



COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS GROUP

3028 E. Grand Blvd. (313) 872-2424 phone
Detroit, MI 48202 (313) 872-5546 fax

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Silas Norman, Jr., M.D., President
Nancy Ferguson, Corporate Secretary
Dr. Charmaine Johnson, Asst. Corporate Secretary
Kevin Carter, Corporate Treasurer

Marsha Y. Bey Maxcine Green
Vernithia Parker Harry L. Simpson
Debra Ann Smith Greg Porter

A letter from

Michigan's HIV/AIDS and STD Division Director

It is a time for great celebration as well as great sadness as the leadership at Community Health Awareness Group changes. Harry Simpson brought so much to the agency, to the city and to the state, and really to the nation. Through the programs that have been implemented at CHAG and then shared nationally and internationally, many people have benefitted from the work that he has done.

Some may not remember, just a few years back before Harry took the helm, Community Health Awareness Group was an agency in trouble. It was an agency that was poised to do good things but was just not able to find its way. CHAG needed someone with incredible leadership, dedication and compassion.

All of those things were found in Harry Simpson and he has really brought that agency a long way. CHAG's loss is Agouron's gain and whatever moves he

makes, I'm sure he will be equally as successful in his new position. And I'm confident he is going to take the compassion and his desire to give a voice to those who have no voice into his new endeavor as well.



Photo by Harry Simpson

Loretta Davis-Satterla

He has passed on a strong agency to Cindy Bolden. I'm sure Harry would be the first to say, he has not done that on his own. Every good leader realized that someone was standing with them and beside them, helping to share their vision of where they wanted to go in the future.

CHAG faces some new challenges ahead, to respond to the special needs of the community, that have surfaced in two studies reported in the past year. First, a Michigan epidemiology study reported that a significant number of black men who have sex with men also have sex with women.

The thing that is going to be most important in allowing CHAG to be able to re-

Continued on Page 4

a RARE initiative

This past year CHAG had the opportunity to participate in a federally sponsored study to take an in-depth look at HIV prevention issues specific to the City of Detroit. Called the RARE Study (Rapid Assessment Response and Evaluation), this was conducted by a specially formed team headed up by lead ethnographer, Harry Simpson. This local crisis response team was assisted by a national team of technical advisors from three government agencies to do a needs assessment and analysis of the results.

RARE targeted three areas of the city

to assess specific high-risk behaviors known to be prevalent in those areas. The team used focus groups, key informant interviews, street interviews and other observational data for three targeted areas, or "risk pockets" having high concentrations of individuals engaging in high-risk behavior. These were identified as Palmer Park, the Cass Corridor, and the Lower Eastside.

After the data was collected and analyzed with the help of the federal technical support, a report was written with the findings as well as recommendations and an

Continued on Page 3

in the news

African American leaders take a stand

FORMER CONGRESSMAN RON DELLUMS

was appointed as chair of President Clinton's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS in March. "Ron realizes the health disparities that exist among African peoples nationally and internationally, and that if you can develop effective prevention and treatment strategies for the poorest among us, that will end up helping everyone," said a California public health director.

The 16-member advisory council, while having no formal authority, is influential in helping to keep AIDS on the White House agenda. Dellums said, "I'm not an expert on AIDS. I've never run an agency on AIDS. I am just a loudmouthed political activist...But perhaps that is what this issue needs at this critical moment." (Freedberg, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 3/27)

THE REV. JESSE JACKSON, after delivering a speech at the opening of the National

Conference on African Americans and AIDS in February in Washington, D.C., took an HIV test and encouraged other African Americans to get tested, USA Today reported.

Stressing the importance of HIV testing "as a step in getting people needed medical care and stopping people from unknowingly infecting others," Jackson said, "I want to send a message to every African American that does not know his or her HIV/AIDS status to get tested."

He also addressed the need for increased prevention efforts at both the national and community levels. "We need serious educational programs that stress the importance of prevention. Friends, family members and teachers all need to be a part of this ongoing fight to spread the word about behaviors that increase the risk of getting this disease," Jackson said. (Max Robinson Center release, 2/24)

CHAG NEWS

■ **CINDY B. BOLDEN** will lead Detroit's Community Health Awareness Group (CHAG) into the future

as the new executive director. Harry Simpson, who resigned from this position at the end of February, has taken on a newly created position with Agouron Pharmaceuticals as their liaison



Cindy B. Bolden

with national minority organizations. Simpson continues to serve as a volunteer on the CHAG Board.

Bolden has been on the CHAG staff since January 1995. As the former prevention coordinator, she was responsible for directing cutting edge HIV prevention programs.

■ **BENITA GREEN** is the new administrative coordinator, responsible for coordinating the personnel management and administrative needs for CHAG -- managing special projects and collaborating with other area HIV/AIDS service organizations as well as providing support to the executive director. Green has a Bachelor of Arts degree and was formerly the special projects coordinator for the Detroit Health Department's (DHD) HIV/AIDS Program.

■ **CHRISTINA FLUKER, MSW**, has been promoted to Care Program Coordinator, replacing Lydia Meyers, who took a position at DHD but remains part-time as a program planner.

■ **MARK LUCAS** is the new senior counselor for Life Points, responsible for the provision of harm reduction information, education, assessments, counseling, referral and advocacy services for registered needle exchange clients, as well as their sexual partners.

■ **DERRICK WILLIS, MA**, is the new prevention coordinator, responsible for CHAG's prevention programs, Life Points, the HIV counseling and testing program and Takin' it to the Streets. He is a PhD candidate in anthropology at Wayne State University.

SHAS STUDY REVEALS HIDDEN RISKS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN

Last summer, the Michigan Department of Community Health's Supplement to HIV/AIDS Surveillance Study (SHAS) unveiled behavior of black men who have sex with men (MSM) in the Detroit area that places women at risk for HIV. SHAS is a study of HIV infected persons who were voluntarily interviewed at medical centers in Detroit.

The study revealed that 36% of the MSM also had sex with women in the five years prior to their interview. Also, bisexual men were more likely to have unprotected sex with their female partners than with their male partners.

This spells out a real risk for African American women who may be unaware that their partners are also having sex with men. Female partners of bisexually active men are at higher risk for infection with HIV than female partners of exclusively heterosexual men.

a RARE initiative

Continued from Page One

action plan. This report was presented to Mayor Dennis Archer with the hope of an active response by the City of Detroit through increased funding and better collaboration between service agencies within the city to address the identified needs.

The comments made by Harry Simpson provide an excellent summary of the issues that need to be addressed specific to the African American community as a result of the study.

“The scarcity of interventions for Detroit’s African American men who have sex with men (MSM) demands this community’s immediate attention. Statistically, African American MSM represent the largest behavioral group with HIV/AIDS, as well as the estimated cases of new HIV infections. At the same time, information gathered from the focus groups, key infor-

mant interviews and street intercepts indicated that there are very few services available for this population, and that when they are, they are not provided by people that ‘looked’ like them. In fact, the MSM in the exercise identified only one agency – Men of Color – that is actually funded to address the prevention and care needs of African American MSM.

“Also significant is the fact that the bisexual connection of transmission from MSM to African American women came out very strongly in this exercise. Therefore, as African American MSM are the largest behavioral group infected by HIV, and because they are significantly represented in the nexus of heterosexual transmission to African American women, it is imperative that we do more to establish, promote and support effective, culturally appropriate interventions directed at this population.”

Treatment guidelines

New HIV treatment guidelines for adolescents, adults and new pediatrics guidelines available online

New versions of the “Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents” and “Updated Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Pediatric HIV Infection” are available on the Internet.

The updated guidelines for adults include a new section called “The Goals of Therapy,” which emphasizes the need for strategic therapy that improves quality of life and maintains immunologic function. The guidelines list tools like patient adherence and drug-resistance assays.

The new goals also take into consideration food requirements, pill number, convenience, toxicity, and drug interactions. The “strongly recommended” category has a list of a few drugs with minimal side ef-

fects, and alternatives are listed as well.

Updates in the new pediatrics guidelines include information regarding the use of amprenavir in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in special circumstances for pediatric patients and what is known about antiretroviral drug resistance testing in children at this time.

The sections of text that have been added since the last version (April 15, 1999) are now highlighted to make it easier to identify new information in the text and tables.

Both guidelines are available at www.atis.org and can also be ordered by calling (800)448-0440 or by sending at request to atis@hivatis.org. HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service (ATIS)



WHERE TO CALL

- ▶ **Community Health Awareness Group**
(313) 872-2424

HOTLINES

- ▶ **National AIDS hotline**
(800) 342-2437
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays
- ▶ **in Spanish**
(800) 344-7432
8 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily
- ▶ **Michigan AIDS hotline**
(800) 872- AIDS (2437)
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays

HOTLINE FOR WOMEN

- ▶ (800) 554-4876
2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.

AGENCIES TARGETING AFRICAN AMERICANS

- ▶ **Men of Color**
1150 Griswold
Suite 1700
(313) 964-4601
- ▶ **Sisters and Daughters of ShebaSM**
Detroit Unity Temple
17505 Second Blvd.
(313) 341-4327

Davis-Satterla continued

Continued from Page One

Respond to this information is the fact that CHAG has a strong reputation in the community. Many people having relationships with both men and women have very closed or secret lives.

CHAG tends to be able to deal with things as they really are, not as how people wish they were or think they should be. Anyone dealing with issues of bi-sexuality and how to best get a message out to the community needs to be a group or organization that knows how to and is willing to talk openly and honestly as well as non-judgmentally about behaviors. CHAG has a long history of doing just that.

The second study is a pilot study, called the Rapid Assessment Response and Evaluation. (*See RARE article.*) CHAG's success with being an active part of the RARE study really shows the skills they have in being able to access target populations and communicate openly and honestly with them.

The thing that really stuck out in my mind, that came out of the report on the RARE study, is the need to target small geographic pockets within the city. The need to target program delivery within geo-

graphic pockets of high risk behavior was something we as funders needed to hear to start changing and altering our demands to fit that reality. HIV can be and is anywhere in the state or in the city, however there are pockets at higher risk. If we want our programs to be very effective, we need to allow them to go right where the problem is, to the targeted areas. And then perhaps a broad sweeping approach to the other areas. It sounds like just common sense, but it's not the way we have approached the community when we have given dollars.

We are going into a different level of HIV prevention and care, and with activities like the RARE study, we are better able to tailor our approach. And the time is now for tailoring. There isn't time to waste on things that don't work by spreading ourselves too thin. We really need to get to the heart of the matter. I think that RARE will help us do that. And it will be a good example for other cities and states as they try to answer some of those questions.

Loretta Davis-Satterla is the Director of the Michigan Department of Community Health's Division of HIV/AIDS and STD. She was formerly the Administrator for the Detroit Health Department's HIV/AIDS Program.



VILLAGE DRUM

This newsletter is sponsored by Community Health Awareness Group, funded with unrestricted educational grants from DuPont Pharmaceuticals and Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Founded in 1985, Community Health Awareness Group (CHAG) is a not-for-profit, minority operated, community-based AIDS service organization. Our mission is to address current health issues and concerns of the African American citizens of Detroit, to provide compassionate and nonjudgmental services through culturally appropriate and ethnically sensitive programs, and to develop effective ways of promoting and implementing positive health strategies to influence the overall quality of life of the African American community.

Cindy B. Bolden
Executive Director

COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS GROUP

3028 E. Grand Blvd.

Detroit, MI 48202

(313) 872-2424 phone

(313) 872-5546 fax

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**AIDS Walk Detroit
(In Royal Oak)
Sunday, Sept. 17**

**Michigan AIDS Walk - Detroit
Sunday, Sept. 24**