

## Wisconsin HIV Community Planning Network

### Summary of the Northeastern Regional Meeting – April 2009

The Statewide Action Planning Group meeting, including a Local Community Dialogue, was held April 22 - 23 in Elkhart Lake.

#### **LOCAL COMMUNITY DIALOGUE**

The Local Community Dialogue meeting convened at 2:00 PM on April 22nd at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. Statewide Action Planning Group Health Department Co-Chair, Jim Vergeront, and Community Co-Chair Elect, Greg Milward, welcomed Statewide Action Planning Group members and guests.

#### **Corrections Public Health Partnerships: Overview of Correctional Systems**

Sheila Guilfoyle, Adult Hepatitis Coordinator, Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program, presented an overview of correctional systems at the federal, state and local level, emphasizing the confounding factors in HIV and hepatitis prevention, detection and treatment during incarceration. Comprehensive health services are available within the Department of Corrections (DOC). Take away messages from this presentation included:

- Corrections is a complicated system of prisons, jails and community corrections;
- Corrections is run by multiple authorities at federal, state and local levels;
- Individuals cycle in and out the system;
- Care is more stable in DOC or federal institutions; and
- Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program has a long history of working with academic and community partners in formal and informal partnerships to provide prevention and care services to DOC and jail inmates.

#### **Partner Showcase - Dodge Correctional Institution**

Beth Dittman and Jim Hebel, nursing supervisors in the Dodge Correctional Institution Health and Infirmary Units, detailed the services provided at intake, throughout incarceration and reentry into the community. Dodge Correctional Institution is the only DOC men's intake facility and only hospice service in the state. Women have similar intake experiences at Taycheedah. HIV and hepatitis education, prevention, testing and care are available at no cost to inmates throughout the state DOC. Approximately 90% of the inmates do accept HIV testing when offered at intake and additional tests can be requested during incarceration and pre-release. Discharge planning includes linkage to continued care and medication.

The AIDS/HIV program, together with the SAPG, will use this information to develop a Fact Sheet on HIV and hepatitis in Wisconsin prisons and jails.

#### **HIV Prevention and Care in the Northeastern Region**

Paul Jacob and Mary Grosklaus from ARCW described the change in HIV services in the Northeastern Region over time. While the need for specialty care climbs, specialty care providers are dwindling in number. Additionally, as HIV positive clients live longer, there are more clients with more complex needs, including issues related to aging. Case loads for case managers have grown 78% in the past ten years with the current average caseload being 62 clients.

Lisa Danelski, NE regional ambassador and ARCW supervisor, challenged the group to identify strengths, needs and opportunities for clients and providers in the region. Several themes were noted to be working well:

- Maximizing services with resources that exist
  - One-stop-shop (prevention, care, food pantry, more)
- Providing a variety of face-to-face and internet outreach activities

- Targeted Internet outreach (Im Sex; InSpot.org)
- Prevention education at DOC
- Existence of strong community network and trusting relationships
  - Link with LGBTQ youth groups
  - Harmony Café
  - Social Networks Testing
  - Provide education in AODA groups with youth
- Ability to adapt and change over time
  - “Ask me” campaign in late 1980’s to Internet today
  - Needle exchange program
- Forward thinking to identify changing needs

Other themes provide challenges:

- Lack of medical providers
- Language and cultural challenges
  - Presence of only one Spanish-speaking male case manager for monolingual clients
  - Need to rely on translator service – expensive and requires more coordination with appointments
  - Anticipate more Asian clients (especially Hmong)
- Public transportation is not aligned with location of medical facilities

Suggestions include:

- Prioritizing using anecdotal and hard data
  - Deaf population needle exchange
  - Reach youth via Internet
- Introducing a lay health model, especially for Latino population
- Conducting a needs assessment and/or analyzing service data to quantify problems (e.g. How many active clients need transportation)
- Initiate public advocacy for transportation to medical clinics
- Access satellite providers
- Develop plans to help people get to their appointments
- Increase knowledge of cultures
- Hire more bilingual staff

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM

### **STATEWIDE ACTION PLANNING GROUP MEETING**

The Statewide Action Planning Group (SAPG) reconvened at 8:00 AM the following morning, April 23, 2009.

**Prevention:** Tim Pilcher, Molly Herrmann, Mari Gasiorowicz, AIDS/HIV Program staff, and Jill Owczarzak, SE regional ambassador and CAIR staff, reported updates on:

- Annual Progress Report to CDC;
- Contract Monitoring process;
- Wisconsin service delivery analysis; and
- MSM Supplemental Grant

Mari also participated in an External Peer Review convened by CDC to discuss five areas: policy, planning, priority-setting; surveillance; biomedical and laboratory research; behavioral prevention; and prevention programs and evaluation. Noting the importance of national leadership on policy and the need for strategic allocation of resources to prevent the greatest number of infections, programs will need to

- Be “highly active” by providing a combination of prevention and linkage to care activities;
- Use evaluation data for decision-making;
- Set research priorities focusing on program implementation;
- Be “nimble” in response to the changing epidemic & context;
- Prioritize, including stop funding some activities; and
- Maintain flexibility regarding methods of gaining community input

It will also be important to

- Understand the Social Determinants of Health framework
  - poverty, racism, homophobia, incarceration, homelessness, substance abuse, immigration, power inequities;
- Recognize the centrality of gay and bisexual men in the epidemic;
- Enhance social marketing; and
- Reclaim prevention science and use it actively to inform policy and program (e.g. condoms, needle exchange, comprehensive sex education)

Analyzing 2008 prevention service delivery data together with local epidemiology, Wisconsin finds that while nearly 70% of new infections were among MSM and that 22% of African American MSM are likely to be HIV positive, more prevention activities currently address other groups. Future focus includes the realignment of services to increase targeted services to MSM, including young MSM and MSM of color.

### **LGBT Health Issues**

Four students from the University of Wisconsin - Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs presented their research project on promising practices in LGBT health and the use of a decision-making matrix to guide new initiative planning. Appreciation goes Lauren Benditt, Emily Engel, Melissa Gavin and Beth Stransky.

### **Social Networks Mapping**

Narra Smith Cox presented a visual representation of SAPG members’ social networks as a follow-up to the last meetings demonstration of social networks as well as to point out that each SAPG member has a unique role as a link to his or her many social networks.

### **AODA and Harm Reduction**

Scott Stokes, NE regional ambassador and ARCW supervisor, gave an introduction to AODA and needle exchange programs in Wisconsin. Pointing out that needle exchange focuses on public health issues rather than addiction issues, he highlighted:

- Four needle exchange providers delivered about 1 million exchanges statewide in 2008 in mobile and stationary settings; a fifth provider will be added in spring of 2009.
- Nearly 400 individuals are trained statewide in overdose prevention by providing rescue breathing, calling 911, and administering Narcan
- There is no black market anymore for clean needles and there is 65% return rate on needles
- In 2008, there were 29 people newly infected with HIV due to sharing (19 = IDU; 10 MSM/IDU)
- The average age of injection drug users is much younger than in the past
- Young injection users become Hep C positive within 2 years

The SAPG is interested in learning more about the correlations between alcohol and drugs, HIV transmission, and treatment.

### **Conversations with Co-Chairs**

Updates by Jim Vergeront:

- DHS Secretary presented to Joint Finance Committee to recommend increased funding for ADAP
- Received Ryan White funds (April 1)
  - Base grant decreased a small amount
  - ADAP was increased by \$100,000
  - May be awarded supplemental funds in both base grant and ADAP

Open discussion included agencies' use of supplemental funds such as corporate sponsorship, philanthropic and private sector funds to sustain programming; caring for older individuals who are HIV positive; and attracting and training new providers in HIV care.

### **Committee Meetings**

- Quality Management: Molly Herrmann discussed the process and forms used for Contract Monitoring. The committee provided suggestions.
- MSM: Tim Pilcher updated the committee on the supplemental grant to CAIR. Members provided suggestions for expanding the reach to the target population for both survey and provider interview components of the project.

### **Next Meeting – Northern Region in Wausau Area June 17 - 18, 2009**

#### **Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2009**

June 17-18	Northern Region	Wausau
September 16-17	Western Region	La Crosse
November 19-20	Southern Region	Milwaukee

#### **Meeting Notes are posted online for current year**

February 11-12	Southern Region	Madison
April 22-23	Northeastern	Elkhart Lake

**The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.**