

MWPHA Health Disparities Committee Meeting
August 21, 2008 WWC

Attending: Aisha Moore, Paul Fequiere, Linda Green, Mighty Fine, Tracy Tilghman, Jimmy Hall, Karyn Pomerantz, Ana Maria Puente, Craig Holden, Ron Harris, Tiesha Butler-Williams, Camilla Stanley, Nina Brown.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ September 6 – Tabling at health fair at RFK Stadium (sponsored by Carmel Pryor’s Church) – volunteers needed
- ◆ September 20 - OUTREACH and Rally for Stand Against AIDS. Meet at noon at Malcolm X and MLK Ave. SE. Include march around neighborhood/ car caravan with speakers.
- ◆ September 21 – Stand Against AIDS Service at 11am at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 400 I St SW
- ◆ October 7 – MWPHA Social at the APHA HQ, 800 I St NW, 7-9pm. Committee members will present with Metro Teen AIDS youth

Action Steps and Responsibilities:

- ◆ Research on housing and drug related problems and solutions – Aisha, Paul, Tracy
- ◆ Support for youth related demands – Tiesha and Camilla (with youth committee)
- ◆ Video development – Tracy-lead, Paul to tape his story, Nina was volunteered to record people’s stories at the outreach
- ◆ GW SPHHS Orientation table - Karyn to exhibit 8/27

Planning for the Fall.

Participants reviewed the Committee’s strategic plan developed in 2005 and its activities. Its 3 major objectives were to:

- ◆ Raise awareness about the social determinants of health and their effects on health inequalities
- ◆ Train people to use a social determinants of health framework
- ◆ Engage in labor and HIV struggles with partners

Over the last 3 years, Committee members have conducted consistent outreach in Ward 8, at various health fairs and at Metro Union meetings; worked with GW public health students on campaigns around condoms, drugs and HIV; organized a community health advocate health information program; sponsored numerous conferences, film shows, and community discussions about the role of racism, housing, jobs, etc. on health; and

testified on budget and sex education proposals. Members have also occasionally joined with EmpowerDC and Jobs with Justice in joint meetings and actions around jobs and housing.

Discussion points:

Continue outreach in Ward 8 – use video challenge project to interview people during outreach to capture their stories.

Housing is a primary concern. We need to conduct more research and increase awareness about housing problems in Ward 8. There are many groups organizing for more housing, including EmpowerDC's public property campaign, the Franklin Shelter residents protesting the shelter's closing, TENAC's efforts city-wide. We need to keep DC and DC Housing Authority accountable. We can ally with other organizations while bringing our perspective on health to other groups.

October 1 is the deadline for the city to provide Housing First accommodations. We should make sure that happens. We can also fight for the conversion of boarded up buildings to housing for the community; there is a building at Barnaby and Southern Ave SE and one on Mellon St. SE.

Paul and Jimmy shared their experiences with DCHA. We could record a video about someone visiting DCHA for housing.

Drug treatment is an important issue that we need to continue. We work with many people involved in treatment and harm reduction, and there is a strong relationship between drug use and HIV. We should not sideline this issue. We can ask the GWU Advocacy class students to continue their work on this.

The city has \$3million for drug recovery support services for the next 2-3 years. Other cities added their own money to sustain these programs when federal funding expired. We can make this a demand as well.

Tiesha from Metro Teen AIDS discussed her work with young people – busting myths and making HIV real and destigmatized. More work is needed in the schools and where young people gather. Using peer education, outreach at Homecomings and pep rallies can help reach teens and pre-teens. Tiesha will work with the Committee to build community support for comprehensive sex ed in the schools and to involve young people.

These discussions, research, and planning will continue through the fall.

Video submissions will be due on February 1, 2009 instead of October 1, 2008.

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month, 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Place to be chosen.
Outreach: 3rd Saturday of the month, 11:30am to 2pm. Meet Washington Highlands Library, 115 Atlantic St SW.