



# Positive Advocate

## Winter 2007

A publication of the Affected Communities Committee of the HIV Health Services Planning Council

### WELCOME JON BENORDEN, OUR NEW HIV HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL COORDINATOR!

As the new HHSPC Coordinator with the Community Services Planning Council, I wanted to drop a quick note to you all to introduce myself.

I recently moved here to Sacramento after spending three years in Anchorage, AK. I was born and raised in Alaska, but lived half my life here in California, most recently in San Francisco for 9 years.

I decided to come back to California so I could do more of

what I love, and that is working in the field of HIV/AIDS. When I was diagnosed with HIV in 2000, I made the determination to always do what I can in the HIV/AIDS field. It's my passion and fuels my inner fire.

For the last 10 years, I have work in this field in various positions: research, education, prevention, case management, testing and advocacy.

I look forward to the new adventures that this position will have for me and to be working with all of you as the staff member to the HIV Human Services Planning Council.

Feel free to call me or email me at anytime!

**Jon Benorden**  
447.7063 x329  
jbenorden@communitycouncil.org



### WHO WOULD SAY NO TO CHOCOLATE?

The ACC co-sponsored the Holiday Dinner With The Dietician this last December. After enjoying a warm and delicious holiday dinner provided by Refer-A-Chef, attendees were able to try their hand at chocolate making taught by Ginney at Designer Chocolates. Everyone left with a homemade chocolate covered marshmallow pop....unless they couldn't wait to eat it!

The Nutrition Program at CARES offers "Dinner with the Dietitian"- held the first Monday of every month (except January) from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the CARES first floor boardroom. This class is for all those with HIV /AIDS, friends and family members. You do not need to be a CARES client to attend. Different HIV / AIDS nutrition and physical fitness related information is discussed and useful handouts, including recipes are provided. RSVP monthly by leaving a message at 914-6285.

## A LETTER FROM FATHER HEALY



As we approach the Holiday season of another year, we want to thank you from our hearts for your generosity to our ministry and for your faithfulness. As you saw from our annual report, the largest part of our expenditure was for the basics of life, food, medicine, emergency shelter and help towards permanent housing. The situation has become much more painful as Federal and State governments have cut back. Local HIV/AIDS agencies have also been forced to cut back on services. The end result is a greater demand from us when someone with AIDS has to temporarily quit their job due to sickness and are terrified of losing their apartment and living on the streets, due to their inability to pay the rent, we cannot turn our backs on them. We cannot do this without your generosity. Our funds come from two fundraisers, Celtic Concert and Casino Night, a donation from the Diocese, and, above all, from you. Any donation is gratefully accepted. As our primary Goal is always the Spiritual, we pray you the Peace and Blessings of the Prince of Peace who gave so generously of his life that he wants to share with us. He had a special care for the 'hungry, sick, those lacking clothing, and those in prison', (Matt. 25). Sincerely, FR. John Healy, Director and SR. M. Redempta Scannell, Chair

### SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, February 10th, 2008 3:00 PM—Celtic Concert @ St. Anthony Church  
& Saturday, March 29th, 2008—Casino Night @ Newman Center



## PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS

Pills, capsules, gels, creams, vaccines! The research grinds on, but not without community input from those directly affected and or infected with HIV. Some of the input is simple information. Sometimes they need a little bit more. In my case, along with many others around the Country they needed to take multiple bits of my intestines (upper and lower). I am one of the many participants in the "Gut And Lymphoid Tissue" (GALT), and "Mucosal Immune Response" studies being conducted by the UC Davis AIDS Clinical Trials Team, through the CARES® research team headed by Richard Pollard, MD. Dr. Pollard has been in the clinical research arena for some 30 years. He and a brilliant team of investigators have been dedicated to bringing the best possible treatments to the Sacramento Region and the World.

A presentation about the scope of research going on and being planned is being coordinated for after the Holidays. There are many decisions to be made and the community at large is integral to this process. So please email Dave Casey at [dkcasey@gmail.com](mailto:dkcasey@gmail.com) or call (916)383-8022 with your preferred method of contact for an invitation to the presentation. When the details are solidified all interested persons will be contacted by Julie Callahan, research coordinator, with the information.

Hope you had a wonderful holiday and a safe and happy New Year. See you there!

Thanks, Dave Casey



## 2007 National HIV Prevention Conference Promoting Synergy Between Science and Program

December 2–5, 2007  
Atlanta, Georgia

### Report from Gary Parent

The largest National HIV Prevention Conference occurred between December 2nd—5th in Atlanta, GA. The conference was attended by over 3,000 participants and had 36 co-sponsors. The event involved 122 sessions with 422 presentations and 250 poster presentations. Over the 3 day conference were many noted speakers including the Director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Julie Gerberding, M.D., PH.D., who talked about data from 2001 to 2005 which is showing some interesting trends in the HIV disease.

There's a Ying and a Yang to each of them. We can talk about the vaccine and the hope for ultimately a preventive vaccine. We had many candidates. We've proven that it's possible to construct and execute a very large scale international clinical trial, but the trial failed. Failed to show protection. We have incredible HIV treatments now and we are using these treatments across our nation and across the world to literally save lives and to result here in the United States there is a four percent reduction in the death rate at least since between 2001 and 2005. We've also had, I think, some extraordinarily hopeful changes in the picture of how HIV is being transmitted. Again, just looking at data from 2001 and 2005 in the places that have named reporting, we can see there's been a remarkable reduction in cases among women, among injection drug users, among children, and among young teenagers. But unfortunately that is not the picture for older teens and adults, particularly those from ages 35 to 39. And it's certainly not the picture for African Americans, men who have sex with men, and Hispanic and Latino populations who are all disproportionately reflected in the statistics that are reported.

The CDC is making the largest investment in HIV/AIDS that's ever been made. There are 7 tracks to the prevention strategy. Everything from male circumcision studies to interventions involving many types of individuals. Also the PCRS (Partner Counseling and Referral Services) programs to assist persons to help tell past or current partners about possible HIV/STD exposure in a sensitive and private way. During the 2007 HIV Prevention Conference the CDC also rolled out an accelerated program for reducing HIV among African Americans. The program is being targeted to areas of the nation in which African Americans have been most severely impacted. African Americans account for approximately half of the more than 1 million Americans currently estimated to be living with HIV. CDC's new HIV testing program seeks to test more than 1 million people, with the primary goal of increasing early HIV diagnosis among African Americans. HIV testing provides a critical pathway to prevention and treatment services to prolong the lives of those infected and help stop the spread of HIV in the hardest hit communities across the United States.

What's next. Someone has to say we need a national plan for HIV/AIDS in America. Someone has to say that it is neither right nor proper that for the Presidents emergency plan for AIDS relief we require that all nations that receive our money develop their own national plans but we don't do it here.

**Words to inspire  
you in your  
participation with the  
HIV Health Services  
Planning Council**

**“You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it.”**

**- Maya Angelou**



# Back Page



The **POSITIVE ADVOCATE** Newsletter is a quarterly information and outreach project. We welcome submissions from the affected community. For additional information about the Affected Communities Committee (ACC), HIV Health Services Planning Council (HHSPC), or this newsletter, contact: Bill Puryear at 916.334.7566

Visit the **HIV Health Services Planning Council** on the Internet at:  
<http://www.communitycouncil.org/level-3/hiv.html>

**Jon Benorden, HHSPC Staff**  
909 12th Street, Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95814  
916.447.7063 ext 329 jbenorden@communitycouncil.org

The **Affected Communities Committee** addresses issues facing the HIV/AIDS community and advises the Planning Council on affairs of the community. The mission of the committee is to recruit, empower, and involve people living with HIV/AIDS in the strategic planning and advocacy of HIV/AIDS care and services. These goals will be accomplished with the assistance of the Council support staff toward the fulfillment of its mission. The committee encourages an environment of trust and safety in achieving its mission.

## RYAN WHITE CARE ACT SERVICE PROVIDERS

**AIDS Housing Alliance/Avalón** - housing & hospice  
PO Box 161908, Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.579.0896

**Breaking Barriers** - advocacy, homeless, transportation  
2020 V Street, Sacramento, CA 95818  
916.447.2437

**CARES** - all-in-one HIV medical care and support services  
1500 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
916.443.3299

**The Effort** - drug & alcohol counseling and services  
1820 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
916.444.6294

**The Effort (dba Family Service Agency)** - mental health  
8912 Volunteer Lane, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95826  
916.368.3080

**Harm Reduction Services** - Outreach, Testing  
3647 40th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817  
916.456.4849

**Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation** - HIV/AIDS services  
12183 Locksley Lane, Suite 205, Auburn, CA 95602  
530.889.2437

**Sunburst Projects** - childcare, respite, and support  
1025 19th Street, Suite 1A, Sacramento, CA 95814  
916.440.0889

**Sutter "We CARE"** - women's services & support  
5151 F Street, 2 South, Sacramento, CA 95819  
916.733.1750

**UCDMC Pediatric Infectious Disease** - HIV+ children  
2516 Stockton Blvd., Ticon II, Sacramento, CA 95817  
916.734.7618