



**Northern Nevada  
HIV  
Prevention Group**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 2:30pm  
Washoe County Health District  
1001 East Ninth St., N. Auditorium  
Reno, NV**

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Elaine Bergenheier, Lyell Collins, Abigail Polus, Doug Hodges, Jennifer Howell, Stephen Daugherty, Theron Huntamer, and Janet St. Amant (Alt.)

Guests Present: Jessica Cabrales, Guadalupe Gomez, Leah Valverde, Kathryn Weber-Karp, Nikki Kleine, and Robert Ashley.

Absences: Gerold Dermid (Alt.) (excused), Nedy Tollerstad (excused), Gwen Taylor(excused), and Joshua Livernois (excused)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Jennifer Howell called the meeting to order at 2:36 pm. A quorum was established.

2. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

3. \*Review and approval of Minutes from August 27, 2014 Meeting

It was moved by Lyell Collins and seconded by Stephen Daugherty to accept the minutes as presented. No opposition and no abstentions. Motion Carried.

4. \*Community HIV Testing Discussion and Grid Development

Jennifer Howell went over the “HIV Testing and Condom Distribution Grid”. Testing as to where in the community are we getting positives from where we are doing testing from the major testers in the community. The two major testers are Northern Nevada Hopes and Washoe County Health District.

- Abigail Polus was able to provide a data report but needs to be looked at again for corrections for HOPES. Abigail Polus will inform Jennifer Howell once the discrepancy has been found and corrected. HOPES positives have been found at Change Point (harm reduction center), their clinic, and Davidsons Distillery.
- Jennifer Howell reported that positives have not been found at certain offsite locations such as bars. The last positive found from Carl’s was between 2002 and 2005. Lyell Collins talked about the Annual Report from CDC where positives were being reported from hospitals, ER’s, and Private Physicians. Established care facilities seemed to be where positives are showing up within Washoe County. The Health District is focusing on testing at the Jail, Bath House, a weekly offsite location, prostitution stings and utilized social media advertising such as grinder, Twitter, and Facebook.

Jennifer Howell opened discussion for ideas on how to increase or to change our testing strategy; to be able to get higher risk people to help find more positives based on council member representation and related community knowledge.

Lyell Collins noted that in preparing the state's Annual Progress report it was documented that the positivity rate had dropped statewide. Washoe County Health District has been low for a while and HOPES rate was calculated at around 1%. A low positivity rate is not good from a funder's perspective as the CDC is strongly pushing for at least a 1% positivity rate in each jurisdiction. However, having people know that they are HIV negative is a good thing but that is not supported by this CDC funding.

Discussion occurred around the following topics related to community testing:

- HOPES, with the help of NNOT, is providing testing at Record St. once a month.
- Community Health Alliance is not providing testing at this time.
- Washoe County Health District tested at Record St. for all STDs including HIV, and did not yield any positive tests.
- HOPES have been testing at weekly motels by offering Hepatitis C tests as a way to get permission to be on premises. This is an area that can be looked as they are at higher risk population.

Jennifer Howell announced that the 2014 Annual Communicable Disease Report is expected to be available by August and that will show rates that have been calculated by race, ethnicity, age, gender for actual incidents of HIV that's based on all areas of tests being reported into us. Jennifer will bring that data once it becomes available to help with future discussions. This report will also include all of the Epi profile reports.

This will be an on-going item on the agenda for further discussion.

##### 5. Condom Distribution Strategy Implementation

Jennifer Howell reported that there is a Condom Distribution Strategy for the state. A quick condom survey will be distributed in order to acquire information. The Health District has an intern working on this as their project for the semester, and he will be starting survey distribution soon. The survey is available online and will be emailed to the group. If you have clients that would like to fill out a survey, please have them do so especially if they are from the following target populations: MSM, IDU, and HIV positive. The goal is to get 200 completed surveys. There will be follow up strategy meeting coming up. A follow up survey will focus on issues like stigma and accessibility of condoms.

Jennifer Howell announced that there are new condom dispensers available to be placed at different sites in the community. These dispensers are secure and cannot be tampered with. NNOT has a distribution list. Planning group members were asked; if there were any new locations that would benefit from having one of these dispensers, please email Jennifer Howell. Robert Ashley, suggested a bar in Sun Valley. He will contact them to see if they will like to participate.

This item will be further discussed at the next meeting.

##### 6. \*Community Engagement Plan Review and Community Partner Engagement Event

Lyell Collins discussed the Community Engagement component of the jurisdictional plan, which is a requirement by CDC. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a HIV/AIDS provider meeting being held for providers or those who provide services to those clients. In addition, Lyell has been tasked with leading community planning processes for HIV prevention, Ryan White HIV care, substance abuse treatment, suicide prevention and mental health programs at the Division of Public and Behavioral Health. He has six months to complete this process and have a state plan for Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment.

The state is starting the needs assessment process, beginning with an overview of Epi data and the discussion of target populations. The engagement part of the plan will include both individuals those that are not from this planning group as well as planning group members. There will be a discussion on ideas on how to leverage resources and how to share services that are being offer in the community. CDC has been told that there will be two community engagement meetings, one in the summer and one in the fall. In the summer, the state will be receiving guidance from CDC and HRSA on joint community planning for Ryan White Care and HIV Prevention.

This item will be an on-going item on the agenda for further discussion.

7. Resignation of Community Co-Chair, Discussion of New Co-Chair Nominations

Jennifer Howell announced that Patrick Bernard Russell, the Community Co-Chair has resigned. Steve Daugherty offered to fill in the as Co-Chair until July, when new term begins. If anyone else is interested as a Co-Chair, please email Jennifer Howell.

It was moved by Jennifer Howell and seconded by Lyell Collins to accept as presented. No opposition and no abstentions. Motion Carried.

8. Public Comment

(Limited to 3 minutes per comment. No discussion allowed.)

Jennifer Howell reported on two sex education bills in the legislature. A community coalition is asking for a change in the current sex education law to be comprehensive, medically accurate sex education provided in a standardized format throughout the state. Right now every school district dictates as to how sex education is being taught. However, two bills have been presented by more conservative legislators. These two bills are very limiting; the first one focuses requiring full time permanently teachers or nurses under advisement of the teacher to teach sex education, not allowing outside presenters. The second bill proposes to eliminate sex education from kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> in schools. It has a provision to limit curriculum materials that may be depicted as sexually explicit. A separate section of this bill also proposes to determine where transgender students use the restroom and are able to change clothing in school settings. These bills are waiting to be presented to assigned committees. The bill numbers AB375 and SB309 were provided.

Lyell Collins reported on AB243, which revises rapid HIV test requirements. This proposes the removal of a licensed medical director for agencies to test, but will still require a laboratory director. The goal of the bill is to increase HIV testing in hard to reach communities. Training will be developed by the state.

Abigail Polus updated the status on the Senate Bill 459, establishing a policy for overdose prevention in Nevada. This will provide greater access to naloxone, the drug that counteracts an opioid overdose. The bill focuses on two areas: the first is it protects people who call for help and to not face criminal charges; secondly it will be expand who can have prescriptions for naloxone. It will be heard at the assembly and senate on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30pm and testimonies need to be submitted 24 hours ahead. It was encouraged to the members if someone would like to give their opinion or testify to contact her or to show up that day.

9. \*Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Lyell Collins and seconded by Doug Hodges to adjourn the meeting at 3:48 pm.