

MWPHA Health Disparities Committee
Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2007

Present (23): Tia Younger, Demille James, Bryson Nicholson, Jared Shenk, Alex Lawson, Jimmy Hall, Camilla Stanley, Erica Myruski, Gail Thomas, George Kerr, Ron Harris, Jeremy Ogusky, Geno Dunnington, Habeba McCormack, Kazumi Inden, Maggie Czarnogorski, Linda Green, Naomi Long, Elizabeth Anderson-Hoglund, Noraine Buttar, Rebecca Barasky, Claudelia Williams, Karyn Pomerantz.

Karyn opened with a paraphrase from the Prevention Justice principles of Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP): *HIV does not discriminate but society does. In order to secure human rights we also have to secure the conditions that allow people to live healthy lives: jobs, drug treatment, housing, freedom from discrimination and stigma.* These statements reflect the work we are doing. See <http://www.preventionjustice.org> for more.

She also summarized several findings from the latest DC Fiscal Policy Institute report on DC poverty: unemployment has increased among African American residents (5 times the amount of unemployment for whites), 1 in 5 people live in poverty in DC, income differences among the richest and poorest are increasing. See <http://www.dcfpi.org>.

Introductions.

Everyone introduced him/herself and pledged to contribute to the March and SpeakOUT. See the separate document of roles and responsibilities for your pledge.

New contributions:

- ◆ Demille may be able to bring some legal observers and will do outreach.
- ◆ Bryson will ask the Student National Medical Association and his medical student orthopedic interest group to endorse the event.
- ◆ Jimmy will do outreach.
- ◆ Camilla will take pictures and can flyer the Anacostia Metro Station on Nov 2 – NEED OTHERS TO HELP
- ◆ Gail will contact the Ward 8 HIV Collaborative and the PIA contact organizations
- ◆ George and Alex leafleted the Kennedy King Gala Dinner Party (Democratic Party party) and distributed info at the Resource Day that had 21 providers.
- ◆ Geno will give WPFW info to broadcast
- ◆ Save Lives! Free the Condoms (Elizabeth, Noraine, and Rebecca) will host Rock Your Rubber condom art
- ◆ Karyn will get Alex a list of endorsements
- ◆ Alex's cousin will help with media contacts and follow up
- ◆ Everyone will prepare a statement about why they came to the March and what it takes to fight HIV
- ◆ Larry and Geno will welcome all to the March and control the bullhorn
- ◆ Maggie – marshall – will recruit other Infectious Disease fellows

The March will be a sidewalk march. Marshalls need to keep people on the sidewalk, crossing with lights. Permits have been secured.

Discussion:

We are building a movement for social change vs. serving as a social service organization. However, we need to be a resource for community questions about services, etc. Tia volunteered to pull a resource guide together. We can also bring the HIV Resource Directory with us on outreach. DC has a nice website called Answers Please 211 – answersplease.dc.gov

Facilitation of the SpeakOUT:

The SpeakOUT is reciprocal. We are learning from one another. Our goal is to intentionally invite leadership and participation from residents. One way to improve relationships with the community is to develop a community work product. We are fighting for services and we need to figure out a plan to force the city to prioritize our needs for housing, jobs, health. We need to focus on our commonalities – we all face similar hardships but at different levels of severity. Recognize that we represent different places and positions but that we have common goals.

We also need to develop follow up activities and maintain contact with participants.

Small Group facilitators:

Drugs: Kazumi and students, Geno, Linda, Jared, Ron

Housing: George, Larry, Habeba

Jobs: Ed, Karyn, Alex

Youth: Jeremy, Demille, D2K, Camilla... (NOTE: you may want to discuss fighting for a community center in the neighborhood – suggestion made at Oct 27 outreach).

Follow UP EVENTS:

October 27 – outreach

November 2 – Anacostia Station leafleting at rush hour – need volunteers with Camilla

November 17 – next outreach. INVITE PARTICIPANTS TO MEET WITH US THEN

November 28 – State Board of Education meeting, 5:30pm, 441 4th St at Judiciary Square – people need to testify about school health ed standards – invite folks from SpkOut

November 30 – World AIDS Day demo at the White House – need to invite participants – include our demands there

December 1 – Demonstration at CVS for World AIDS Day with Save Lives!

December 1 – Movie (I forgot) at Westminster Presbyterian Church, evening, 401 I St SW

SPRING – cookout in Ward 8 for youth and neighbors