



# Northern Nevada HIV Prevention Planning Group

Wednesday, October 25, 2017, 2:00pm  
Washoe County Health District  
1001 East Ninth St., Conference Room B  
Reno, NV

## MINUTES

Members Present: Elaine Bergenheir, Jennifer Howell, Steve Daugherty, Janet St. Amant, Gwen Taylor, Theron Huntamer, Lyell Collins, Robert Harding, Sarah Almaraz, Jenna Bieber

Absences Excused: Nedy Tollerstad, Doug Hodges

Guests Present: Janet St. Amant, Angela Penny, Balakrupa Ramachandran

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Jennifer Howell called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm. A quorum was established.

### 2. Public Comment

Gwen Taylor announced a pharmaceutical luncheon on December 1, 2017 regarding a medicine to treat lipodystrophy.

### 3. Review/Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2017

A motion was made by Lyell Collins and seconded by Theron Huntamer to accept the June 2017 meeting minutes. No discussion. Motion carries unanimously.

### 4. Ongoing Evaluation of Integrated HIV Plan

Lyell reported that the Integrated Planning statewide committee met to review progress on the plan's goals and objectives. Everything is proceeding as expected. The group discussed updating the plan as changes arise, such as a new funding announcement by CDC. These anticipated changes will align the Plan with the CDC and/or HRSA's funding expectations. The prevention planning groups will need to review any updates and provide concurrence.

Stakeholder meetings are expected to be scheduled in February 2018 to solicit feedback on goals and objectives from a community provider perspective. Ideas that were brought forward in the original stakeholder meeting and not included in the final version of the plan will be reviewed. There have been a more diverse perspective and stakeholders that represent more areas outside of HIV were included. The group would like to see these stakeholders continue to be engaged in HIV prevention and care activities.

Lyell noted that Nevada is far ahead of other states in the integration of Prevention and Care Plans. He also expressed that everyone should feel very proud about the plan and the progress.

## 5. HIV Testing/Condom Task Force

Elaine provided an update to previous activities, noting where Carson City Health and Human Services has tested and where they are currently testing. Sites that have been discontinued are Douglas County, China Springs, and Vitality Center.

Target populations were reviewed: Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), People who Inject Drugs (PWID), Youth and Young Adults (Age 34 and younger), Sexually Active Heterosexuals, and People Living with HIV (PLWH).

The group started out by looking at testing sites to see if there are any updates and then where gaps lie between target populations and current testing sites. Elaine asked if anyone was testing at WNRYS (Western Nevada Regional Youth Center), a juvenile detention facility outside of Silver Springs. Lyell noted that the community health nurses used to test there and Elaine added that CCHHS also provided testing. Lyell mentioned that testing may be provided by the facility's providers.

Elaine noted that anything in Lyon County would be a gap because CCHHS is no longer testing there. When Lyell reached out to Lyon County regarding syringe service programs and advocacy, he was told that there is not a drug problem there.

Robert noted that HOPES provides testing at Volunteers of America- Record St., Center for Behavioral Health, The Lifechange Center, 4<sup>th</sup> St Corridor, Step 1, Step 2 and UNR. Most of the positives tested are tested at HOPES and in ChangePoint. HIV and Hep C testing is provided.

Steve mentioned that Dillagas bar has a very diverse crowd and with many swingers. Jen added that in the past, the bar welcomed testing fliers but were not supportive of testing within the bar.

WCHD provides testing at Steve's, weekly free testing at an undisclosed location with twice monthly night clinics, the Eddy House monthly, School of Medicine's Student Outreach Clinic (women's clinic), Our Center (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays per month), Jan Evans (testing is paid for by WCHD), weekly testing at the jail, and sex work stings. Jen reported that testing may be decreased at the weekly free testing because of the loss of a partial position in HIV.

Steve asked about testing at UNR, beyond the Student Outreach Clinic. Testing is offered free on Thursday mornings and charged through the other clinic visits. Sarah noted that the clinic is using an oral test, which is likely Oraquick which is a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation test.

Generations of HIV tests were discussed. Research on adjusting the window period based on the technology ensued. Updates to the law governing labs and rapid HIV tests were discussed.

Gwen asked how people react to a positive test result. Responses range from people having a feeling that the test was going to be positive, people expecting to be positive and having a negative result, people being quiet and also people being very emotional. A discussion also occurred surrounding people that test multiple times for HIV and do not report risk and that is addressed with the client.

HIV and STD risk related to sex behaviors and positions were discussed. Angela provided a quick overview of syphilis transmission and symptoms at each stage. Neurosyphilis can occur during any syphilis stage.

Steve noted that the bisexual or MSM who do not identify as gay or bisexual is a gap in receiving testing services. Testing at Steve's would need to occur earlier in the day, Dillagas, Poke-Her Knights (a house catering to swingers with a membership fee and nightly fee per visit). Steve also mentioned that girl/girl behaviors are more accepted than behaviors between male partners. Online apps facilitate many hook ups among MSM. Outreach and advertising within the apps was discussed.

Risk of violence was discussed following sexual encounters among MSM, transgender, and HIV positive people.

The timeliest HIV data was reviewed.

Advocacy efforts surrounding HIV decriminalization and modifying current laws to address HIV risk were discussed as issues to address in the next legislative session. With research solidifying the undetectable viral load means that a person is unable to transmit HIV, efforts will support reducing stigma and supporting PLWH to make healthier decisions. The moment that people are told they are HIV positive is a moment that stays with PLWH.

**6. Agency Updates**

No agency updates were provided.

**7. Public Comment**

Theron is an expecting father and the baby is expected in February.

Nedy asked that the group consider donations to Puerto Rican efforts because the need is still there. She also asked that positive thoughts and prayers continue. She brought her aunt to the mainland from Puerto Rico.

**8. Adjournment**

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