

Minutes:	Commission on AIDS PAC/RAC Committee/Community Relations Committee	
Date:	Thursday, April 2, 2009 3:30-5:00 p.m.	
Location:	490 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa, CA	
Present:	Sean, Ellen, Herb, Kelly, Bertha Jean, Lisa, Reuben, Ginger, Jay	
Meeting Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members discussed the PAC history and purpose, and assessment of consumer engagement in COA decision-making process. • The next meeting will be: Thursday, May 7, 2009 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at 490 Mendocino Avenues, Santa Rosa (Manzanita room). 	
Follow Up Tasks		
Who	What	When
Jay and Kelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly will summarize group activity notes and Jay will send notes to Lisa to present at COA. 	Monday, April 6
<i>Meeting summary for Commission report</i>		
Topic	Discussion	Update/Action needed
Strategies to Engage Hard to Reach HIV Positive Individuals Discussion	PAC participants discussed the history and purpose of PAC and gaps in the consumer engagement process. The group strategized ways to bring full representation of consumer voices to COA, including the voices of the hardest to reach individuals.	Recommendations for strategies to engage hard to reach individuals postponed until May 7, 2009.

- 1) Public Comment
 - a) There was no public comment.
- 2) Approval of February minutes
 - a) The February meeting minutes were accepted.
- 3) Announcements, changes in agenda and updates
 - a) The Medical Case Management task force composed of staff, consumers and local agencies will meet again on April 27, 2009.
 - b) Positive Connections, a social group for HIV positive individuals meets every week on Thursday from 3pm to 5pm at 499 Humboldt Ave, Conference Room. Tracie Wishart and Herb are co-leading the group. For more information, please contact Tracie at: 565-7374.
 - c) Bertha Jean leads the Next Steps Recovery Group, which meets every week on Tuesdays, from 4pm to 5:30pm at 499 Humboldt Ave, Conference Room.
- 4) Engaging hard to reach HIV positive individuals in the Process- looking back – looking ahead
 - a) PAC members discussed the purpose, history, and assessment of consumer engagement. The group discussed the critical need to engage the consumer in the COA decision-making process. The PAC is a place where consumers can meet to become familiar with the COA and discuss items that are under consideration so that the PAC can share consumer perspective and/or make recommendation at the Commission meetings. However, current members of this group are individuals that are already engaged in the process.
 - b) Members assessed whether the PAC is the best method to ensure that the full range of consumer voices are heard and discussed how PAC and COA can successfully engage the consumer. The group defined the consumer population, determined which groups were represented by PAC, and brainstormed strategies to engage the voices of underrepresented groups.

- i) The consumer population that isn't represented on the current PAC includes: substance users, children, individuals from marginalized communities, individuals from low socio-economic status, individuals with mental/emotional health issues, individuals with developmental disabilities, seniors, and homebound individuals.
- ii) The group brainstormed strategies to ensure that the COA will be able to get a broad range of community/consumer input on key issues/questions. Strategies included:
 - (1) Focus outreach to the hard to reach population, instead of asking them to come to a meeting.
 - (2) Clearly identify the input that COA needs from the broad consumer population.
 - (3) Conduct focus groups when there is a specific question that requires consumer input.
 - (4) Conduct surveys: electronic or hard-copy surveys available in community places when the Commission requires information on needs and assets.
 - (5) Work with existing consumer groups in order to get agreement to devote some time each month to COA issues/questions (identify questions, ask questions, provide feedback, etc.).
 - (6) Ensure regular representative participation at the COA meetings by making the commission more user-friendly, creating and promoting opportunities for people to give information and feedback directly to Commissioners, increasing community awareness of COA through a public information campaign, gaining support for consumer engagement.
- c) From this group process, the PAC participants agreed that the PAC as it currently stands is not able to ensure representation of the full consumer community – particularly those who are not currently connected in some way to services (the hardest to reach). Other strategies should be implemented to ensure full consumer representation.
- d) Lisa will report to COA regarding meeting outcomes and announce that PAC will postpone consumer engagement strategies report and next steps until the following COA meeting, May 13, 2009, as additional time is needed to explore the feasibility and benefits of each of the strategies explored.

5) Items for next meeting

- a) Discussion of consumer engagement strategies and next steps to bring to the COA.

- 6) Meeting adjourned – Next meeting will be May 7th, at 490 Mendocino Avenues, Santa Rosa (Manzanita room-upstairs) from 3:30pm-5:00pm.

PAC/RAC: PAC (People with AIDS Advocacy Committee)/RAC (ReConnect Action Committee) - This dual committee provides greater involvement in the planning process for persons living with HIV/AIDS, and addresses their social, emotional, educational and vocational needs to help them take positive steps that lead to satisfying, meaningful, and healthy lives.

PAC (People with AIDS Advocacy Committee) Mission: Our mission is to identify, represent and advocate for the needs of persons living with HIV disease in Sonoma County. We work to promote measures that help persons with HIV to live healthy, dignified and productive lives and to build and sustain a community in which persons with HIV are actively involved in the decisions and actions, which affect their health and well being.

RAC (ReConnect Action Committee) Mission: The ReConnect Action Committee works to support people with HIV to re-imagine our futures. We seek to address social, emotional, educational and vocational needs and to equip individuals to make positive steps to explore new possibilities, which lead to satisfying, meaningful and healthy lives.