
Connecticut Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan 2005-2008

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Connecticut Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan 2005-2008

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Connecticut HIV Prevention Community Planning Group Membership

The members and advisors of the Connecticut HIV Prevention Community Planning Group (CPG) consist of a diverse group of individuals, reflective of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Connecticut. They are representatives from the medical, public health, service, public and private sectors, as well consumers, activists and community advocates involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

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September 15, 2004

Angel Ortiz
Project Officer
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for HIV/STD/TB Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd. NE, Mailstop E-58
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Dear Mr. Ortiz,

The Connecticut HIV Prevention Community Planning Group (CPG) has reviewed the Department of Public Health's (DPH) application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for continuing HIV prevention funding. We have voted today to **concur** that the priorities in the 2005 Cooperative Agreement Application to the CDC from DPH and the current Connecticut Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan are consistent. This decision was made after careful deliberation, discussion and a deciding vote of **17 for concurrence, 0 for non-concurrence, 1 for concurrence with reservations, and 0 abstentions.**

The CPG has worked closely with the DPH over the past year to prepare the 2005-2008 Comprehensive Plan. In addition, CPG and DPH have constantly strived to improve communication and collaboration. We feel that the Application and the planning process strongly reflect this cooperation. DPH and CPG have also developed and fostered a productive working relationship in the following ways:

- The CPG was presented with a 2004 update of the *2003 Epidemiological Profile of HIV and AIDS in Connecticut*. This document not only provided the foundation for Chapter 2 of the Plan, it also served as a crucial foundation for the Priority Setting Ad Hoc Committee in determining and identifying target populations for prioritization.
- DPH staff members are active participants on the CPG serving as members, advisors, consultants and co-chair. DPH staff members have also made presentations at full CPG and committee-focused meetings. A DPH staff person was elected and currently serves as co-chair of the CPG's Membership, Parity, Inclusion, Representation and Evaluation (MPIRE) Committee. Bill Behan, Assistant Administrator of the AIDS and Chronic Diseases Division, serves as the DPH Co-Chair, sits ex-officio on the Community Services Assessment Committee as well as on the Priority Setting Ad Hoc Committee for the Integration of HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention. Mr. Behan also serves as the DPH Co-Chair of The Statewide HIV/AIDS Care Consortium.
- To further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the community planning process, the AIDS and Chronic Diseases Division hired a new Health Program Associate in June 2004. This position is specifically directed to help guide the planning process and to work with the contractor on plan development and meeting logistics. In addition, another Health Program Associate assists in facilitating the work of the Community Services Assessment Committee. These dedicated positions are a further indication of the Department's commitment to ensuring a strong and collaborative community planning process.
- The CPG has also taken steps to improve the CPG process and communications with the DPH. Every three months, the Community co-chairs write a letter to the Director of the AIDS and

Chronic Diseases Division that expresses both satisfactions and concerns. This process assists in addressing and resolving issues before they become major crises.

All CPG members participated in the review of both the Plan and Application. The 2005-2008 HIV Prevention Plan was approved by the CPG at its August 18, 2004, meeting. Regarding the Application, CPG members were provided with the Application on September 1, 2004, and given fourteen (14) days to submit feedback and questions to both the contractor and DPH.

On September 15, 2004, CPG members reviewed and discussed the Application at a full CPG meeting. At the beginning of this meeting, Department staff members presented a review of the major highlights of the Application. Members were given an opportunity to discuss the Application.

Following this presentation and discussion, the contractor presented an overview of the Concurrence Process. This presentation included an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Department, of the CPG and an explanation of the options of Concurrence, Concurrence with Reservations and Non-Concurrence per the CDC Guidance.

After these presentations and discussions, the Concurrence vote was taken. Seventeen (17) members voted to Concur and one (1) voted for Concurrence with Reservations. Although the ballot provided space for an explanation of a Concurrence with Reservations vote, no reason was indicated for this vote. The CPG then unanimously authorized the Co-Chairs to draft this Concurrence Letter

As the Connecticut CPG heads into an active 2005 Planning Cycle, we look forward to enhanced and expanded collaboration with the AIDS and Chronic Diseases Division. We believe that these documents address the prevention needs of priority populations and are being supported through the funding commitments of the health department. We feel strongly that the 2005 Plan and Application reflect the planning efforts of the statewide HIV Prevention Community Planning Group and that a thorough review process was used to ensure concurrence.

As co-chairs we have been designated by the CPG as signatories to this letter of concurrence.

Sincerely,



Bill Behan
Department of Public Health
Co-Chair, HIV Prevention
Community Planning Group



Stephanie Lozada
Community Co-Chair, HIV Prevention
Community Planning Group



Brian Libert,
Community Co-Chair, HIV Prevention
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