Florida HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network
Monday, August 2, 2010
Call Summary
3:00 PM

Call Participants:
Rafael Abadia                 Bob Reynolds
Jeff Allen                    Michael Rajner
Ken Bargar                   Michael Ruppal
David Brakebill              Michelle Scavnicky
Jesse Fry                    Amanda Schall
Steve Hoke                   James Talley
Karen Jaeger                 Rick Vitale
Butch McKay

AGENDA (Ken Bargar, Chair and Jesse Fry, Co-Chair)

Ken Bargar welcomed the participants to the call.

Ken reminded the group that the Florida HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network is accepting nominations for the positions of Co-Chairs (see details below).

- Please send your nominations to MRuppal@theaidsinstitute.org by 5pm Tuesday, August 3, 2010. You are encouraged to include a brief statement about your intentions to serve the network (200 word limit). Statements will be provided to all network members as part of the election.
- On August 4, 2010, the election will be conducted electronically and will list all confirmed candidates. Members will have 2 weeks to vote. Only network members will be eligible to vote with one vote per person.

1. Our Florida "Top Three": What's our focus for 2010/2011?

Jesse Fry explained that we need to look at some of the current issues in Florida and how the group can focus on addressing three key issues over the course of the next year. We need to educate the representatives of the issues. The three issues he suggests are: 1) AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), 2) AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP) and 3) Housing for People living with HIV and AIDS or HIV/STD Prevention. He further explained that demonstrating a commitment to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS is as important as we continue to advocate for people living with the disease.

Michael Rajner raised concern in regard to the pharmaceutical aspect and the over-industry focused issues. He suggested looking at the larger picture and then narrowing our focus.
Bob Reynolds suggested that we need to deal with the individuals who live with the disease as our primary focus.

Amanda Schall reported that each of the issues is complex, but we need to keep it simple. The idea is to develop a larger strategy, but we need to have a simple message to move forward.

Rick Vitale reported that we need to keep it simple and focus us back to HIV care.

David Brakebill explained that with Housing, we need to focus on the tenant based rental assistance program statewide since they did the pilot two years ago.

Much discussion ensued in regard to healthcare reform and insurance programs.

Michael Ruppal reiterated that we need to keep our messaging simple and know our data. Two areas we need to be ahead on are the National AIDS Strategy and implementation of Health Reform. He further explained that as we move into the reauthorization of Ryan White, we will have to protect dollars.

Karen Jaeger commented that Housing is needed and it is such an issue, especially in Florida.

Jesse reiterated that the top three issues are: ADAP/Florida Medicaid, AICP, & Housing. He explained that the Housing issue is more of a community access issue and we will be working with the local areas in terms of advocacy.

Butch suggested that we reference the data and the increase in HIV numbers and the fact that these will continue to grow as we move forward. He suggested tying it in to our messaging.

2. **ADAP and AICP Update**

For ADAP, Florida has the largest wait list in the country.

David Brakebill reported that the wait list is up to 855 as of last Monday (7-26-10), no new update as of today.

Amanda Schall explained that they had a graduate student working with them recently and conducted a cost analysis on ADAP. She agreed to share the information with the group once it is complete.

The AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP) wait list is 394 as of August 2, 2010.

3. **National AIDS Strategy and how it impacts Florida advocacy**
Michael Ruppal explained that every line item except for Global is being changed—from the Office of Management and Budget. This would be a great project for a sub-committee of the FHAAN group to review.

Michael explained that David Brakebill will be working on this statewide under the Patient Care planning and integrating the National AIDS Strategy into the Comprehensive statewide Patient Care plan. David explained that he will be meeting with the Prevention leadership as well to discuss the NAS and including components into the Prevention plan as well.

4. **Old Business**

Michael Ruppal explained that the Appropriations subcommittee came up with 50 million dollars for ADAP for FY2011, and does not include the 26 million that needs to be spent by September. However, Ryan White has been flat funded.

5. **Announcements and Adjournment**

Ken Bargar announced that there will be a face to face meeting at the Southeast Regional Gay Men’s Health Summit on August 28, 2010. He will send a notice with the details.

**Next Call: September 7, 2010 @ 3PM (EDT)**
- Email agenda ideas to Ken Bargar at RW2001President@aol.com or Michael Ruppal MRuppal@TheAIDSInstitute.org