

MWPHA and DC Fights Back Demands, November 2007

Jobs

Why?

- ◆ Employment with good pay and benefits helps people stay healthy and make a contribution
- ◆ Good jobs can boost self esteem and independence
- ◆ Gainful employment reduces the risk of crime, drug use and sales, and hopelessness that there's no future

Demands

- ◆ Well paid jobs with justice and a career path – end discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or arrest record
- ◆ A percentage of jobs set aside for DC residents with more jobs (such as construction) for ex-offenders, people in recovery
- ◆ More “green jobs”
- ◆ Workforce training funded by the contractors and employers to make it relevant
- ◆ Jobs to expand services and the city infrastructure, such as transportation, Metro
- ◆ Mentors and tutors – ‘city liaisons’ - to help people to transition to work

Activities

- ◆ Attend hearing on poverty in December (announced by Mr. Barry)
- ◆ Link jobs to affordable housing, summer youth employment and recovery

Housing

Why?

- ◆ Stable housing prevents HIV and helps people take better care of themselves
- ◆ No TBRA providers
- ◆ Unsuccessful transitional housing with unruly access process – long wait for HOPWA
- ◆ Inadequate, uneducated workers
- ◆ Unused buildings

Demands

- ◆ Home sharing program
- ◆ Affordable housing plan by March 2008 – end the Section 8 waiting list!
- ◆ Link HIV, Substance Abuse, Mental Health programs
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity buildings

Activities

- ◆ HUD Town Hall Meeting (soon)
- ◆ See www.nahc.org for facts, information, and membership

Youth

Why?

- ◆ High rates of HIV among young people
- ◆ No standard, science based health education in the public schools
- ◆ Many students have no HIV education
- ◆ Lack of summer jobs and other youth programs – leads to unsafe conditions

Demands

- ◆ Comprehensive sexuality education for all students
- ◆ End federal support of abstinence only programs
- ◆ Youth programs to reinforce self-worth and respect
- ◆ More free HIV testing for young people and mental health screening
- ◆ Summer jobs program with *meaningful* work with *marketable skills* in safe places (rec centers) that help beautify the community

Activities

- ◆ Use *peer education* and integrate youth culture, sports, artists to promote healthy decisions in safe places
- ◆ Create school assemblies and forums for youth to ask questions
- ◆ Literature reviews to document that sex ed doesn't lead to sexual behavior

Drug Addiction Treatment and Prevention

Why?

- ◆ Over a third of HIV infections are related to drug use
- ◆ Drug related incarceration affects employment, housing, voting opportunities
- ◆ Not enough programs to treat drug addiction

Demands

- ◆ Longer length of stay in drug recovery programs
- ◆ More mental health screenings with drug treatment
- ◆ Deal with the *causes* of drug use, not just the addiction itself
- ◆ More treatment *housing*
- ◆ *Long term* substance use treatment: transitional housing, job skills, coping, continued support after moving out, client centered support groups
- ◆ Train more providers on substance use on a continual basis
- ◆ More collaboration among providers, APRA, and other programs
- ◆ More funds for the expansion of existing programs

Activities

- ◆ Support Treatment on Demand legislation
- ◆ MWPHA Annual Conference on HIV, Substance Use, and Mental Health – April 2008

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