

Meeting Date: September 14, 2006
Location: Elmwood Community Center 155 Niagara Street Providence, RI
Official Time: 4:30-8:30PM

RICPG MEETING Minutes

The objectives for the Sept 14, 2006 meeting are as follows:

Members will:

- **Sign letter of concurrence**
- **Vote on new member**
- **Review charter and vote on revisions**
- **Be updated on committee & taskforce work**

Welcome-Meeting Business: Meeting called to order by Dee Dee Williams

Quorum announced by Lorraine Kaul

Minutes approved by Annie Silvia 2nd by Paul M

Absent Arthur Porter

Lorraine reported that Pat Threats indicated a need to resign due to job demands. Stephanie reported that she had since indicated an interest in requesting an extension to her leave of absence, but Stephanie did not know if she would be able to find a delegate to represent her in the event the request was granted. Stephanie will find out more and get back to the group.

Urban League Report

Dee Dee requested and agenda change so that Urban League's presenter, Jim D'Ambra could leave early. There was a consensus to comply with the request to reorder the agenda items.

Jim D'Ambra updated the group on the activities of Urban League and distributed a written report to the group. The group exchanged in a question answer dialogue, covering a variety of issues, including education, on site accommodations, courts, rapid testing etc. The group thanked Jim D'Ambra for the presentation.

JSI Survey Member Input: Shannon Spurlock from JSI distributed survey and collapsed version of the 52 CDC attributes for member review. Shannon reminded the group that they had mentioned concerns regarding more community friendly language. She asked the group to review the collapsed attributes and decide if they want to keep them or not. *Attribute* discussion has some limitations. They are required in the report to CDC. The group provided input on language and discussed demographics and possible concerns regarding confidentiality. The consensus of the group was to gather demographics on a separate sheet from the actual survey questions. They wanted to keep Questions relating to the group functioning, change some of the language include clarifying statements, and glossary or cheat sheet of terms and provide a draft version for review at the next meeting.

Letter of Concurrence: Lucille distributed updates for review and explained the preparation process. Lucille stated that the priorities did not change so the report was just an update. She distributed the letter of Concurrence to be signed all members signed the letters except for Vinnie V who wanted to ask Lucille some questions on the break before signing.

Task Force Report: Youth TF: Tony Rodriguez and Candy Brown-McSwain reported. The youth have agreed to organize the Red Ribbon Campaign. They are working on food donations. They requested help from the CPG membership in soliciting donations. . Kolly is in charge of food solicitations; so if anyone is going to help, let him know who you will be approaching. They are looking to get the DJ's Tessa & Baby J at the same time

that they can get the space at the MET, November 20th 4:00-5:30PM AIDS quilts have been secured and will be on display.

They have arranged local youth talent for the agenda.

In addition to the Red Ribbon plans, they also have discussed the issue of Youth Testing and the need for confidential culturally competent testing sites for Youth. The group will work to document that need and make more specific recommendations to the RICPG members. They have also been working on creating their Task Force Vision in form of group collage

Women's TF: Dee Dee reported that the women's TF has not met due to illness and changes in the group leadership.

IDU Vinnie reported that the IDU has not met. October 13th the group will be working on recruitment.

MSM: Lorraine reported that the group is re-grouping and the next meeting will be to determine the next step in that process.

Community Capacity Committee (CCC) Report: Attendance was discussed at the last meeting. Dee Dee reported that it is essential that we make every attempt to make this meeting. This restructure was in part to make it easier and increase opportunities for involvement for members. The group discussed possibilities for exit interviews and drafted questions for that purpose.

They discussed the possibility of exit interviews by Lorraine and a member, possible conference calls to accomplish the goal.

REACH Report: Jenn Steinfeld announced that the new catalogue is out. She asked members to work with her regarding scheduling an orientation training. Older members will be welcome. The Orientation training works better in groups as opposed to individual sessions. She reminded the group that the \$2,500.00 mini grants are available for people doing work in the field and who have not received grants before.

Vote on New Member: The group voted to interview new member Annie Silvia at the meeting, because the charter is under revision and, Annie has a past history of involvement with RICPG and has taken a new position at the RI Dept of Education that includes replacing former member Midge Sabatini from RIDE. Lorraine explained that she has been unable to get three members to offer to do the interview before the regular CPG meeting. Because delays in getting potential members in, the group may want to visit this issue as part of the current charter revisions underway. Lorraine pointed out that they would need to take a vote to alter procedure while the charter is being revised in order to expedite the application. The group voted to alter from the current charter provisions while the revision is underway. In addition, the members voted unanimously to tell Annie the results of their vote immediately instead of waiting the usual week because of the situation, the group decided to offer Annie the same interview as all members. They voted to have three members do the interview on break.

A procedural discussion ensued when Lorraine explained to the group that nowhere in the charter were state representative members treated differently than other members.

Lorraine pointed out that keeping the same procedure for state appointed members would protect the group in the event that a state agency wanted to appoint someone who did not seem to match the needs of the group. Lorraine noted the importance of not setting a precedence of altering from the charter once it is completely updated. The members

agreed. Motion made by Paul M to accept Annie as a member 2nd by Candy and The group unanimously voted Annie on as an RICPG member.

NETWORKING BREAK: Dee Dee asked the members to take a break and Dee Dee, Deb Davis and Don Laliberte offered to interview Annie Silvia for membership

Vote on New Member/& Procedure Continued:

Annie was asked to leave the room for the after break recommendations from the interviewers

The recommendation came with a presentation of Annie's experience as well as recommendations from the interview.

All interviewers recommended Annie. She was unanimously selected for membership with RICPG.

Red Ribbon Rally (RRR) Discussion: Candy and Tony gave an update on the status or RRR. The group is working on securing the MET and the DJ's at the same date. The MET school will be available on November 20th. We are waiting to determine the DJ's ability to change their schedule. The youth will be soliciting food donations, in form of pizza and dessert. They would like to have red punch as a drink. The youth task force could use help getting people to donate food. If you can help, let Kolly know at the Dept of Health. He is organizing the donations. The youth will arrange youth talent. The group discussed the idea of giving the award to a youth leader. The AIDS quilt has been secured. We will need an insurance rider from the Dept of Health. The plan is to schedule RRR for November 20th from 4:00-5:30PM at the MET School Black Box Theater with outside being an option.

Orientation Manual Revision: Lorraine distributed new orientation manuals to the new members and distributed update pages to the members with original manuals.

Charter Revisions: This item was tabled at Co-Chair discretion. All agreed that this agenda item required more energy than the group had to offer after the lengthy discussions.

Old Business: No old business was discussed

New Business: None addressed.

No Public Comment scheduled **Announcements were made:** *October 15th is Latino Awareness. Urban League will kickoff on Oct 13th Youth Pride Oct 16th. Dee Dee announced that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month; Lucille announced that October is also National Parent month.*

Meeting Objectives Reviewed:

Lorraine reviewed the meeting objectives: All agreed that objectives were met with exception of the charter revision which was tabled.