



Northern Nevada HIV Prevention Planning Group

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 - 3:00pm
Washoe County Health District
1001 East Ninth St., Conference Room B
Reno, NV

MINUTES

Members Present: Elaine Bergenheir, Jennifer Howell, Lyell Collins, Robert Harding, Sarah Almaraz, Jenna Bieber, Janet St. Amant (alternate), Doug Hodges, Robert Ashley

Absences Excused: Doug Hodges, Jenna Bieber

Guests Present: Mary Karls, Nathan Militante, Jay Greenberg, Bridget Tygh, Balakrupa Ramachandran, Preston Tang, Tory Johnson

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chair Doug Hodges called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm. A quorum was established.

2. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

3. **Review/Approval of Minutes from October 25, 2017 and December 20, 2017**

A motion was made by Lyell Collins and seconded by Sarah Almaraz to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2017 and December 20, 2017 meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **2018 Training and Group Activities Brainstorm**

Adding onto what was discussed during the December 2017 meeting, the group discussed more on legislative and advocacy issues. Potential bill sponsors include David Parks, Teresa Benitez-Thompson, Tyrone Thompson and Julie Ratti.

5. **SAPTA HIV Testing Activities**

Lyell introduced Preston Tang, who coordinates HIV testing and training among Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) sites. Preston provided an overview of efforts in 2017. In 2017 nine agencies were funded to provide HIV testing after submitting proposals. Five agencies are in cities and four are in rurals including Gardnerville, Fallon, and Elko. Throughout the year 1,581 individuals involved with SAPTA facilities were engaged regarding testing with 1,569 receiving a test. Twenty-one (21) positives were identified and all were unaware of their HIV status and linked to HIV care. Of those testing, 419 reported no prior HIV test. Successes included building a rapport with clients to discuss HIV risk behavior, training of agency testers. Challenges identified included navigating the HIV laboratory approval process, sometimes taking up to six months.

Lyell noted that the HIV testing numbers and positivity rates were low when outside agencies were brought into SAPTA sites to provide testing. Also, opt-in testing was offered previously when opt-out testing has been implemented since the transition to the state's HIV Prevention Program's oversight.

6. HIV Testing/Condom Task Force

Nathan has distilled the information on target populations, testing sites, possible gaps that the group has been working on over the past meetings. WCHD HIV testing data from 2017 was reviewed. Lyell asked that positivity for each site type be provided.

The group reviewed previous work done on identifying testing sites, stakeholders, and strategies to recruit PPG members per target population on a spreadsheet that was developed by Nathan. A discussion on testing at the schools, even after school hours during club or after school program time was discussed. The document will be reworked and brought back to the group for guidance, with a column for edits, gaps, and strategies.

A person who requests condoms from WCHD has connections to the swingers lifestyle has offered to work with WCHD to promote HIV/STD testing.

The status of the school district's sex education curriculum and advisory group was discussed. The composition of the advisory committee and those supporting and opposed to comprehensive, medically accurate and inclusive sex was included in the discussion.

Elaine asked who funds testing at China Springs. It was unknown

Condoms and the condom container at Kelly's bar and the Hideout was discussed. There were some issues with condoms being discarded and played with at the bar but for the most part, the access to condoms has been successful.

The impact of affordable housing on high-risk populations was discussed. With many of the weekly motels being demolished, people have few options for decent housing. People are then homeless and may engage in behaviors that put people at risk for HIV infection. Stable housing is considered a primary need for effective HIV prevention and HIV care to be accessed by high-risk populations.

7. Agency Updates

- Doug reminded the group that ACCEPT provides Health Education/Risk Reduction groups for PLWH and their loved ones at HOPES on the

8. Public Comment

A tour of Steve's will be provided to members in the future.

The ENDHIVNV website is still under development.

9. Adjournment

There was a motion by Lyell Collins to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Robert Ashley. Motion passed unanimously.