



P.O. Box 435 | Foster, RI 02825 | T/F 401-397-5616 | T 401-222-2320 | www.ricpg.org

Minutes by: Michael Dell
UPTYME Prevention Services

Rhode Island Community Planning Group for HIV Prevention Minutes

Date: March 24, 2004

Time: 4:00-8:00 PM (scheduled)

Place: RI College

Meeting Objectives: Members will: *discuss the outcome of the RICPG conference, be updated on the RICPG 2004 survey results (JSI), and discuss the community forum objectives.*

Present: Shannon Spurlock, Laura Keene, Lucille Minuto, Paul Loberti, Elisa DelBonis, Lorraine Kaul, Michael Dell, Annie Silva, Philip Kane, Deb Davis, Donna Williams, Derrill Isom, Vinnie Velasquez, Tina Shepard, Sara Tischer, Midge Sabatini, Stephanie Howie

Roll Call: Unexcused Geneva Williams, Excused Pat Threats, Garith Fulham resigned due to illness

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved unanimously no abstentions

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM by Elisa DelBonis. A quorum was declared.

Conference Reflections:

The membership discussed possibilities for the information collected from the conference. Generally, members felt that the conference was well received and brought out new faces. Some of the following reflect individual comments during this discussion:

- ❑ Youth were not provided enough information to help them with their job.
- ❑ There was discussion around possibilities of offering community round tables to discuss these issues more in depth. It was felt that these discussion should take place in the community and not at state offices. The group agreed that the conference required a lot of effort and resources.
- ❑ It was felt that there was not a need for a large conference every year, but a need to continue to connect with the communities.
- ❑ There were mixed reviews on the keynote speaker, although the written evaluations were good!
- ❑ The MSM breakout session was not as well attended as the other workshops.
- ❑ Vinnie suggested that a Spanish-speaking track and faith based communities track would have been helpful and may want to be considered in the future.

Public Comment: Arrive early to register

This room is handicap accessible

If there are other special needs, please call Lorraine Kaul 396-5616

Snacks for the meeting are provided by an anonymous donor

JSI (John Snow Institute Evaluation Report):

Shannon Spurlock and Laura Keene presented the evaluation report and distributed copies to the membership. During the evaluation presentation, the group discussed a need to identify membership training needs and set aside time outside of meeting time. They discussed the possibility of JSI creating a tool to gather demographic and information from non-members that participate on task forces. Vinnie suggested that surveys should be done on a six-month basis instead of yearly. It was suggested that REACH and JSI may collaborate on customizing a six-month version. After the JSI survey results, Lorraine reminded the group that it has been one year since the group participated in the JSI process. March 27, 2004 was the last time this occurred.

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Lorraine summarized some positive outcomes she has observed as a facilitator since that one year mark. Some Highlights included:

- ⌘ The RICPG members have gotten through every agenda item at every meeting
- ⌘ The RICPG members managed to increase membership in the active task forces, MSM doubled their membership.
- ⌘ The RICPG members had an exceptional turnout despite the horrible weather at the Red Ribbon Rally
- ⌘ The RICPG members were selected by CDC to host the Chinese Delegates and did.
- ⌘ THE RICPG members organized a successful conference and awards reception
- ⌘ THE RICPG members influenced the gathering of the community forum that will follow this meeting
- ⌘ THE RICPG members now have six people waiting for interview for memberships. She said that that averages out to one member every other month for this past year.
- ⌘ The group successfully completed the PLAN.

Lorraine summarized the accomplishments stating that the membership should be very proud.

Paul asked for a vote to accept the Evaluation report presented by JSI. Accepted unanimously.

Community Updates/Forum Discussion:

Community Updates:

- MAP starts rapid testing April 5. May 18th is Vaccine Awareness day with youth focus at the MET school. Midge announced her new e-mail address midge.sabatini@ride.ri.gov. Midge has a website for Health teachers and will post community the community updates.
- Tina Shepard announced that Project Ujima is still in Pawtucket until July and is available for performances.
- *Queer Window* Film Festival at the Cable Car.
- REACH trainings on harm reduction and crystal are well received. A&E program on intervention.

Forum Objectives: Dee Dee raised a question regarding clarification of the RICPG's connection with the forum. Paul responded by explaining that RFP process is out of the purview of the RICPG. The forum however, offers an opportunity for members to ask questions with community members. The

forum offers interested community members an opportunity to increase their understanding of the RFP process and ask questions and make comments on the process.

Midge requested an update on the status of the Youth Task force. Lorraine reported that she talked with the MET school regarding student opportunities. The ideas discussed were how to create a youth driven taskforce utilizing student field placements. Lorraine had plans to meet with Elisa on her experience with this and the next step is to meet with the task force members and talk about options.

Public Comment: None. **Meeting Evaluation** - Consensus was established that meeting objectives were met. Lorraine requested members to complete the written evaluation form.

Meeting adjourned - 6:25PM

“Success is the maximum utilization of the ability that you have.” Zig Ziglar