

WORK IN PROGRESS

This newsletter of the HIV Resource Center, is a project of the Douglas County AIDS Council and is published quarterly at 832 NW Highland Street Roseburg, OR 97470

E-mail: dcac@hivroseburg.org

The web address is [HTTP://www.hivroseburg.org](http://www.hivroseburg.org)

For subscription questions call (541) 440-2761 (Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PST); FAX (541) 440-9665

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Chair: Penny Anderson
Compiling Editor: Neil Westen

Staff:
Billy Russo, Mary Murphy,
Mike Bunyard,
Lynn Sterchi MSW

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Billy Russo

State of the Project

by Billy Russo

The three development committees formed last spring began meeting in early July and reported to the full board at the quarterly meeting.

The Board Development Committee reported that they had set a number of priorities: reviewing employee job descriptions, creating a volunteer job description for volunteers at the front desk, developing board roles and responsibilities and employee personnel policies.

The Program Development/Evaluation Committee reported that the committee is working on developing surveys to measure program performance. Committee chair Rebecca Duffy asked the board to fill out a questionnaire regarding measuring our Mission Statement and Goals. Individual board members will interview program staff about program goals and needs.

The Fund Development Committee reported that Lisa Platt, Mercy Foundation Gift Development Director, led the committee in a discussion that focused on direct mail and touched on long term giving. The committee wants to expand our mailing list to include Coos and Curry Counties. The board approved a motion to pay \$2,500 to develop the expansion. Neil and Billy will establish a "Wish List" and start acknowledging donors.

The Ford Institute for Community Building awarded us a \$1,600 grant to continue board development. These funds will be used to hire Roi Crouch to work with the development committees and the full board to further our journey towards sustainability.



National Testing Day

by Lynn Sterchi

National Testing Day was successful again this year. Four staff members spent time at 7 different testing sites and did a total of 20 tests. We are very pleased with the day as not only did we test a number of people but we also receive significant media coverage. A special thanks goes out to all the volunteers who aided our advertisement campaign, especially the Health Departments who do a wonderful job. Darryl Elkins of Bicoastal Media did a half hour interview with Resource Center staff and aired it on eight stations along the coast – Thank you! Next year June 27th will be on a Monday and we intend to put forth an all out effort again.

STATE SITE VISIT

Each year the Department of Human Services conducts an Oregon Ryan White Title II Case Management Review. Since the state first received Ryan White funding in 1992, case management has become increasingly formal. As a result of the current leadership, the Ryan White case management model is moving toward a medical model. We at the Resource Center strongly disagree with this model as we

believe that a social services model better serves our clients' needs. On numerous occasions, Billy has done his usual valiant effort to try to dissuade them from their narrow views but it now appears that we have hit a wall. The result of this philosophy is that our clients will see a reduction in financial support from the Resource Center. Another result of this thinking is a much more formal and specific case management approach.

The yearly site review is designed to evaluate the compliance of the County agencies and the compliance of a randomly selected group of clients. This year we concentrated on preparing for the state visit with a variety of approaches. Our volunteer RN went to case management training to increase her familiarity with the necessary documents and requirements, as well as to attend a conference call with the state leadership. We appreciate her particular efforts and the ongoing assistance to our agency.

I spent a considerable number of hours reorganizing client files into a new file system that is designed to make access to specific information easier and



Lynn Sterchi

therefore the state review to go more smoothly. I consider this project a success as I can locate information much more quickly.

The county health department met with us on several occasions to review the state criteria in order that we all would understand what the state was seeking to assure compliance. And finally, I sought more training in documentation to improve the clients' chart notes.

On June 22 we presented the results of our concerted efforts to the state site reviewers. We feel confident that we succeeded in meeting the state's requirements and are looking forward to the compilation of the state-wide site visits this fall.



GAY MEN'S POTLUCK
AUGUST 27TH, 5:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

HIV RESOURCE CENTER

832 NW Highland St.

Roseburg, OR. 97470

Phone: 541-440-2761

Fax: 541-440-9665

Web: www.hivroseburg.org

Email: mary@hivroseburg.org

Women & Teen Outreach Program

by Mary Murphy

The Women and Teen outreach Program targets women who are at greater risk for contracting HIV through injection drug use, whose partners use injection drugs and/or have sex with men, sex workers and youth. Young people between the ages of 13-24 are the fastest growing group of individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in the United States. Half of all new HIV infections occur among people under 25. In fact, every hour, two Americans under age 25 are infected. We help people identify their risky behavior and develop plans to reduce those risks. This is done by giving HIV presentations, individual counseling and HIV testing. During FY-04 program staff (3) and volunteers (1) made 103 presentations: 26 at public schools, 30 to drug treatment programs, 8 to county jails, 19 at Wolf Creek Job Corps and 20 to alternative schools. Other volunteers (19) provided support services: leafleting, site coordination and media advertising. Over 333 women were provided counseling and the Ora-Sure Testing (HIV Oral Specimen Collection Device). These women were from presentations groups, needle exchange, night clubs, walk-ins and from our testing sites in Roseburg, Reedsport, Coos Bay, Bandon, Port Orford, Brookings and Gold Beach.

All of the wonderful accomplishments we have achieved, this year, would not have happened without the support of volunteers, HIV Resource Center staff, Board Members, Community Programs and the Health Department in all three counties. Thank You to all you wonderful people who have dedicated so much of your time, energy and love to the HIV Resource Center. I am so proud of our outreach programs because they are reaching more and more at risk women and teens every month. I hope that we will be able to continue to lead in the fight against AIDS through education, prevention, support and services for those women and teens affected by and at risk of HIV in Coos, Curry and Douglas counties.

How do I Find Out if I Have HIV

Taking the HIV antibody test to see if you are infected is a very personal decision. If you feel you may have taken part in activities that have put you at risk you should consider taking the test. Since you can be infected with HIV and look well and feel healthy for years, the only way to know for sure if you are infected is by taking the HIV test. Activities that put you at risk are having unprotected sex,



Mary Murphy

sharing needles and syringes (works) to inject drugs, steroids or vitamins; or sharing needles for body piercing and tattoos, HIV infected mother to child through pregnancy, birth or breast feeding and contaminated blood products: before 1985, donated blood was not tested. Today all donor blood and blood products are tested for HIV.

Again if you have put yourself at risk Take Control and GET TESTED! The test is the Ora-Sure swab test. It is anonymous, Free and NO needles.

For more information and for the location of our testing sites call Mary Murphy @ 541-440-2761 or toll free 877 440-2761.

Women and Teen Outreach Program Needs Your Help

Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity to the HIV Resource Center and our many outreach programs. We greatly appreciate all you have done to assist us in increasing awareness about AIDS and HIV related issues in our community.

We once again need your assistance to ensure the continuity of our programs and to especially help us to expand one of our most successful pilot programs "Women and Teen Outreach." This program targets women (most of whom have children or are at child bearing age) in high-risk groups. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "women comprise twenty-one percent of those estimated living with AIDS. Women represent a growing share of annual new AIDS cases, with their share more than tripling between 1986 and 2001."

Risk factors for women include sexual contact with HIV positive partners, self-induced drug usage, drug usage by partners, or being employed as a sex

worker. Half of all new HIV infections occur in young people under the age of 25. Every hour, two Americans in this age group are infected with HIV. As you know treating HIV, once contracted, is very expensive.

The Women and Teen Outreach Program began as a pilot program in Roseburg with a two-year non-renewable State grant. It quickly expanded to Coos and Curry Counties. Without your assistance we will not be able to continue our efforts in Coos and Curry Counties nor address the unmet needs of Reedsport, Drain, and South Douglas County.

The Women and Teen Outreach Program has been very successful. Over the past year staff and volunteers of the HIV Resource Center in Roseburg made 116 presentations to public schools, drug treatment facilities, county jails, Wolf Creek Job Corps, and alternative schools. These presentations and one-on-one counseling efforts have assisted us in identifying women and teens who engage in risky behaviors and provide them

with information to help avoid infection and reduce the chance of spreading HIV. We now provide HIV testing and counseling to over 25 women monthly.

The HIV Resource Center embraces the belief that AIDS and HIV awareness is essential and must be ongoing. Our mission is to serve the needs of those affected by and at risk of HIV by providing financial, emotional, and social services support to the families of Douglas, Coos, and Curry Counties.

Thank you for opening your heart and considering a gift today. Together we can make the difference in the lives of so many people. Any contribution you can make towards our effort will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 541-440-2761 or billy@hivroseburg.org.



Billy Russo

Billy Russo



THE CORNER

A Heartfelt Thank You to our Legacy of Hope Supporters

Major Underwriter

\$5,000 Plus

Mercy Medical Center

Diamond Member

\$1,000 Plus

In Memory of Alex Steven Alexander
First Presbyterian Church of Roseburg
Scott Rickard Memorial Fund

Gold Member

\$500 Plus

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\$100 Plus

Rob Orr, D.D.S.
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Companion Animal Clinic
Don & Margo Mandish
Barbara Dominguez
Joyce Henry
Unity of Roseburg
Neil & Beth Westen

Circle of Friends

We also would like to thank the many other supporters who are far too numerous to list in this space.

THANK YOU ALL!

Wish List

At the first meeting of our recently formed fund development committee, we decided that it was time to establish a WISH LIST. After much thought and deliberation...

- Computer System (Women & Teen Outreach Program)
- Computer System (computer lab)
- Laptop Computer (for the road)
- Projection Television
- Copying Machine (doubled sided)
- DVD Player
- Conference Room Chairs (30)
- Computer Chairs (2)
- Front Door Notifier (bells?)
- Staplers (2)



Douglas County HCV Taskforce

by Mike Bunyard

In November of last year the communicable disease folks at DCH, a local pharmacist and Dr. Robinson and his wife had an opportunity to meet Ann Shindo, the state's newly hired Hepatitis C Coordinator. She was in town to see what was happening in Douglas County regarding HepC, what we wish was happening, and establishing a partnership with the state around HepC education, prevention and management. Also at that meeting was Mike Bunyard, outreach worker at the HIV Resource Center and a liver transplant recipient due to HCV.

In December invitations went out to stakeholders from a wide variety of health care systems and local, state, and community-based agencies that have contact with individuals at risk or affected by hepatitis C. Invitee's were asked to join the Statewide Viral Hepatitis Planning Group. The SVHPG is charged with drafting a plan that will be presented to the 2005 state Legislature. We've been given an opportunity to develop an inclusive, culturally competent, and comprehensive plan to address Hepatitis C education, prevention, and management that is distinctive for Oregon and the diverse people that live here.

In March, after participating in the SVHPG process for 3 months the HIV Resource Center decided to form a local task force to begin working together addressing



Mike Bunyard

hepatitis C in our community. Invitations went out to DCH, the Umpqua Community Health Clinic, the Douglas County Pharmacists Association, Mercy Medical Center, ADAPT, AMOP, VAMC HCV Nurse and Commissioner Joyce Morgan. Participation to date has been good and at the last meeting it was decided that the next step would be to collaborate on an educational presentation that county residents could drop in on and receive accurate timely information of the disease. The next meeting is set for September at which time we hope to have a working framework of the educational presentation to review.

The draft of the state Viral Hepatitis plan was submitted to the CDC in June and was well received. The next steps are to attach timelines to the action steps. Work of the SVHPG is scheduled to complete in September.

ACTIVITIES:

Douglas County AIDS Council Board Meeting:

October 21st
at 11:00 a.m.

Gay Men's HIV Support Group:
2nd & 4th Thursdays,
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Gay Potluck:
last Friday
of each month,
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

HCV Support Group:
2nd Tuesday
of each month,
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

HIV TESTING
is always available
at the HIV
Resource Center
Monday – Friday,
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Gay Movie Night:
2nd Friday
of each month,
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.



AROUND THE CORNER

Did you know?

The Northwest office of Parish Nursing has been supporting HIV services and prevention in Swaziland, Africa for a number of years. Swaziland, the size of New Jersey, is home to about one million people.

In 2003 it was announced that Swaziland had the highest percentage of population HIV positive in the world — 36%!! Around 40% of pregnant women and 15% of newborns are positive. One clinic visited by Parish Nursing reported 1,200 people testing positive since February 2002. Fewer than 100 had tested negative.

If you would like to be involved in this important work, contact Annette Stixrud at 503 413-2585 or stixruda@k-com.net.

Parish Nursing came into Douglas County in 1999 and has expanded to five local churches. They provide transportation and assist in home care of local residents. For more information about local projects, contact your place of worship.

DCAC
832 NW HIGHLAND STREET
ROSEBURG, OR 97470

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