

**Tennessee Department of Health
HIV/AIDS/STD Section Update**

January, 2005

Helping to bridge the gap in communication

The HIV/AIDS/STD Section Update is a way to communicate new information, staff changes, and opportunities for training between quarterly meetings. If you have information that you want included in the next update, please e-mail Heather Watson at Heather.L.Watson@state.tn.us.

HIV/AIDS/STD Section

As requested, the staffs' e-mail address has been provided. If you need to speak with someone within the Section, please call (800) 525-2437 or (615) 741-7500. To obtain back issues of the HIV/AIDS/STD Section Update, log on to www.coetenn.com/index.html.

Administration

Jeanee Seals
Section Chief
Jeanee.Seals@state.tn.us

Dan Burke
CDC Senior Public Health Advisor
Dan.Burke@state.tn.us

Vickie Kegerise
Personnel Officer
Vickie.Kegerise@state.tn.us

Angela Beyor
Secretary
Angela.Beyor@state.tn.us

Fiscal Services

Krystal McDougald
Fiscal Services Accounting Assistant
Krystal.McDougald@state.tn.us

Contract Monitoring

Bruce Popp
Contract Monitoring Officer
Bruce.Popp@state.tn.us

HIV/AIDS/STD Prevention Division

Pam Pitts
HIV/AIDS/STD Prevention Division
Director
Pam.Pitts@state.tn.us

Chris Drumright
Community Planning Coordinator
Chris.Drumrigh@state.tn.us

Bob Nelson
HIV Counseling/Testing Training
Coordinator
Robert.Nelson@state.tn.us

Heather Watson
HIV Prevention Evaluation Consultant
Heather.L.Watson@state.tn.us

Ryan White Services Division

Del Vineyard
Ryan White Services Division Director
Del.Vineyard@state.tn.us

Liz Garner
HDAP Coordinator
Liz.Garner@state.tn.us

Pamela Harvell
Medical Care Services Assistant
Pamela.Harvell@state.tn.us

Arnold Mahlum
CAREWare/Computer Consultant
Arnold.Mahlum@state.tn.us

Jimmy Nanney
Medical Care Services Program
Jimmy.Nanney@state.tn.us

Shunjerra Reed
Medical Care Services Assistant
Shunjerra.Reed@state.tn.us

DeTrell Southall
HDAP Assistant
Detrell.Southall@state.tn.us

Surveillance and Data Management Division

Thomas J. Shavor
Epidemiologist, Surveillance and Data Management Division Director
Thomas.Shavor@state.tn.us

Sharon Blair
Surveillance Systems Support
Sharon.Blair@state.tn.us

Jennifer Boher
HIV Database Management Assistant
Jennifer.Boher@state.tn.us

Lavonne Cole
CDC Public Health Advisor HIV/STD Consultant
Lavonne.Cole@state.tn.us

Dawn Craik
HIV/STD Data Analysis Coordinator
Dawn.Craik@state.tn.us

Brian Dunkley
Programmer/Systems Administration HIV Incidence Project
Brian.Dunkley@state.tn.us

Melissa Flowers
Surveillance Systems Support
Melissa.Flowers@state.tn.us

Joseph Holmes
HIV Database Management
Joseph.Holmes@state.tn.us

LauraLee Killingsworth
Perinatal HIV Program Coordinator
Lauralee.Killingsworth@state.tn.us

David Lundberg
CDC Public Health Advisor HIV/STD Consultant
David.Lundberg@state.tn.us

Michael Moseley
STD Operations
Michael.Moseley@state.tn.us

Michael Norwood
Systems Administration Manager
Mike.Norwood@state.tn.us

Darla Sampson
HIV Incidence Coordinator
Darla.Sampson@state.tn.us

Ryan White Program News

The Ryan White Program is still waiting, along with TennCare recipient PLWAs and the AIDS Centers of Excellence, to see what the future of TennCare will be. A return to basic Medicaid will terminate coverage for a large, but undeterminable number of HIV positive people that will most certainly seek assistance from Ryan White if TennCare coverage is lost. Even with the best scenario, changes in TennCare will probably result in higher numbers of Ryan White clients.

We will work with consortia and PLWAs to restructure Ryan White programs to respond to whatever changes occur, according to service priorities, in the fairest most equitable manner as possible. If a waiting list becomes necessary, addition of new clients to covered services will be determined by medical necessity rather than first-come-first-serve.

Del Vineyard

Lawmaker: Abstinence courses flawed

Federally funded abstinence education programs used in 25 states contain misleading information about contraception, abortion, and sexually transmitted diseases, according to a report issued December 1 by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif.

The report said about 11 of the 13 most widely used programs underestimated the effectiveness of condoms in preventing pregnancy and the spread of disease, exaggerating distress following abortion, blur science and religion, or get fundamental scientific facts wrong.

Alma Golden, Health and Human Services deputy assistant secretary for population affairs, said the Waxman report took statements out of context to present the programs in the worst possible way.

“One thing is very clear for our children, abstaining from sex is the most effective means of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV, STDs, and preventing pregnancy,” Golden said.

The abstinence programs, which have been embraced by President Bush, will receive \$170 million in the current year; more than double the amount the government spent when Bush took office in 2001. The abstinence curriculum may not include instruction on contraceptive use as a condition of federal funding.

Waxman said it is vital that the health education provided to America’s youth be scientifically and medically accurate.

“The abstinence-only programs reviewed-only programs reviewed in this report fail to meet this standard,” Waxman wrote.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that correct condom use does protect against disease transmission, the report said.

AIDS Policy & Law
December 17, 2004

CBO Spotlight: Children & Family Services

Children & Family Services provides one of Tennessee’s newer HIV prevention programs. With their clientele being high risk youth, they recognized a need to assist these women with HIV and STD prevention.

Their HIV/STD program started in 1999. A tiny satellite office in Haywood County became home for the section. Outreach for youth was the only intervention at the time. The emphasis, in 1999, was on young people of color.

As the section grew, it began to perform group level and individual level interventions. The HIV/STD program serves 20 rural counties in west Tennessee. Yearly, they reach 15,000 through outreach, 250 through ILI and 50 through GLI. After four years, HIV prevention was created as an additional entity from HIV/STD in prevention. Children & Family Services first applied for additional HIV Prevention funding in 2002 in the West Tennessee region under the requested for proposal process every regional community planning group performs every summer.

The fledgling HIV Prevention Section received federal funding for the 2003 community planning year. They have since received funds for 2004 and 2005. The primary counties for HIV prevention under the current funding proposal are Dyer, Haywood, Lauderdale and Madison.

The necessity for their program was great when it began as there are no agencies in the West Tennessee Region providing prevention activities. This region contains 18 counties. Children & Family Services also performs prevention services in the Southwest Region. Their two offices are in Covington (Tipton County) and Somerville (Fayette County) which are both in the Southwest Region. Theirs is also, the only agency, funded or otherwise, having representation on two separate RCPGs.

The HIV Prevention Program’s goal is to serve 50 individuals a year in each county with pre and post test surveys for a total of 200. They conduct GLI sessions using focus groups and video presentations. Outreach is conducted in a variety of settings ranging from health fairs and churches to education settings and alcohol & drug services.

Besides stretching over two regions, Children & Family Services collaborates with many organizations and agencies to perform prevention activities. One is Jackson Area Counseling On Alcoholism (JACOA) that helps youth in recovery. Others are the McDowell Center and Jackson Halfway House which is affiliated with the John Wilder Youth Detention Center. They assist the Halfway House to provide prevention services to individuals in the Detention Center. This allows the program to reach people indirectly as well. They also collaborate with schools in areas such as in school suspension and churches to find high risk youth.

Indirectly, Children & Family Services has collaborated with Project S.E.A, Prevention for Positives Initiative to form support clinics for HIV positive individuals. A member of TAPWA facilitates these support groups. This collaboration also assists in providing referrals for fitness and nutrition for positive persons. The program reaches into all walks of life from ball games and barbershops to gay bars and night clubs to reach at risk youth. Yolonda Bateman has served as Director of the HIV Prevention program since 2003. Elnora Averyheart has served as Outreach Coordinator since 2004. Children & Family Services doesn't just provide HIV and STD prevention services. They have programs about such subjects as tobacco use, fitness, nutrition, education, and job counseling for youth. Some programs are to assist those already experiencing trials and tribulations. They help individuals who have learning difficulties and victims of child abuse or other abuse. Their prevention programs cover from teen pregnancy to mentoring and support services for at risk youth. They have support groups for parents of the youths they serve.

For the West and Southwest Tennessee regions, the goal is to continue to expand their services and the numbers of high risk youth whose lives they can help.

Chris Drumright

Dates of Interest

January

January 19-20, 2005 Statewide Meetings at the Holiday Inn
Vanderbilt-Nashville

February

February 7, 2005 National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day
For more information, visit
www.blackaidsday.org/NBHAAD_info_home.htm .

March

March 10-11, 2005 NMAC Workshop---Program Evaluation
Knoxville, location to be announced, 9-5pm
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @
(423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org

April

April 7-8, 2005 NMAC Workshop---Program Evaluation
Jackson, location to be announced, 9-5pm
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @
(423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org

May

May 5-6, 2005 NMAC Workshop---Program Development
Knoxville, location to be announced, 9-5pm
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @
(423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org
Nashville

May 25-26, 2005 Statewide Meetings at the Holiday Inn Vanderbilt-
Nashville

June

June 9-10, 2005 NMAC Workshop---Program Development
Jackson, location to be announced, 9-5pm
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @
(423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org

July

July 31-August 3, 2005 2005 HIV Prevention Leadership Summit - NMAC
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @
(423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org

August

July 31-August 3, 2005 2005 HIV Prevention Leadership Summit - NMAC
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @
(423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org

August (early), 2005 NMAC Workshop---Public Relations
Knoxville, location to be announced, 1-day workshop on Friday
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @ (423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org

September

September (early), 2005 NMAC Workshop---Public Relations
Jackson, location to be announced, 1-day workshop on Friday
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @ (423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org

September 21-22, 2005 Statewide Meetings at the Holiday Inn Vanderbilt-Nashville

September 29–October 2, 2005
2005 United States Conference on AIDS – NMAC
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @ (423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org

October

September 29–October 2, 2005
2005 United States Conference on AIDS – NMAC
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @ (423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org

November

November (early), 2005 NMAC Workshop---Technology Development
Knoxville, location to be announced, 1-day workshop on Friday
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @ (423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org

December

December (early), 2005 NMAC Workshop---Technology Development
Jackson, location to be announced, 1-day workshop on Friday
For more information, please contact Catherine Bays @ (423) 424-4270 or cbays@sedev.org

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January

January 18-19, 2006

Statewide Meetings at the Holiday Inn Vanderbilt-Nashville

Staff Changes

I am pleased to announce we have an addition to our staff: DeTrell Southall! DeTrell will be working in the Ryan White Program as the HDAP Assistant. The HIV/AIDS/STD Section is glad to have him.

We regretfully report that Chris Freeman has resigned as the Fiscal Officer for the Section. His knowledge and insight will be greatly missed.

*******Please note that the fax number has changed: (615) 741-3691*******