

Greater Washington STD Community Coalition Meeting

Minutes

Location: DCPCA
1411 K Street, NW, Suite 400
Conference Room
Washington, D.C. 20005

Date & Time: November 9, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

Attendees:, Irwin Royster co-chair, Keanna Faircloth, Amber Yates (PPMW); Tranita Gillis, Colleen Crowley, John Heath, Bruce Furness, Daniel Ehlman, Gonzalo Saenz, Melissa Sellevaag, Emmanuel Puplampu (DCSTD); Gray Border (WWC); Nikia Grayson (Howard Univ); Adam Tenner (MTA)

Meeting Called 10:05am

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

2. Update of NAATS school screening project:

Mr. Royster updated the full coalition on the status of the school screening project. He reported that at this time he is attempting to get appointments with the council members. He has delivered letters to Catania, Barry, and Gray requesting appointments and plans to follow up with each council member. Additionally, work has begun on the school front. Mr. Tenner reported that Dr. Powel has asked that a meeting be held with Marc Clark first. Additionally, it should be noted that pilot program should not be used as the schools are reluctant to launch pilot programs out of concerns for sustainability.

The subcommittee continues to meet weekly.

3. Halloween Screen

Mr Royster reported that PPMW youth targeted metro stations in Ward 7 as well as a few housing projects. The condoms were distributed throughout the 4 day holiday weekend and the remainder was distributed at the Divas and Divos function on Saturday night.

Ms. Sellevaag reported that in total just shy of 5000 condom packets for a total of just under 10,000 condoms were distributed during the Halloween weekend. Locations that were targeted during the event were: Ward 7-PPMW, George Washington University, Adams Morgan, Ward 6-MTA youth helped pack and distribute, and Howard University. Howard Univ ran out of condoms and would like to be involved in future outreach events.

Ms. Sellevaag reported that she, and her team, experienced some reluctance from people in Adams Morgan to accept a condom from a stranger. When outreach workers identified themselves with the GWSTDCC there was not an increase in acceptance. Identifying themselves as DOH did provide some legitimacy to the event. This prompted

a discussion of how to legitimize the outreach efforts of the coalition to ensure that we are effective in spreading the message. It was suggested to have shirts or hats to identify ourselves as coalition or DOH affiliated. Mr. Heath stated that shirts or hats will provide a short term answer to this issue but we also need to be thinking long term as there is staff turnover and volunteers are not always consistent from event to event. He suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed and include Melissa Sellevaag, Keanna Faircloth, Tranita Gillis, Dan Ehlman and Nicole Amado. This ad hoc group will bring back suggestions to the larger coalition.

The Valentine's Day outreach event was discussed. Ms. Sellevaag reported that she and Mr. Royster met with Stephen Sobhani of the Great American Condom Campaign to discuss how the Coalition can support his efforts and he can support our outreach efforts/messages. Mr. Sobhani was unable to attend today's meeting but will try to be present at the December meeting and present on his organization. Mr. Sobhani would like to help during our Valentine's Day event.

Different ideas were discussed for the Valentine's Day event:

Condom bowls at clubs with our info on it

People handing out condoms and our info in the clubs

Referral cards being given to club owners who can then hand out the info to people who need testing information.

Logistics of testing and doing outreach was discussed. Mr. Tenner stated that historically clubs have felt that HIV outreach has been "over done" in the clubs and it has become less effective. Dr. Furness stated that to do testing in a club you need a large handicap bathroom and that is often difficult to coordinate. It was decided that a mobile van outside may be the best bet, if it isn't too cold. Mr. Royster stated that Family and Medical and Unity have vans and would probably be willing to help out. He stated that he will contact Derrick White of Unity to discuss further.

4. Great American Condom Campaign

Stephen Sobhani-tabled until December meeting

5. Coalition Website

Mr. Heath reported that historically they have tried to get a coalition sponsored web site and currently efforts are being made to launch one again. The information from the San Francisco web site was distributed as this is the model that will be used.

Dan Ehlman, of DOH, has recently been tasked with investigating web site information. He stated that he has begun working with ISIS to create a "San Francisco like" website. Evidently ISIS will create the site and then turn it over to us to run. Mr. Ehlman stated that it would be expensive to outsource the maintenance of the website but we will have to determine who will run and update the website. ISIS will create it in such a way that it is as easy as possible to maintain. Mr. Ehlman stated that he will gather as much information as possible so that he can then report back to the coalition for decisions to be made. Mr. Tenner offered information and support as needed in this process.

6. Review and update structure of standing committees

Mr. Royster stated that at this time the only active subcommittee is the NAATS School Screening committee. He suggested that we reactivate the outreach subcommittee as we have a number of upcoming events. The outreach subcommittee will include: Nikia Grayson, Amber Yates, Keanna Faircloth, Emmanuel Puplampu, Colleen Crowley and Melissa Sellevaag

7. Establish Calendar of planned activities for next 3 quarters

Mr. Royster identified the following upcoming events:
Valentine's Day-Condom Week
April's STD Month and Essay Contest
PRIDE
Health Fairs: Ms. Crowley stated that NBC 4 Your Health is the next big one.

8. Community Calendar/Member Announcements

The community announcements centered on a Christmas Party. It was decided that luncheon following the regular meeting would be the best option. Several ideas were discussed including: a catered event at the Sumner School, a catered event at DCPCA, a catered event at PPMWs NW site, and having the Mandarin Hotel sponsor it as they did for WWCs event. Mr. Heath agreed to contact Sumner School; Mr. Royster agreed to contact PPMW and a church for catering; Mr. Border agreed to contact Mandarin Hotel. It was unclear how this will be paid for.

Adjourn at 10:42 am.

Next meeting December 14, 2006 Location TBD