

MWPHA Health Disparities Committee Minutes  
May 28, 2008

Hazel Smith, Ron Harris, Camilla Stanley, Jimmy Hall, Linda Green, Jewel Wright, Alex Lawson, George Kerr, Geno Dunnington, Kelli Michelle, Evan, Karyn Pomerantz.

*Intros and Updates:*

- ◆ APHA accepted Camilla Stanley's abstract about HIV testing in PG Hospital Center (congrats!)
- ◆ Maryland will no longer require consent forms for HIV testing.
- ◆ Alex graduated (congrats!) and is working for CoreHealth with Dr. Gloria
- ◆ DC Fights Back has several events (contact George Kerr, [gkerr85@yahoo.com](mailto:gkerr85@yahoo.com)):
  - June 12 meeting with the National AIDS Housing Coalition
  - Community Dialogues with DC City Council candidates:
    - June TBD – Wards 7 and 8 (Alexander and Barry)
    - July TBD – Wards 1 and 4
    - Aug 23, DC CARES, At large, Brown, Schwartz, Hunter, Clampett
  - Stand Against AIDS, 9/24 to 9/26, Oxford, MS – 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate-demand a national AIDS strategy as the US demands PEPFAR recipients
- ◆ Youth Committee (Camilla Stanley, chair):

Plans for a summer/fall youth event are underway. It will be held either August 23 or September 20<sup>th</sup>. It includes workshops for different age groups and entertainment. The committee identified topics including Education (college, GED, voc rehab), Health (sex ed, substance use, nutrition, pregnancy, LGBT, health insurance), Violence (school, girl on girl, gangs, Peaceaholics), Career Development.

The Committee is developing the venue, workshops, organizations to include, sponsors. They plan to meet with Metro Teen AIDS peer educators to develop topics. **Jewel** will send Camilla the contact information for the Go-Go coalition; they have also contacted Black LUV. **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING, CONTACT CAMILLA at [cstanley955@gmail.com](mailto:cstanley955@gmail.com)**

*Video Project (Alex Lawson, [alex.lawson@gmail.com](mailto:alex.lawson@gmail.com))*

The Committee and DC Fights Back have funding to create 1-2 YouTube videos to advocate for HIV prevention. Alex Lawson is chairing this effort. We will create a video challenge open to everyone to create a 2 minute video tying HIV prevention to affordable housing, jobs, and drug treatment. Contestants will apply, post their videos on the DCFB web site; winners will receive \$100 for first place and \$50 for second and third. They will receive certificates from MWPHA and have the opportunity to present

them at the Annual Conference in 2009. Deadline to submit is tentatively scheduled for October 1, 2008. Get your cameras ready! Alex will draft an application form to circulate for feedback. Geno of DCTV and possibly others will host video training for contestants. **Please contact Alex, alex.lawson@gmail.com, if you can help develop criteria (such as literacy levels and cultural competence), publicize this, and judge.**

### *Discussion on Activism and Community Mobilization*

Each month we staff an outreach table and walk around the Congress Heights neighborhood to promote HIV prevention and connect people to services. We discuss the need to change social conditions in order to promote health, and have identified housing, jobs, drugs, and youth programs as our demands. The Committee is trying to develop a more activist orientation by including more community members in our efforts, fighting for demands, and creating more visibility. We discussed the difficulties in organizing more struggle and involving more residents. Problems encountered include the ways we are divided by race, sexual orientation, gender identity, class, and geography; the messages we use that may depend on negatives (the 1 in 20 have HIV alert) or attribute blame to people most oppressed; issues of stigma; the negative role of giving incentives for HIV testing and program participation; and funding (people who receive govt funding are often less likely to participate in activism that targets the government that pays them). We will consider door-to-door visits so we can have better discussions with people and meet more people as well. We will work towards improving our outreach and organizing.

### **June 21<sup>st</sup> Outreach Rally**

For June, we will conduct a bullhorn rally to make our issues more visible. We will gather at MLK Ave SE and Malcolm X at the little park from noon to 2pm. We'll chant and speak through bullhorns, set up a table with literature and condoms, and invite the public to join us. *Please spread the word!*

#### *To-Do's:*

1. **Hazel Smith** will invite the Women's Collective to do testing
2. **Jimmy Hall** will contact the pastor who sponsors the horseshoe contests there, ask Safeway to donate waters, and develop a draft design for t-shirts
3. **George Kerr** will meet with the National AIDS Housing Coalition and share results with the committee
4. **Kelli and Evan** will write a positive, inspirational leaflet to distribute there about housing as HIV prevention
5. **Ron** will contact Ward 8 organizations

#### *Community Health Advocate*

We have 3 more people to interview for the community health advocate role. Karyn will begin training people in health information; Jimmy continues to teach.

#### Upcoming Health Fairs:

Ron and Karyn will staff East of the River Health Fair, June 28, 2008. Anyone else?