

STOP HIV/AIDS Community Engagement Working Group (CEWG)

Meeting Jan 17, 2011
DRAFT Minutes

Present: Heidi Standeven, Doreen Littlejohn, Kath Webster, Darren Lauscher, Andrea Keesey, Evin Jones, Susann Richter, Eugene Harry (opening prayer and first half of meeting)

Regrets: Melanie Rivers, Olive Godwin, Emma Palmantier

1. Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Under “Community Engagement Updates” the third bullet will be replaced with the following:

- “Olive Godwin with CINHS connected with Susann and Darren at the STOP-HIV Learning Collaborative meeting and was discussing the possibility that an engagement process for Northern Health might be useful. She will be consulted at CINHS as part of the Aboriginal CE process. It was suggested that she connect with Heidi Standeven for an update on that process as an additional CE process for the North might not be necessary.”

2. Community Engagement Updates **Aboriginal CE process**

- The report from Dr. Danielle Elliot will be finalized by Friday of this week by ROR. Generally the process went very well. ROR will also be using the report for its own planning purposes.
- It is apparent that POC testing is not being increased on the reserves although it's believed that HIV rates are very high (info from physician from Fort Ware)
- Heidi is working on a community needs assessment report based on 3000 surveys that went out to aboriginal communities in B.C. Preliminary results show that communities are looking for education and prevention around HIV as opposed to testing and treatment. There is a lack of community readiness to implement additional testing - indicating the Seek and Treat is a premature effort and there will likely not be uptake of the POC program. Doreen indicated that community nurses are reluctant to do POC testing - they don't want to “force the issue”
- Eugene Harry (elder) advised the group that people with HIV going home to their villages are not well accepted and no one wants to talk about it. Privacy is a challenge on the reserves and there is much stigma that attaches, with serious social consequences to the individual.
- All levels of education about HIV are needed, starting with schools. Basic sex education is not on the curriculum in most areas. Doreen advised that Joe Gallagher, FNHC and ROR will be doing a project around the need for sex education
- ROR is meeting on January 25th to discuss how information from the Aboriginal consultations will be moved forward

Vancouver Coastal Health

- Kath shared that VCH is setting up a next round of meetings to report back to those consulted on the findings and what VCH is doing. They will ask the community to give input on what the priority actions should be in the next phase of the project.
- There has been much debate on POC testing and when it is appropriate

- Regarding the BCPWA privacy issue – there was a meeting held with Julio, Michael Vaughn, Ross Harvey, Kath Webster and others to discuss. It's agreed that this is not directly a STOP-HIV issue. A second meeting is being held Jan 17th
- there is a sense that a high percentage of people in the Downtown Eastside in high risk groups have already been tested, but a subset of the group is not accessing treatment due to lack of social supports and other barriers

STOP-HIV Project - General

- The Leadership Committee has not yet reviewed the CEWG Terms of Reference. Andrea advised that Irene Day and Reka Gustafson would be reviewing the TOR in the next week.
- there has not yet been a demonstrated peak in testing or treatment and barriers identified by the Leadership Committee include problems with data linkage. Data linkage barriers are being identified by a group that will include reps from all relevant agencies
- Andrea Keesey offered that a privacy impact assessment is being conducted through BCCfE
- *Re: representation from Northern Health Authority – Susann will check back with Kathy MacDonald to see whether an additional rep can be added to the CEWG as Olive's schedule is very full.*

3. Activities of the CEWG were identified as follows:

- Community issues identification & recommendations for solutions – support the pilot HA's in representing these issues at the Leadership table
- Work with Communications to
 - identify types of resources needed for different target groups
 - link to resources already created by HA's
 - routes of distribution to community
 - feedback on web site
- Link to social determinants working group to provide input on indicators, reporting, etc.
- Ensure involvement of PHA's in evaluation of STOP-HIV, through CIHR projects being implemented, etc.

Actions –

- *Susann to invite Graham Pollock to next meeting to discuss communications needs*
- *Susann to link with social determinants working group to invite a rep or discuss how to link*

Emerging Issues from Community

- **Lack of Aboriginal community readiness for testing and treatment (STOP and POC)**
- **Need for prevention and education in Aboriginal communities – long-term planning and resources are needed**
- **Need for additional, appropriate communications to community taking into consideration literacy levels and cultural focus**

5. Next Meeting: Friday February 24, 12 – 2 pm at Vancouver Native Health, 441 East Hastings St.