



## Northern Nevada HIV Prevention Planning Group

Wednesday, August 22, 2018 – 2:00 PM  
Washoe County Health District  
1001 East Ninth St., Conference Room A  
Reno, NV

### MINUTES

Members Present: Jennifer Howell, Lyell Collins, Sarah Almaraz, Gwen Taylor, Janet St. Amant (alternate), Theron Huntamer, Doug Hodges, Robert Ashley, Jenna Bieber, Steve Daugherty

Absences Excused: Henedina Tollerstad

Guests Present: Nathan Militante, Scott Benton, Roland Castro-Boulware, Kellie Ducker, Irene Rose, Stephanie Landeros, Brendan Dalton, Miguel Ochoa, Angela Penny, Miranda Bramson, Mike Potter, Preston Tang, Karina Tomco, Ashlee Jones, Jennifer Bennett, Mary Karls, Balakrupa Ramachandran

#### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chair Doug Hodges called the meeting to order at 2:17 pm.

#### 2. **Public Comment**

Mike Potter noted that one of the color handouts was difficult to read. He provided suggestions on better readability and use of colors.

#### 3. **Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2018, April 25, 2018 and June 22, 2018 Meetings**

Minutes were not available for review and approval.

#### 4. **Review and Vote on Membership Applications for Scott Benton and Roland Castro-Boulware**

Scott Benton's application was reviewed. He is interested in representing the target population of MSM or Young Adult. Jen asked if Scott could represent Incarcerated/Re-entry Populations through his experience as a case manager of the homeless shelter in the men's area. Scott agreed that he is able to represent those populations. Regarding his interest in participating, Scott discussed his concern that the populations that he works with are not represented or addressed at all. He is concerned that HIV status is asked upon intake and he is concerned that there are limited resources in the community and to learn about resources is vital to his role. He spoke of his role and the agency roles in providing resources to men, women, and families. Scott is able to serve for at least a two year term. He disclosed his participation of serving on the Civil Service Commission in the City of Sparks and advisory boards within the school district. Theron provided a motion to approve Scott's application, which was seconded by Lyell. The motion was approved unanimously.

Roland Castro-Boulware is seeking to represent MSM of Color. His interest is through public health and his graduate work. He is inspired by HIV prevention, the work of Dr. Karla Wagner at UNR, and

policy analysis. He spoke of needed resources as a MSM of Color and the need to be more aware of prevention, outreach and access. He is able to serve for two years. Lyell moved to approve the application for Roland, which was seconded by Theron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Miguel Ochoa asked what the new members are going to do with their membership. Roland spoke of his desire to provide information and raise awareness on HIV testing. He talked about an idea of providing a wristband with information on testing in the bars. Miguel spoke about Latinx Pride and their willingness to participate in community activities. Membership is a focus on the group and to promote the need for HIV testing within the community. Miguel is willing to hand out testing information outside of the clubs regarding testing. Latinx Pride meets at Our Center every other Thursday.

Scott talked about the need to not being afraid to talk to the community about issues. He spoke of rampant drug use, the use of needles, and the experiences that contribute to HIV in the homeless community. He spoke of the need to refer people and changing the mindset of providers, raising awareness of the need to refer to services. Jen spoke of the need over the years of people living with HIV being treated fairly and safely, without discrimination, in the shelter. Brendan shared information regarding testing and harm reduction services at Change Point.

#### **5. Nominations for Community Co-Chair**

Jen asked the group for nominations of the community co-chair, which could include a person living with HIV. Nominations are open for this meeting and the next meeting, with a vote taking place at the next meeting. Lyell nominated Steve Daugherty. Jen nominated Doug Hodges.

#### **6. Integrated HIV Prevention & Care Community Plan Update**

An opportunity within the Integrated Plan is offering listening sessions within the community to find out more information about the community's experiences with HIV prevention and care. Jen asked if anyone in the group would be interested in planning, recruiting, and facilitating the groups within the community. Nathan, Roland, Scott, Miguel, and Irene offered to participate. Questions are being coordinated with the Southern Nevada HIV Prevention Planning Group and the evaluation team at UNR. Training on facilitation will be provided. A doodle poll assessing availability will be forthcoming.

A packet of information from the last Integrated Plan Workgroup indicating strategies, goals and objectives progress was shared with the group. Meetings occur quarterly to provide information on the status of the activities and adjustments are made as necessary. The prevention planning group has a role in the community planning process and the development of the Integrated Plan. Jen went through the document, explaining the different roles of stakeholders. If people would like to participate in the quarterly meetings with Jen, please contact her. Mary Karls asked if a Spanish speaking listening session will be facilitated. Broader groups will be recruited for the listening sessions to gain participation. The entire plan is available on the WCHD and the state website.

#### **7. HIV Testing and Condom Taskforce**

Jen asked the group to review the color coded paper of target populations, possible contacts for testing, methods of info distribution, current testing sites, possible testing sites, stakeholders identified, gaps and training topics were identified on the document.

Incarcerated/Re-entry: Updates include the shelter, juvenile services through WCHD for re-entry/incarcerated populations. Scott suggested engaging with Parole and Probation to facilitate testing. Carson City HHS anticipates testing in the jail soon.

Youth/Young Adult: Discussion on Sierra Nevada College and the related burden of disease and resources needed for testing occurred. WNC testing would need to be done by the Community Health Nurse and not Carson HHS. WCHD provides testing at Eddy House on the fourth Monday of the month.

IDU: While plasma donation is not a testing site, testing occurs on each sample provided.

Miguel asked about mobile testing. HOPES has a mobile unit and tests at the shelter twice monthly and other areas of the community. Discussion about testing at the bars and clubs shared the challenges that have occurred in the past of people that are at higher risk not testing because they did not want to negatively impact their night. In the past, a positive result occurred at Carl's. Jen talked about rotating testing at the different bars in the community for over 5 years. HOPES also had one positive throughout the years. The community testing agreements on the use of incentives, the limitations related to CDC HIV Prevention funding streams were discussed.

Change Point will be added to all of the populations.

MSM of Color: Nothing added.

MSM Youth: Jen gave an update on the Grindr advertising changes that WCHD is looking to work through. Other social media sites are being assessed for advertising. Other MSM related sites/apps have not been as responsive to request for ad information.

Native America: NUI has not started testing. A needs assessment is being conducted for the Native American population. Information will be forthcoming.

Transgender: Nothing to add.

Asian/Pacific Islander: Nathan is working on engagement for testing sites, condom or education sites for all communities of color. Roland suggested the youth/young adult be included.

## **8. Agency Updates**

- Fast facts have been published by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health HIV surveillance and STD.
- ACCEPT – ACCEPT are moving their offices to Washington and First streets. Information will be forthcoming. The HE/RR groups will continue at HOPES.
- HOPES – An intern is working on a PrEP project and surveying community members for information on availability, access, and referrals. PEP materials and access were discussed.

PEP is not being offered through emergency departments in all of the local hospitals. HOPES was able to assist a person that was denied by the hospitals. Lyell noted that a person may get a prescription and not be able to pay for the medication. There are patient assistance programs that have limitations and an impact on the 72 hour time frame as well. HOPES will triage a person needing PEP and expedite the process.

- WCHD is expecting a new staff person in the HIV program by the end of September. It will be a Public Health Investigator.

#### **9. Public Comment**

Miguel Ochoa offered his thanks to the group for all of their efforts. A social networking testing program is offered by WCHD and Jen offered to speak with Miguel about participating in the program.

Steve asked about testing at Our Center, the response and the marketing. Information was disseminated at Pride and there was a response.

NNOT's status was discussed. Volunteers through UNR and street outreach have been occurring.

Condoms are being delivered to Splash, Kelly's bar and Faces. The dispensers' locations were reviewed.

#### **10. Adjournment**

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