Investment Trust); Anthony Bethea (Maryland STD Program)

Meeting Called 11:30am

*Agenda:*

### **1. Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved by voice vote

### **2. Outreach**

Valentine's Day: Ms. Sellevaag and Ms. Hay reported that the youth coalition would like to have a Go-Go for Valentine's Day. They did not want to do metro outreach again this year. It was decided that having a Go-Go or working with the Go-Go bands requires more prep time and may be better suited for National Testing Day.

It was decided that STICC will do condom outreach to clubs and bars to ensure they are stocked with condoms the day before since Valentine's Day is on a Saturday. Ms. Harris suggested that condoms be attached to a lollipop stick with our palm card on one side; the condoms are still useable. She stated those have been well received in the past. Both PPMW and MTA volunteered their kids to put those together. Ms. Dimon agreed to bring the idea back to the Northern Virginia Prevention Committee to identify places to target in NoVA. Ms. Balthazar suggested the beauty shops and offered to reach out to the woman already doing HIV outreach there.

April Outreach: The topic of the 12 hour testing blitz was discussed and concern raised about the original date of 4/1 as it is a Wednesday. Ms. Anderson suggested 4/11 as it implies information seeking but concern was raised as it is over Easter Weekend. It was decided to go

with 4/3 since it is the first Friday and will kick off STD Awareness month. Brad suggested that we use the slogan 4321 for 4/3 2 tests 1 concern for your health. Ms. Dimon reported that Richmond had a successful event and found more syphilis than HIV during the day.

The group discussed arranging for the local schools of nursing to have students volunteer to draw blood. Ms. Dimon agreed to look into this for Virginia and Ms. Balthazar agreed to work on it for DC. Ms. Sellevaag agreed to have her intern look into bringing the mobile units on board for the event.

Various locations were discussed and it was agreed that while locations should be vast to raise awareness we want to be sure to target areas that have a high concentration of MSM since that is the population that is most affected by syphilis. During the day mobile vans can be outside of grocery stores and other high traffic areas. During the evening hours clubs should be targeted. It was suggested to have the Mayor assist with getting buy in from the grocery store chains and Mr. Heath agreed to look into it. A list of preliminary locations will be emailed out for people to review. A list of tasks will also be emailed so members can select which they would like to work on.

The other issues that still need to be addressed are how results are going to be handled and who will pay for the phlebotomy equipment.

### **3. PSA Contest**

Ms. Sellevaag reminded folks that the deadline for scripts for the PSA contest is February 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **4. Report from Youth Coalition**

Ms. Hay reported that the youth coalition met on Tuesday night and discussed what they can do to help address the growing number of teens diagnosed with STDs. She reported that the youth feel showing pictures of the consequences of the diseases is important to behavior change. The youth stated that their peers who have been diagnosed with chlamydia and/or gonorrhea are not alarmed or even deterred in their behavior because they feel it is similar to the common cold because it can be cured so easily. The youth felt that peers don't use condoms because of their low self-esteem, they don't feel they are worth it, don't like the feeling of condoms, and have been with the same person for a while and consider it a "safe" relationship.

They felt that condoms should be available in places other than schools. Such as: shoe stores, ATM machines, movie theaters, Hotels, home delivery-Val Pak, metro bus drivers, public bathrooms, GoGos, Clubs, 7-11's for late night, 24 hour stores, Gas Stations, Carry Outs.

Ms. Hay also reported that in response to the question about how to get the message out, the youth would like regular testing in locations throughout the city on a standard schedule such as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, They would like to get parent's involved, to have more programs like the Ophelia Egypt Program Center and have transportation provided, and to provide testing at big events like basketball games.

They would like to do a condom outreach during prom season and make condoms available at the limo companies, the tux rentals, nail salons, barber shops, and hotel parties.

### **4. New Beginnings**

The idea of changing the messages that are put out in the community was discussed. Ms. Hay stated that she thought it was important to get messages out there that help the youth make the link between behavior and risks. Ms. Harris stated that it was important to ensure that the people working with the adolescents be confident in their messages and that we should be

working with the peer educators to ensure they are confident in their understanding of the material and the messages. Ms. Andom thought it was important to ensure that the messages about sex were positive but include safety. She stated that far too many messages about sex are negative. Ms. Dimon recalled WWC's former campaign about keeping it "wet, wild and safe."

*The coalition set the goal to change the culture about sex and condoms during 2009 through messaging..*

## **5. Community Announcements**

The Women's Collective is having a Day of Service on 1/19 from 9am-1pm at 14 and U. They will be having testing and messaging on the streets. If you would like to work with them on this venture please contact them.

WWC in Northern Virginia is closing as well as the Addiction Services program. All NoVa patients will be transitioned to the DC office and NoVa partners are stepping up to offer services to the patients and ensure they do not go unserved. The NoVa community is saddened by this loss. Max Robinson in SE will remain open and the main office in DC at 1701 14<sup>th</sup> St will also remain open.

Alexandria Health Department along with NOVAM is having extended testing hours for the gay community on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays. Testing will be offered for syphilis, HIV and CT/GC.

Inova Juniper and NOVAM are creating a Gay Men's Health Program and identifying ways to be out in the community and promote body, mind, spirit, mental health and physical health.

Ms. Dimon reported that there is a free conference on transgendered health in January. She will send information around.

Adjourned 12:30 pm.

**The February-April meetings will be held in Prince George's County  
The May – July meetings will be held at the Ophelia Egypt Program Center NE DC.**

*Formed in 1982, the Sexually Transmitted Infections Community Coalition (STICC) of Metropolitan Washington, DC is a partnership of over thirty public and private stakeholders in the metropolitan area who have a common interest to reduce the impact of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)\*, including HIV, in the community.*

*\*STIs are also known as sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).*