



**Community Briefing:
National HIV/AIDS Conferences & Trainings of 2008**

Thursday, February 19, 2009
11:30–1:00 PM | Trinity Commons

Agenda/Notes

Welcome	11:30–11:40 PM
Conference/Training Highlights	11:40–12:40 PM
Questions and Community Dialogue	12:40–12:55 PM
Wrap-Up & Evaluation	12:55–1:00 PM

Panelists:

Melissa Federman, AIDS Funding Collaborative

Conference: 2008 National STD Prevention Conference

Melissa Federman attended the CDC sponsored National STD Prevention Conference which takes place every other year. The 2008 Prevention Conference was in Chicago, and pre-conference opportunities were excellent and included a full day program evaluation workshop and field trips to a local STD clinic and STD lab. The meeting was mostly STD content but several sessions included HIV content. Melissa reported on a session on herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) and HIV. HSV-2 is a prevalent virus that persists for life and has been found to increase the risk for acquiring HIV four-fold. New data was emerging that suppressing HSV-2 did not decrease HIV acquisition, as was thought likely, and it was suggested that more basic biologic research was needed on the relationship between the two viruses. The meeting also had examples of comprehensive HIV/STD programs in different cities. The next meeting is in March 2010 in Atlanta and Melissa recommended it for anyone looking to combine HIV/STD programs, or needing to brush up on their STD knowledge. The session abstracts are at the conference web site.

Peggy Gallagher, Kaiser Permanente of Ohio

Conference: Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) 21st Annual Conference

Peggy Gallagher reported on the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) Conference in Tuscon, AZ. The conference is for advanced care nurses and Peggy found the experience renewing; it was the best conference she has attended. She found retreat-like; it was spiritual and stressed self-care as much as patient care. Session topics included special issues for women with HIV, and HIV and comorbidities like diabetes and depression.

Travis Garry, & Maureen Havelka, The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center of Greater Cleveland

Training: Street Smart, a CDC Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Intervention (DEBI)

Travis and Maureen reported on the Street Smart DEBI training. DEBI is Diffusion of Evidenced Based

AIDS Funding Collaborative, 1226 Huron Road, Suite 300, Cleveland, OH 44115 • 216-781-2944 • www.AIDSFundingCollaborative.org



Interventions, and these trainings are held around the country and are intended to bring high quality, evaluated, HIV intervention programs to the community level. Street Smart targets homeless and runaway youth aged 11–18. The program is intended to help youth build skills that enable them to practice safer sex behaviors and reduce substance use. The four core elements of the training were: improving social skills and problem solving among youth, identifying their triggers, and reducing harmful behaviors. Travis and Maureen reported that the training was very hands on. They learned a lot about feeling identification and how the feelings of youth lead to proactive vs. reactive behavior. The training included information about self expression and skills for teaching how to negotiate with a sexual partner. There were also facilitator tips including using a feeling thermometer to gauge sensitive subjects in a group. More information can be found on the CDC website; the training is free, the participant is responsible for fees related to travel.

Owen Groze, MetroHealth Medical Center

Conference: 26th Annual Conference of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association

Owen Groze reported on the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Meeting (GLMA) held in Seattle. The meeting is an opportunity for training for medical professionals on LGBT issues. The training aspects were especially relevant to his work at the Metro Pride Clinic, where 15–20% of patients are transgender. In follow up to the meeting he has created a Transdirectory for Ohio of clinics, endocrinologists, surgeons, mental health providers, etc. The meeting was a great opportunity for him to collect data and network with other programs nationally.

Lindsay Marcus, Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio

Training: Focus on Youth, a CDC Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Intervention (DEBI)

Lindsay Marcus attended the Focus on Youth + ImpACT DEBI training (see above for general DEBI information). The training focused on HIV/STD prevention for African American youth aged 15–18. The training lasted five days (8:30–5) and Lindsay reported that every day of the training was well utilized. The ImpACT part of the program focuses on parents and is home-base. The program included technical assistance, implementation guides, and process evaluation information. She learned about logic models, afro-centric culture, and the curriculum offers modification for educators working with transgender youth, Hispanic youth, and other specific populations.

Lauren Tews Harbert, AIDS Funding Collaborative

Conference: The National AIDS Fund (NAF) Annual Conference

Lauren Tews Harbert reported on the National Aids Fund (NAF) Conference, an annual meeting of the 30+ community AIDS funding partnerships nationwide. The meeting includes strategic planning, how NAF can best support the local partnerships, and issues of special interest related to the epidemic. Lauren reported on the National AIDS Housing Coalition session. The Coalition has organized summits for researchers around housing and HIV to compile data on the impact of housing status on HIV+ patients, risk of HIV and the cost benefit of investing in housing as an intervention. She noted that homeless or unstably housed people are 2–6 times more likely to use hard drugs, share needles, or exchange sex than stably housed persons with the same personal and service use characteristics. There is also a strong association between change in housing status and HIV risk behavior change. When controlling for demographics, drug use, and receipt of medical and social services, homeless PLWHA have lower CD4 counts, higher viral loads, more hospitalizations and ER visits, and have lower access to and adherence to medications compared to those who are stably housed. Housing itself, as an independent factor, improves health of PLWHA. An ongoing Housing and Health study is examining the relationship between housing as an intervention, and HIV prevention and care, comparing the cost of housing services to savings associated with prevented HIV infections. Preliminary findings show HIV/AIDS housing is both cost-effective and cost-saving. The message is risky contexts vs. risky persons.

Shannon Ward, May Dugan Multi-Service Center

Training: Sisters Informing Sisters on Topics about AIDS (SISTA), a CDC Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Intervention (DEBI)

Shannon Ward presented information on the Sisters Informing Sisters on Topics about AIDS (SISTA) DEBI training (see above for general DEBI information). SISTA is a group level intervention focused on African American women with the goal of increased condom use. Shannon reported learning a lot about African culture, including identifying with the elder of the group. She also found a facilitation tool, the “kitchen table,” to be helpful, which included a place for program participants to ask questions, voice concerns, or their need for more information when the group was meeting. The SISTA intervention teaches girls how to empower themselves, how to communicate and negotiate with their partner, gender pride, and how to love themselves before they can love others.

Q&A

Q. Is there more information about staying HIV negative with stable housing?

A. There is currently a study in Chicago looking at HIV and health. Melissa and Lauren volunteered to follow up with more information on the study (see link: <http://www.aidschicago.org/care/chhp.php>).

Q. Have the DEBIS been implemented?

A. SISTA is being implemented at May Dugan. Street Smart has not been implemented yet due to (lack of) funding. Focus on Youth is in a trial period (without funding) with the hope of a longer-term commitment from funders once program is proven.

Q. How did you decide which DEBI was a good match for your organization?

A. Most of the DEBIs were chosen because they were a natural fit with work that was already occurring, and/or that they had staffing for, at the organization. The application process for the DEBIs is in depth. It is beneficial though, because the training groups are small and qualified.

Q. Are there empowerment elements in each DEBI?

A. Yes, if we don’t start with “I’m important to protect,” all the talking in the world won’t make a difference.

Q. Have you begun working with parents with ImpACT?

A. ImpACT won’t start for another year. PPNEO is currently implementing Parents are Talking and Teaching about Healthy Sexuality (PATHS) for parents, and the program would require a full time educator to implement ImpACT, which they don’t have the capacity for yet.

Q. Are there other conferences that people in the room have attended that they would like to share information on?

Jessica Verbic from Proyecto Luz reported on a Proceed, Inc. training on HIV and substance abuse she attended. Proceed focused on capacity building for those working with minority populations. It was a free training and a very good one (proceedinc.com).

Jim Price reported on a regional American Indian Conference. He was disappointed in the lack of content related to HIV and STDs and voiced this to organizers.

Sarah Sobel from the Ohio AIDS Coalition reported on the NAPWA Women’s Institute for HIV-positive women. It focused on empowerment, learning how to tell your story, how to advocate, as well as funding opportunities, and she felt it was a great conference.