

<b>Minutes:</b>	Commission on AIDS PAC/RAC Committee/Community Relations Committee <b>Email: PAC_committee@comcast.net</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, September 17, 2009 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	
<b>Location:</b>	Food for Thought: 6550 Railroad Avenue, Forestville, CA	
<b>Present:</b>	Ginger, Herb, David, Lisa	
<b>Meeting Summary:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members met with approximately 30 consumers and some service providers and discussed current services, support groups, providers and concerns surrounding the recent funding cuts.</li> <li>• The discussion led to how each consumer might become engaged in supporting their fellow consumers in need.</li> <li>• Members made a commitment to keep communications open and transparent as we learn more about the future of HIV/AIDS prevention and care.</li> <li>• The next meeting will be: Thursday, October 15, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. West County Health Center, 14045 Mill Street, Guerneville, CA 95446</li> </ul>	
<b>Follow Up Tasks</b>		
<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>When</b>
David	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create minutes from meeting</li> </ul>	September 28,2009
David	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send draft of PAC meeting notes to Lisa to review and present at next COA meeting</li> </ul>	September 27, 2009
Lisa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up on legality of SSI/SSP(Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment) California budget cut</li> </ul>	October 15, 2009
<b>Meeting summary for Commission report</b>		
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Update/Action needed</b>
Recommendations to COA	Share information discussed at PAC meeting to the COA. Consumers were grateful that there is a venue for them to receive information about the changes. Important to continue these meetings.	

1. Public Comment

a. One consumer expressed a concern about the decrease in his SSI/SSP(Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment) payments as a result of the State funding cuts.

2. Approval of August Minutes

a. August meeting minutes approved.

3. Announcements, changes in agenda and updates

World AIDS Day, Ginger gave an update of the upcoming activities scheduled for WAD, December 1, 2009. Some of the highlights will be:

- The Candlelight Vigil through Guerneville, with a drumming at the Guerneville foot bridge
- The viewing of "The AIDS Quilt" at the Veterans building in Guerneville,

- Public Speaking event at Sonoma State University with Dr. Netherda and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
- Food Drive at Food for Humans, Community Market, Santa Rosa, Kaiser Santa Rosa, Sonoma State
- Raffle at Rainbow Cattle Company "Give Back Tuesday" benefiting Food For Thought's AIDS Nutrient Bank
- DAAC Staff HIV testing at SSU

Bertha Jean announced that DAAC is still offering:

- HIV and Hepatitis C testing on Mondays from 12:00 to 5:30 p.m. located at 2403 Professional Drive, Santa Rosa.
- If for any reason someone cannot make it to DAAC on Monday afternoon, please call Bertha Jean or Lynn and they will make arrangements for a test at (707)544-3295.
- DAAC is still offering Syringe exchange on Friday nights.

Kaiser is still offering testing for its own clients.

Brian announced the HIV Center at 499 Humboldt St., Santa Rosa is still offering the groups listed below. However a couple of consumers stated that some of these groups are ending per their discussion with the facilitators of these groups highlighted below:

- ***Positive Connections***
- ***HIV Positive Men's Group***
- Conexiones Positivas
- Next Steps

Other Groups -

- Positive Women's Group, Full Moon Dinners both at Food For Thought
- Straight from the Heart Support Group which is a gathering of heterosexual men and women dedicated to emotional support and education for HIV positive individuals. The group meets the first Sunday of each month from 3-5 p.m. at Kaiser Medical Clinic 401 Bicentennial Way, Santa Rosa, East Bldg. 3rd Floor, Room E3-4.
- HIV/AIDS Support Group for Men and Women, Lomi Psychotherapy Clinic, 534 B Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 707-579-0465 Ext. 310, Facilitated by Ilka de Gast, Psy.D.
- Face to Face (707)544-1581 is a great resource for finding services and groups.

4. Concerns from consumers:

A nurse from Kaiser expressed a concern for Kaiser patients that have lost their insurance. Before the funding cuts and rumors that the center may be closing, they would refer HIV positive patients to the Center for HIV Prevention and Care. Brian assured everyone that the rumors are not true. There is a process in place to look to alternatives to the County HIV clinic (Center), but at this time they should continue to send patients that have lost insurance to the Center.

There was a lengthy discussion and everyone at the table shared stories, expressed some fears and the need for a venue to all meet together during these changing times.

Several consumers were concerned about the impact funding cuts may have on the following services.

- Affording Medication
- Prevention, condom distribution, HIV testing
- Mental health services.
- Outreach programs, needle exchange, drug and alcohol abuse treatment and counseling
- Continued dental services.
- That those that need the most services may slip through the cracks.

- That the most fragile may not stay in care.
- Financial Assistance
- Case Management Services
- Benefit Counseling
- A rise in new infections
- Good and healthy food
- Support groups key in saving some peoples' lives

The PAC committee thanked everyone for their input and their support as we all go through this difficult time. The PAC Committee also made the commitment to share any information or updates they receive with the community as quickly as possible and to communicate their concerns with COA. PAC agreed to try to get as many answers as possible to them by the next meeting in October.

Everyone was grateful for the opportunity to meet and discuss their fears and concerns and many were excited about the opportunity to contribute something to the group. We discussed meeting at a different service provider for the first two meetings each quarter and that the third meeting each quarter would be a business meeting in the at COA office located at 490 Mendocino Avenue, Ste. 202, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. It was announced that the business meeting would be a public meeting as well and that any and all consumers were invited to attend and participate.

5. Meeting adjourned – Next meeting will be Thursday, October 15, 2009, 6-8 p.m., located at West County Health Center, 14045 Mill Street, Guerneville, CA 95446.

**PAC/RAC:** PAC (People with AIDS Advocacy Committee)/RAC (ReConnect Action Committee) - This dual committee provides greater involvement in the planning process for persons living with HIV/AIDS, and addresses their social, emotional, educational and vocational needs to help them take positive steps that lead to satisfying, meaningful, and healthy lives.

**PAC (People with AIDS Advocacy Committee) Mission:** Our mission is to identify, represent and advocate for the needs of persons living with HIV disease in Sonoma County. We work to promote measures that help persons with HIV to live healthy, dignified and productive lives and to build and sustain a community in which persons with HIV are actively involved in the decisions and actions, which affect their health and well being.

**RAC (ReConnect Action Committee) Mission:** The ReConnect Action Committee works to support people with HIV to re-imagine our futures. We seek to address social, emotional, educational and vocational needs and to equip individuals to make positive steps to explore new possibilities, which lead to satisfying, meaningful and healthy lives.