

Rhode Island Community Planning Group for HIV Prevention Meeting Minutes

Date: March 09, 2006

Time: 4:30-8:30

Place DATA 260 West Exchange Street Suite 301 Providence, RI

Present: Candy Brown-Mcswain, Elisa DelBonis, Paul Loberti, Jamie Hull, Jenn Steinfeld, Phil Kane, Stephanie Howie, Jeremy Giller, Dee Dee Williams, Tracy Walker, Lily Wilkins, Deb Davis, Don Laliberte, Lorraine Kaul

Call to Order: Stephanie Howie called Meeting to order at 4:45 pm

Introductions: Lorraine Kaul began with an icebreaker activity

Roll Call: Vinnie Velazquez (excused) Derrill Isom (excused) Midge Sabatini (excused)

Lorraine reviewed objectives for the meeting

The Co-Chairs re-ordered the agenda to discuss the annual meeting feedback first.

Old Business: Annual Meeting

The Group discussed the annual meeting; the members very impressed with the event. There was general agreement that this was the best annual meeting that they had ever had. Lorraine stated that she received lots of positive verbal feedback from community participants and many also said, that this was the best meeting that they had attended. Some members comments included:

1. Candy – The place was very roomy had lots of space.
2. Dee Dee- The event was very well planned people stayed the food and music was great.
3. Elisa- From prior years this event was one of the best.
4. Stephanie suggested that it might be better to acknowledge the outgoing Co-Chair at this meeting than as we did, in our December meeting.

Committee Restructure Proposal

Paul led the presentation explaining the rationale for the proposal to collapse the three Committees, (Reach, Strategy Planning, Empowerment) into one Committee with monthly meetings.

The primary reason was to increase efficiency and enhance effectiveness. It was also felt that the meeting time could change to be more inclusive for member participation. Lorraine pointed out that, the new proposal would reduce the drain on our members and assure that we can easily stay in compliance with the charter. Currently the charter requires participation on a Committee. In reality people are unable to participate in a Committee that always meets in the day. This makes it difficult to stay in compliance with the charter.

A discussion ensued about the attendance problems with the old structure and the benefits of the new proposed structure. Naming the Committee would be one of the first agenda items.

Lorraine suggested the Capacity Building Committee as a tentative name for the purposes of this discussion, since Capacity Building was an integral part of the work of all the Committees.

Some brainstorming of names included:

- 1) The Planning Committee
- 2) The Action Committee
- 3) The Three C's (from the idea of 3 Committees)
- 4) The R E S Committee (from the idea of the old names, Reach, Empowerment, Strategy)
- 5) The Steering Committee

A motion was made by Phil Kane to merge the Committee into one. The name would be an agenda item of the first meeting. The Committee meetings will be held the 4th Thursday evening of every month for 2 hours. The motion was 2nd by Candy Brown-McSwain. Motion was passed by 8 unanimous votes.

The First meeting to held on March 30, 2006 at the Sojourner House from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Training Retreat

The group discussed some ideas on who should attend the retreat the date and time when to have retreat. The final consensus was to include task forces be invited to retreat all agreed. Retreat date is set for June 23, 2006 at 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Charter Revisions

Deb and Phil reviewed the Charter Revisions suggested by the Empowerment Committee.

Deb Davis made motion to accept changes that were made by the Empowerment Committee and those additions, that were suggest a result of the discussion in this meeting. The motion was 2nd by Elisa DelBonis. The motion was accepted by unanimous vote.

Task Force Updates

Women – The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2006 at 12:00 at the Dix Building Dept of Corrections. There are no new updates since the last report.

Youth- The Youth Task Force has rescheduled their meeting time to Monday March 30th 4:00PM at Casey Family Services in Providence.

MSM- The MSM task force is working on a new meeting time to be announced.

IDU-No report. Vinnie Velazqueze was not present

Community Updates

Dee-Dee – Women & Girls are having a *Red Carpet* event on March 10, 2006 at the Black Box Theatre at the Met School.

Paul Loberti- March 20th 2006 there is a Health Dept. budget meeting

New Business:

Jenn stated on or before April 30, 2006 they will no longer have space at the DATA Building. She said, when they work their space issues out, that RICPG will be welcome to use their space. She will keep the group informed.

Stephanie would like to invite Dr. Mickey Lally to a meeting to discuss HIV-Vaccine Studies. The members were in agreement that the presentation would be useful.

Review Objectives & Evaluation/Adjourn

Lorraine reviewed the meeting objectives and requested that people complete the meeting evaluation form in addition, there was verbal and show of hands consensus that the meeting was informative and the objectives were met.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15

The meeting closed with the traditional The Red Ribbon Raffle.