



ODC NEWS & VIEWS

MAY & JUNE 2007

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICE
- SUPORT GROUP ANNOUCMENTS
- NEW LEGACY STORY / LOIUS - BITTERSWEET
- CLIENT SATISFACTORY SURVEYS

What is the CAC?

BY: Pat Lev

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) started May 25, 2005. It is made up of clients that represent different demographics. The CAC originally met every three months, but after the first year the group decided to meet more often. It currently meets every two months with sub-committees meeting in between.

One of the first responsibilities of the CAC was to develop a mission statement that reflected the Committee's purpose. The Mission Statement is as follows:

"The Client Advisory Committee is to be the collective client voice to review and form recommendations to enhance services. Further the CAC shall help current and potential clients to be aware of available services, while at the same time being a bridge between clients and ODC Management"

One of the major developments

that came out of the first year was the beginning of the "Legacy Campaign" which is still going on today. All clients were invited to write their story about how HIV affected their lives. Forty two clients submitted their stories which were judged by two impartial people in the community. Prizes were awarded to the winners in three separate categories. The campaign was a huge success. The next step was to prepare the writers to be speakers. After the speakers training was completed a sub-committee of the CAC acted as "audiences" for the speakers to give their presentations. The committee then critiqued their presentation and eventually 16 speakers were certified to go out in the community and tell their stories. In this process, relationships and friendships were forged and clients had an opportunity to meet others they may otherwise not have met.

Another major new program developed out of the CAC as well. A sub-committee worked together to develop "The New to Care Group" This group is five weeks long and each week a topic relevant to HIV is covered. This group includes people who are newly infected as well as people who have been infected for a while, but have not started or maintained care. The first New to Care group was completed in the first quarter in Aurora. The next group will be held in Elgin in May. Check the calendar for dates and times. As you can see, the CAC has accomplished quite a bit in less than two years. We are always looking for interested clients to join the CAC. If you would like to be part of this committee please contact Pat Lev @ 630-845-9810 or patl@opendoorclinic.org, or let your Case Manager know that you are interested.

PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDES HIV/AIDS LEGAL SERVICES

Services provided are:

Divorce - Eviction Defense - SSI - Living Wills - Power of attorney for health care / property - Other legal matter

Not able to assist in criminal matters

Adrian Barr will be in Aurora every 2nd and 4th Friday from 1pm to 3pm. Please call 630-232-9415, ext 223 for an appointment.

May 4, 2007 5:30 PM

Aurora Mixed Group

Will be having a guest speaker

Ernie Rodriguez

Topics

HIV/ AIDS Basics

Adherence, Lip atrophy

Keys to treatment success

Woman & African Americans and HIV

Lobby Days 2007



Lobby days 2007 was held in Springfield Illinois on March 20th and 21st. The main message for this year was to support the governors' "Illinois Covered" proposal and increase funding

for HIV prevention and testing programs. In addition, will help support strong patient protections against involuntary and unformed HIV testing.

"Illinois Covered" is the governors' plan that would extend healthcare to 1.4 million Illinoisans, who are uninsured or under insured. It will extend access to healthcare to people living with HIV and save lives and money. Half the estimated 40,000 people living with HIV in Illinois lack of adequate coverage for their doctor visits, medication and other healthcare needs. Under "Illinois Coverer" people

living with HIV will receive compensation coverage for their doctor visits, medication and other health needs.

HIV/AIDS Funding has proposed a HIV/AIDS Lottery Scratch Off that could generate a \$4 million increase for expiation of HIV prevention and testing programs. A \$2 million increase for HIV Prevention is needed to offset recent federal funding cuts and stop the estimated 1,600 new HIV infection occurring each year in Illinois. In order to expand voluntary HIV testing in healthcare settings, lawmakers should appropriate \$2 million for statewide testing-

expansion campaign.

Written informed consents ensures patients rights in HIV testing, patients are fully informed of the implications of a positive result before accepting testing. Currently to receive HIV testing in Illinois patients must give written, informed consent. Informed consent is not a barrier to HIV testing acceptance. Because an HIV diagnosis can have far-reaching social and legal consequences, including stigma, eviction, workplace discrimination, violence, uninsurability, etc., HIV testing should retain written informed consent

ALL THINGS CHOCOLATE



I had the privilege of attending All Things Chocolate this year and let me tell you I was blown away. I heard about this

fundraiser that Open Door Clinic does every year to help keep the clinic up and running but I could not imagine what I saw when I walked through the doors.

This event was done so elegantly that it just took my breath away. Everything was planned and executed to a tee. You were asked if you wanted your picture taken, so that you could take home and so it could be put up on the "who cares" board. Everyone was so friendly and wonder-

ful that you felt like you were at a party with friends. As you walked in there was art displayed, that the Fox Valley Art Association put up for silent auction, they split the proceeds with ODC. There were beautiful vases with flowers in the middle that were up for silent auction also.

Right before you walked into the main room there was a video playing with the faces of HIV/



AIDS playing. Then you walked through the doors to the main room, the sight was so unbelievable. There were more tables



with items for silent auction items on them and then you have some tables with appetizers. But it did not stop there, there were the chocolate vendor tables, displayed on these tables for your enjoyment was white chocolate, milk chocolate and dark chocolate creations. It does not stop there where tables with cheesecakes and chocolate cake also. I know that my mouth did not know what to try first, what kind of chocolate creation or the food.

The fun does not stop there, the Gay Men's Choir performed and they did an awesome performance. Then after you ate and enjoyed the eats and chocolate, there was a live band that for your entertainment which most everyone danced at one time or another. They played video's messages from David Rosler (Director of ODC) and From Bill Walter (who headed the fundraiser). Bill you did an awesome job in putting this event on it was TOPS.

I know that if I am able to attend I will and that I am going to spread the word more than I did this year.



LOUIS — BITTERSWEET

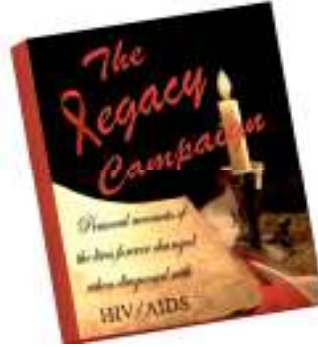
It was less than four months from my 38th birthday and found myself sitting in the local office of the county health department office over looking the expressway waiting to get the results of my HIV test. As I was sitting there I saw a young woman with blonde hair, she looked like she was fresh out of college. As she came closer to me I noticed that she looked nervous and was trying to muster up a smile. She sat down and started to talk to me very cautiously. She said to me "I am sorry to inform you but you test results came back positive. You are not only HIV positive but you have full blown AIDS". Even though I thought test had confirmed what I have suspected for years, the news still hit like a tone of bricks in the face. I just sat there numb, staring past the woman, watching the rush hour traffic building on the expressway.

When I came for my initial visit I was asked to make a list. Well the woman started talking about that list. This list was a list of things that I would want to do if I only had six months to live. She placed that list in front of me and said "you should get started on this list, you have only six months".

After she said this, I swear I became momentarily deaf, because she continued to talk but I could not hear a word that she was saying. I was so stunned, eventually I regained my hearing and the woman got up to get a box of tissue and placed the box in front of me. She said "here, I'm going to leave for a few minutes so that you could have a good cry in private". I reached over and slapped that box of tissue off the desk and across the room. I said "I will never cry over this, not for me". It will mean that

I let this disease WIN and I'll never let it win, never.

Two years earlier, I had buried two of my friends because of this



disease. I cried for them, I grieved and suffered over their deaths. To be honest I am still not over their deaths yet. We planned to buy houses in the same neighborhood and grow old together. Each of us would have a big porch with three rocking

chairs, we planned on sitting in those chairs together reliving the glory days of our youth, while sipping on mixed drinks. Now that will never happen.

Since my diagnosis in 1998 I have lost a lot of things, some good and some bad. The one thing that I did not lose was the decision; I made not to grieve over this disease. Instead of grieving I fight this disease with medication. I fight the physical limitations that it tries to place on me. I am getting involved with HIV advocacy and looking into the possibility of going into that field. I decided that since HIV tried to turn my sweat life into lemons and I will take those lemons and make sweet lemonade. In other words, since HIV has taken my teaching career from me. I am going to make a career out of fighting HIV. Now that's what I call "Poetic Justice".

CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEYS

Open Door Clinic is committed in its mission to provide quality care. Periodically we ask for your input through a satisfaction survey. Why you might ask? Your input on the survey assists the clinic in making enhancements in services or explores the possibility of developing new programs. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide to you a brief overview of the most recent survey results from Aurora. There are 6 sections to the survey; General Questions, Primary Care, Case Management, Hispanic Case Management, Complimentary Therapies (support services), and Alternative Therapies (dental and nutrition).

General Questions	4.6
Primary Care	4.7
Case Management	4.7
Hispanic Case Management	4.5

Comp Therapies	4.6
Alt. Therapies	4.5

If you were to average the above the Aurora Clinic would receive a score of 4.7 out of a possible 5. I want to thank everyone who participated in the survey process.

Another survey that was recently completed was given to the participants of the, New to Care Group. The overall rating of the group was 4.5. The comments from the participants were to have additional group sessions, different time, and increase the time allotted for each session. In looking to the future of the next New to Care Group starting May 8th in Elgin the time will be at 5:00 pm and will include 2 more sessions.

NEW ODC BOARD PRESIDENT



(David Roesler - ODC Executive Director with Dr. Marie Talashek - ODC Board President)

A new President of the Board was voted in at the Annual Meeting of the Open Door Clinic Board of Directors in March. Dr. Marie Talashek, past ODC Board Secretary was unanimously voted in to replace the outgoing President, Joe Henning. Joe served as President of the Board for the past 4 years and announced his resignation only due to growing demands of his position as Executive Director of the Aurora Chamber of Com-

merce.

Joining Marie on ODC's Executive Committee include Bill Walter/Vice President, Dr. Mary Jo Odom-Dull/Treasurer, and Sasha Willsey/Secretary. ODC's Board of Directors also includes Dave Brown, Bob Kendall, Clay Ullrick, and Julio Soto.

The first item on the agenda of the Board is to complete the process of Strategic Planning. The outcome of the Strategic Planning Process will be a 3-5 year plan providing direction and strategy for the future of the organization.

The Board would invite any ODC customers/clients to complete a client satisfaction survey to provide feedback on the accessibility and quality of the services currently provided by ODC's two clinic locations. You can get a copy of the client satisfaction survey at either location.

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Room K

Aurora, IL 60505

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What is Advocacy BY: Perry Maier

Advocacy is the act of arguing on behalf of a particular issue, idea or person. Open Door Clinic participates in both State and Federal advocacy efforts. On an almost daily basis, the clinic receives information about services, funding, and other issues that have a potential impact on the delivery of services to individuals with HIV/AIDS. Open Door Clinic has established an internal mechanism to alert staff, the Board, and friends of the clinic to contact elected officials. In order for advocacy to work effectively we need your voices to be

heard. In the past we have asked our clients to assist us with a writing campaign and calling local elected officials. We would like to continue this and increase your commitment to the cause. Our elected officials would much rather hear from you who are living with HIV than the staff of a clinic.

I hope this has peaked your interest on assisting us with our advocacy efforts. In order for this to work we need to have your voice heard. Please call me at 630-264-1819 ex. 19 or e-mail me at PerryM@opendoorclinic.org.

Project Vote Smart

Thousands of candidates and elected officials. Who works for you? Who is seeking your vote? Project Vote Smart, a citizen's organization, has developed a Voter's Self-Defense System to provide you with the necessary tools to self-govern effectively: abundant, accurate, unbiased and relevant information. As a national library of factual information, Project Vote Smart covers your candidates and elected officials in five basic categories:

biographical information, issue positions, voting records, campaign finances and interest group ratings. What would you like to know? Access our library of information through either the menu on the left hand side or the links above.

To find out more about PVS, go to www.votesmart.org or call our Voter's Research Hotline 1-888-VOTE-SMART (1-888-868-3762) with any questions

MAY 7, 2007 @ 5 PM

SUPPORT GROUP IN ELGIN

SPEAKER - Dr. Max Brito

Topic - HIV INFECTION

MAY 24, 2007 @ 5 PM

SUPPORT GROUP IN AURORA

SPEAKER - Dr. Vazquez

UPCOMING EVANTS

MAY

- 04 - Mixed Support
Group 5:30p (A)
- 07 - Mixed Support
Group 5:00p (E)
- 08 - New to Care Group
5:30p (E)
- 11 - Prairie State Legal
1:00p-3:00p (A)
- 15 - CAC Meeting 6:00p
(St. Charles)
- 15 - New to Care Group
5:30p (E)
- 17 - Bingo
5:30p to 8:00p (E)
- 22 - New to Care Group
5:30p (E)
- 24 - Mixed Support
Group 5:00p (A)
- 29 - New to Care Group
5:30p (E)

(A) Aurora

Dates are subject to change

JUNE

- 01 - Mixed Support
Group 12:00p (A)
- 04 - Hispanic Support
Group 5:00p (A)
- 05 - New to Care Group
5:30p (E)
- 06 - Mixed Support
Group 5:00p (E)
- 08 - Prairie State Legal
1:00p-3:00p(A)
- 15 - Mixed Support
Group 5:30p (A)
- 18 - Mixed Support
Group 5:00p (E)
- 22 - Prairie State Legal
1:00p-3:00p (A)
- 25 - Newsletter Released
Available at Clinics
- 28 - Bingo
5:30p to 8:00p (E)

(E) Elgin

Please call to verify dates