MARIN AIDS COMMISSION

HIV PREVENTION COMMUNITY
PLANNING GROUP MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2000

Present: Kevin Stark, Rachel Galgoul, Peter Hansen, Lisa Caper, Susan Quigley, Brian Slattery, Philo Hagen, Chris Garvey

Guest: Ryan Booth, Rick Thornton

1. Introductions/Announcements-Kevin Stark announced that he had gotten a job as an STD investigator with the CDC Syphilis Elimination Team, out of Chicago. His last day would be January 5, 2001. Susan Quigley announced that she would be the Interim Associate Director during Huckleberry Youth Program’s reorganization when a Division director would be hired. She planned to go on a sabbatical to South America and get a job with Huckleberry when she returned. Lisa Caper was taking her place as the Program Director. Huckleberry is looking for a full-time bilingual outreach worker.

Brian Slattery announced that Marin Treatment Center had hired a new outreach worker named Robert Phillips and were looking to hire an outreach worker and drug counselor. He would prefer to hire an LCSW or MFT for the drug counselor position.

2. State, County, and Grantee Updates-The California HIV Planning Group met in November and decided to split back into CARE and prevention groups. The Group did not approve a recommendation to set aside 25-40% of State Office of AIDS prevention funding for people who are HIV positive.

Elaine Weston reported that the State wanted the NIGHT program to track outreach to clients by recording clients’ date of birth and the first letter of their surnames in order to document program outcomes. She stated that partner notification would become mandatory for those who test positive. These activities in addition to the anticipated use of unique identifiers will provide more current data for planning than the use of AIDS case data. She noted that two thirds of those who had tested HIV+ were identified through confidential testing. It was pointed out that there is no verification of the name given for confidential testing. Elaine reported that the November MCCHOW meeting had been on incarceration. MCCHOW meetings are for community health outreach workers and she encouraged agencies to send all such line staff so that community outreach could be coordinated. The meetings could also be the place to cross-fertilize with other county health outreach workers in coordinating referrals. The meetings are the last Wednesday of each month. December 20th is a holiday meeting.
3. **Review of Contractor’s Quarterly Reports,**

Since the second quarter was not yet over, there were no formal contractor reports. However, Susan Quigley reported that the Huckleberry staff included 4 youth and 2 staff peer educators and she was surprised at how much time it took to provide them support.

4. **Special Topic for Discussion**- Philo Hagen distributed a needle exchange program update report from September, 2000. He discussed the history of needle exchange programs in the U.S. and in Marin specifically. He described the harm reduction model that is the basis for the program and stated that it is part of the continuum of prevention services offered by Marin AIDS Project. He presented statistics on the number of participants and syringes exchanged over the years. He noted that the County is moving slowly to make MAP an agent in accordance with AB101. He would like this designation as soon as possible as it would give the program legitimacy in its expansion into new sites in Marin City and Fairfax. He would also like to have a wound care clinic some day. Brian Slattery felt that it looked bad for the county which had the legislator who authored the bill not to have utilized it yet. He did not understand what the hold-up was in developing a contract to make Marin AIDS Project an agent of the county. He suggested that the Group should support legislation to make it legal to buy syringes in a pharmacy.

He pointed out that a needle exchange program would help decrease the spread of Hepatitis C also as many people get Hepatitis C the first time they inject drugs because they don’t have their own equipment or know anything about cleaning drug paraphernalia.

He read that the San Rafael police arrested two women as hookers because they had money and condoms with them. He felt that this arrest would send a negative message to people carrying condoms.

5. **Topic for Next Quarter/Next Meeting Date**–Chris Garvey stated that the Prevention Plan had expired in 1998 and should be updated. The process could be started with an epidemiological presentation from Joyce Chang. It was decided that she would make a presentation on February 5, 2001. Steve Tierney from the San Francisco AIDS Office would also be invited to report on San Francisco epidemiology.
HIV PREVENTION COMMUNITY PLANNING
GROUP MEETING AGENDA
February 5, 2001
12:00-1:30
Marin Treatment Center Conference Room

1. Introductions/Announcements
2. Review Agenda
3. Minutes from Previous Meeting
4. Public Time - Open Forum
5. State, County, and Grantee Updates
6. Review of Contractor’s Quarterly Reports
7. Special Topic for Discussion-San Francisco’s and Marin’s epidemiology
8. Old Business
9. Topic for Next Quarter
10. Next Meeting Date
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2001

Present: Gregory Giorgi, Peter Hansen, Ron Schriock, Kelly Wallace, Karen Wuopio,

Staff: Chris Garvey

Since the client focus groups were canceled for lack of participation, Gregory Giorgi asked for Commissioner feedback on the idea of obtaining input on client needs through a written client survey for which clients would be paid. He also asked for thoughts on any sources of money for this payment. Karen Wuopio said there was $500 remaining in the County’s allocation to the Commission for this year. She reminded him that this survey would not be completed in time to assist the Commission in ranking priorities for next fiscal year as that is usually done at the January meeting. In addition, if a new need was identified there would not be sufficient time to incorporate it into the Fiscal Year 2001/02 allocations. It was suggested that if Commission approval was obtained for a survey, both client and providers surveys could be done in September. Kelly Wallace pointed out that in 1998 the needs that were identified, i.e., mental health therapy and medication adherence, came from providers. Marin AIDS Project just completed their agency surveys and he was not hearing about any unmet client needs except money. Gregory Giorgi responded that he thought it was important to ask clients what they think periodically.

Discussion turned to how the surveys would be funded. It was suggested that Ryan White money could be used to purchase some type of voucher as incentive to participate in the survey but that Ryan White funding guidelines prohibit the disbursement of cash incentives. If Commission approval were obtained for doing surveys, a task force would be formed.

Kelly Wallace reported that he is still working on putting together an information packet for the Marin Community Foundation.

Gregory Giorgi asked about the feasibility of developing a medical marijuana study in Marin like the one in San Mateo. Karen Wuopio cautioned that the Commission needed to prioritize its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and that it was unlikely that there would be support for a study in Marin when studies were being conducted in both San Francisco and San Mateo counties. In the meantime, Gregory Giorgi will follow the study in San Mateo.
Gregory Giorgi inquired as to whether there should be some screening of potential Commission applicants’ arrest records. Karen Wuopio will forward the question to County Counsel.

Gregory Giorgi stated that Commissioners need to sign up for at least 1 committee. Since we have not received any responses to the December mailing of sign-up sheets, we will be asking Commissioners at the next Commission meeting in January to designate which committee meetings they will be attending.

The remainder of the meeting was spent developing the agenda for the Commission meeting.

Chris Harvey
MARIN AIDS COMMISSION RETREAT MINUTES
October 12, 2000
Santa Sabina Center, Dominican University
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Present: Bob Barnecut, Gail Theller, Peter Hansen, Karen Wuopio, Chris Garvey, Philo Hagen, Brian Slattery, Dave Martin, Erik Foehr, Gregory Giorgi, Ron Shriock, Kelly Wallace

Facilitator, Antoine Moore, Compasspoint

The Retreat started at 9:25 a.m. with introductions. Patricia from Santa Sabina provided a history of the Santa Sabina Center and rules for the use of the house.

Team-building Exercise-The facilitator, Antoine Moore, asked everyone to write something important about themselves on a piece of paper, make the piece of paper into an airplane and fly it to the opposite side of the room. He picked up the airplanes, unfolded them and read what people had written. The group was supposed to guess which person was being described.

General Introduction

CARE Act-Karen Wuopio

Karen Wuopio distributed and discussed a handout explaining the CARE Act and the number of contracts and kinds of services funded with this money.

Prevention and Education funding-Chris Garvey

Chris Garvey distributed and discussed a handout explaining the State Office of AIDS prevention and education allocation and the number of contracts targeting various populations funded with this money.

Commission structure and responsibilities-Gregory Giorgi

Gregory Giorgi described the various committees of the Commission and passed around a sign-up sheet for interested participants. The following are the committees and a list of those who signed up for each:
Brian Slattery suggested that we have a discussion of the place of the Prevention and Education Committee and whether its members should become Commissioners. He felt that the Commission should get more actively involved in and be more supportive of prevention by making it a priority in the next two years.

Review of Marin AIDS Commission Mission Statement for 2000/01-
Commissioners felt that the following addition should be made to the Mission Statement:

“To provide leadership in formulating policy concerning HIV infection and related diseases for Marin County; to ensure that prevention, educational and service needs are defined and met in the most effective, compassionate and timely manner; and to protect the legal, health and human rights of individuals affected by HIV.”

It is understood that the phrase “....and related diseases” includes Hepatitis C.

Planning for 2000-2002

Priorities

The AIDS Commission identified the following activities/content areas as priorities:

Advocacy re policy
Outreach
Direct Service
Education and Prevention
Merging Commission with the HIV Prevention Local Implementation Group
Build up diversity/membership
Committees

The current committees of the Commission were identified and there was a discussion about the need for an HIV advocacy committee. It was decided that it was most important for each committee to have the voice of an HIV+ member on it rather than have a separate committee. The 4 remaining committees were: The Prevention and Education Committee/HIV Prevention Local Implementation Group, The Marin Medical Society Committee, The Housing Committee, and The Executive Committee. Each priority was examined to determine how that priority could be addressed on each committee.

Needed resources and helpful mechanisms

For the Commission and the committees to operate most effectively work needed to be done in outreach to solicit new members and get their input. Better use could be made of The Slant to do this. There was a suggestion that there could be co-meetings with other committees. Another suggestion was that HIV+ individuals could meet half an hour before the quarterly Commission meeting to give input on agenda items and/or speak during public input time. There was a suggestion to make the quarterly agenda more focused on one of our priorities, e.g. prevention, and invite other people as guests.

Advocacy was needed at all government levels and a relationship needed to be established with Senator Burton. There also needed to be a relationship with the Marin Community Foundation.

Finally there was further discussion as to how to integrate prevention into the Commission. One suggestion was to have more prevention representatives sit on the Commission and find out what support/collaboration was needed by them.

The discussion continued through lunch and ended at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Garvey, Planner
MARIN AIDS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2000
161 Mitchell Blvd., San Rafael
12:00-2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

MEMBERS:
Present: Robert Barnecut, Erik Foehr, Gregory Giorgi, Peter Hansen, Dave Martin, Barney Pia, Ron Schriock, Brian Slattery, Mary Taverna, Gail Theller, Kelly Wallace Karen Wuopio [12]
Absent: Milton Estes (E), Marc Hering (U) [2]
STAFF: Chris Garvey
GUESTS: Peter Dunn, Jane Foster, Leslie Gallen

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Kelly Wallace, Chair. Gregory Giorgi introduced two new Commissioners in attendance, Ron Schriock and Erik Foehr. Commissioners were asked to introduce themselves and the meeting ground rules were reviewed.

An item on the Commission membership list was added to the agenda.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS: Gregory Giorgi distributed a press release for recruiting new members. It was decided that Richard Wolf would be called to determine his interest in continuing as a Commissioner. An orientation needs to be scheduled for the new commissioners.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: Barney Pia asked that his concerns regarding the process of recommending and approving the extended deadline for HOPWA proposals be added to the May 22nd minutes.

The following motion was seconded and passed unanimously¹:

A  To accept the minutes of April 27, 2000 as amended.¹

¹Vote on Motion[A]: FOR: Barnecut, Foehr, Giorgi, Hansen, Martin, Pia, Schriock, Slattery, Taverna, Theller, Wallace, Wuopio [12]
AGAINST: [0]
ABSTAIN: [0]

PUBLIC COMMENT/INPUT: None
COMMISSIONER OPEN TIME: Dave Martin announced that there would be an Interfaith healing service lead by Carol Hovis from Canal Ministry followed by lunch. He distributed a flyer with all the healing service dates in 2000. He announced that Marin AIDS Interfaith Network's spiritual support services are now available to those with other life-threatening diseases. It was announced that there is a one time only renter, homeowner assistance program for those with incomes of less than $30,000 who pay at least $50 per month for rent. Information about this program can be downloaded from the franchise tax board website. Gregory Giorgi stated that since the Bridge district is discontinuing bridge tickets there was a question as to what transportation assistance clients would be able to get now. Karen Wuopio responded that the HIV/AIDS Services program would analyze where the use is.

CHAIR REPORT: Wallace

Kelly Wallace reported that the Commission's FY 1999/00 $500 allocation had been spent to pre-pay the Retreat facility rental and to buy two engraved plaques and one plaque to be engraved at a later date. It was suggested that the FY 2000/01 allocation could be used on a facilitator for client focus groups.

He reported that the Commission Retreat was scheduled for October 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. including lunch at Santa Sabina Center at Dominican University. One of the topics to be considered is the possibility of the prevention planning group merging with the Commission as other jurisdictions have done. Gregory Giorgi asked for volunteers to put together a task force to determine the organization of the Retreat. Peter Hansen, Gregory Giorgi and Gail Theller volunteered. Kelly Wallace will check with the San Francisco AIDS Office about getting a Retreat facilitator from Compasspoint through the technical assistance grant.

Barney Pia stated that he was uncomfortable with the direction of Commission and wanted to focus on how to incorporate less functional people’s input into the Commission. Gregory Giorgi suggested that the HIV Advocacy Committee could be revived for this purpose. Barney Pia also stated that he was concerned by the backdoor dealings and micromanaging. He felt that the results of the last needs assessment were used selectively. Karen Wuopio disagreed pointing out that the results were used to begin funding mental health services. It was suggested that the needs assessment results should be given to new members.

Commissioners were asked to provide their e-mail addresses. There was a question as to whether Commissioners' addresses are public knowledge. If addresses are public and there is a privacy concern, clients can use the address of the Marin AIDS Commission c/o HIV/AIDS Services program. Gregory Giorgi asked for volunteers for a task force on focus groups. Task force members are
Kelly Wallace, Gregory Giorgi, Karen Wuopio, and Ron Schriock. The two task forces will meet on August 10th at noon.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS- Gregory Giorgi was the only nomination for Chair. Brian Slattery nominated Kelly Wallace as Vice Chair. Peter Hansen was nominated as Secretary. A motion was made to close the nominations closed.

The following motion was seconded and passed with three abstentions²:

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<tr>
<th>B</th>
<th>To close the nominations for the slate of officers.²</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>² Vote on Motion (B):</td>
<td>FOR: Barnecut, Foehr, Martin, Pia, Schriock, Taverna, Theller, Wuopio [9]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AGAINST: [0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ABSTAIN: Giorgi, Hansen, Wallace [3]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following motion was seconded and passed with three abstentions³:

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<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>To move the slate of officers by acclamation.³</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>³ Vote on Motion (C):</td>
<td>FOR: Barnecut, Foehr, Martin, Pia, Schriock, Taverna, Theller, Wuopio [9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AGAINST: [0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ABSTAIN: Giorgi, Hansen, Wallace [3]</td>
</tr>
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STAFF REPORT: Karen Wuopio reported that the recruitment to replace the administrative services associate would close on August 4th. She stated that she and Chris Garvey were participating on a working group from the San Francisco Planning Council to write a 5-year plan related to CARE funding. Nancy Rubin had written letters to Senators Boxer and Feinstein, and Representative Pelosi supporting reauthorization of the CARE Act and favoring the Senate version of a 2% reduction in funds over 5 years to the EMA rather than the House's version of a 5% reduction in funds over 5 years.

SAN FRANCISCO HIV HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT- Kelly Wallace explained that the formula for allocating funds under the CARE Act reauthorization would redistribute money to where the epidemic is now which will result in a 5% or a 2% cut every year for 5 years. Marin should prepare for cuts because San Francisco will no longer hold Marin harmless and absorb the entire cut themselves. The next Planning Council meeting is August 28th, from 4:30-7:30 at City Hall in conference room B. Because of possible cuts, it was suggested that representatives of the Commission begin talking to the Marin Community Foundation again and invite Tom Peters to a meeting. This topic will be put under New Business for a future meeting. If we update the list of funding sources for AIDS services we could see what care and prevention services the Foundation funds.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Prevention and Education Committee - Garvey

The HIV Prevention Local Implementation Group discussed the pros and cons of a merger with the Marin AIDS Commission. Group members will be invited to the Commission Retreat to meet Commissioners.

Housing Committee - Wallace

Guidelines for a long-term rental subsidy increase are still being worked on.

HIV Clinic Committee-The Committee had a presentation by detention nursing. They discussed Hepatitis C, the placement of Sharp's containers, and whether medical marijuana users should be issued an identification card. **Brian Slattery** pointed out that medical marijuana costs the same as that purchased illegally. He suggested that the Chair write a letter asking the Board of Supervisors for a timetable for the implementation of an identification system and consult San Francisco regarding a price structure.

The following motion was seconded and passed with one abstention:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>To request a timetable for implementation of a medical marijuana user identification system.</th>
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Membership Committee - Giorgi

**Gregory Giorgi** has developed a recruitment flyer and media fax list. He would like to receive a monthly meeting calendar so anyone who wants items on the calendar should send them to Chris Garvey by the 15th of prior month.

Hepatitis C Plan - Slattery

The Plan is in draft form and will be mailed to Commissioners for input within 30 days.

OLD BUSINESS-The draft of the resource directory was given by the County to Marin Treatment Center to have produced. 1500 copies should be ready in two weeks. Each agency will distribute the directory themselves. **Barney Pia** suggested that the County look into translating it into Spanish. Other suggestions include putting it on the Internet, putting it in large print or put in an
audio format. Gail Theller will investigate have the Marin Community Foundation fund the Spanish translation.

AIDS Memorial Grove-Gregory Giorgi inquired as to the AIDS Memorial Grove. Barney Pia reported that several years ago there were areas available at the Civic Center but groups had to do their own maintenance. There was some discussion on whether to develop a plan first or ask the Board of Supervisors for support first. It was decided that there were more important issues for which Board support was needed. Other land sources will also be investigated.

NEW BUSINESS-Gregory Giorgi suggested reviving the HIV+ Advocacy Committee to get more input from clients. Gail Theller felt that service provision activities could be better used as recruitment opportunities. The HIV Clinic, Housing and Executive Committees would benefit from client input.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Garvey, Planner