A YEAR OF COLLABORATION FOR THE TASK FORCE

This year the Los Angeles County HIV Drug & Alcohol Task Force (HIV DATF) made it a priority to work with others.

We put on 6 trainings, all of which were collaborative efforts.

We also put on two social events: One Gay at a Time II and Network & Nosh IV.

One Gay at a Time II was a night of LGB/T and recovery-focused stand-up comedy.

Network and Nosh is our annual provider event, which gets bigger and more diverse every year.

In January we held a community meeting. We worked with the HIV Commission, and SCHAC.

In May we held a training on Crystal Meth and Young Gay Me, in collaboration with the Los Angeles County HIV Mental Health Task Force and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

In June we held our third TranSolutions. The Los Angeles Transgender Service Provider Network (TSPN), California State University, Los Angeles’ Center for the Study of Genders and Sexualities (CSGS), and the Transcend Empowerment Institute collaborated on this with us.

In September, HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance (HALSA) collaborated with us to do a training on legal issues.

In November, we collaborated with Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science, The Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center to put on a training on crack cocaine and HIV, with a focus on African-American women.

We trained a total of 636 people this year—not including the folks who came to One Gay at a Time or Network & Nosh. This figure does not represent people who came to more than one of our trainings (most do). Anyone who attended a training is listed only once.

He had trainees from 170 agencies who came from all 8 SPAs.

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BUDGET CRISIS: A COMMUNITY PULLS TOGETHER

10% ACROSS-THE-BOARD CUTS!

On January 10, 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced his proposed budget for TY 2008-09. Included were more than $11 million in cuts to California’s HIV/AIDS programs, such as:

AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) stood to lose $7.5 million. Therapeutic Monitoring Program (TMP) would lose $300,000 in addition to a one-time $4 million increase that was secured in 2007. Education and Prevention was set to lose $1.6 million.

Other areas that were going to experience cuts were Medi-Cal Provider Rates, Medicare Part B Premiums and Medi-Cal Optional Benefits.

The HIV DATF decided to take a proactive(ist) stance and hold an emergency community meeting to figure out what was really happening, what we could do advocate for our communities, and to put together a timeline for action.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Los Angeles County HIV Drug and Alcohol Task Force is to advocate for the needs of drug and alcohol users and people in recovery who are at risk for or living with HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C.

Inside this review:

- A Year of Collaboration
- Budget Crisis
- 2008 Training Provided
- One Gay at a Time II
- Collaborative Efforts
- Presenters & Panelists
- the Numbers
- Membership and HIV DATF online
- 2009 Training Schedule
- Other Task Force Info
The Task Force collaborated with Southern California HIV Advocacy Coalition (SCHAC) to put on a teach-in and emergency community meeting to start thinking about how the proposed budget cuts might affect HIV service provision in Los Angeles County.

**Matt Hamilton**, (Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center) presented on What the Proposed Budget Really Says

**Ruel Nolledo**, (AIDS Project Los Angeles) presented on Community Responses

**Daniel Rivas** (AIDS Healthcare Foundation) presented on SCHAC and what they do generally, and more specifically, what they are doing with regards to advocacy around this budget.

**Joey Terrell**, (AIDS Healthcare Foundation) presented on TMP and ADAP cuts

**Kathy Watt** (Los Angeles Commission on HIV)

81 people registered.

This was a 2-hour meeting.

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**Household Alcohol Product Consumption and Underage Drinking**

or, household triggers—what do you have around the house that is putting kids at risk?

The Task Force was so fortunate to have Dr. Didra BrownTaylor return to present the follow-up to her November 2007 presentation on Malt Liquor and AlcoSnacks: Targeting a Community. This time she presented on Household Alcohol Product Consumption and Underage Drinking, or Household Triggers—What do you have around the house that is putting kids at risk?

Dr. Didra BrownTaylor, Ph.D. has a BA and BS in Black Studies and Biology respectfully, from the University of the Pacific. She received graduate training in multicultural community-clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles and specializes in culturally appropriate research methodology for inclusion of African American and Latino participants. For more than 15 years, Dr. BrownTaylor has been a trailblazer in researching the relationships between alcohol availability, consumption, advertising and negative consequences associated with malt liquor beer drinking. Her latest areas of research focus on Alcopops, Alcosnacks, Energy Drinks and underaged drinking and alcohol (pruno/hooch) production and consumption by prison inmates. Dr. BrownTaylor completed her Post-doctoral Fellowship at UCLA’s Integrated Substance Abuse Program and is a National Institutes of Health Health Disparities Research Scholar and is the recipient of the Los Angeles County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California (CADPAAC) Public Policy Award for 2007. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Charles R. Drew University’s Urban Public Health Program.

196 people registered.

This was a 2-hour training.
We had fantastic presenters for our Crystal Meth and Young Gay Men presentation.

Dr. Sharon Hudson, Health Research Association and Claud Moradian from the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center

Katrina Kubicek, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles presented on Making Informed Decisions: How Attitudes and Perceptions Affect the Use of Crystal, Cocaine and Ecstasy among Young Men who Have Sex with Men

Sex Work, crystal meth, and Rent Boys was presented by Gennifer M. Hirano, Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP)

Treating Young Gay Crystal Meth Users was presented by Phil Hendricks from the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center

Jonathan Lynch, Co-Chair of the Los Angeles County HIV Mental Health Task Force presented on Depression and Young Gay Men

We also featured a Youth Panel, which was moderated by Pedro Garcia of Bienestar. The panelists were Jerome Pitts and Danny Alecio.

107 people registered.
This was a 6-hour training.

For the HIV DATF’s third annual TranSolutions training, we collaborated with the Transgender Service Provider Network (TSPN) and the Transcend Empowerment Institute to bring a full-day training.

California State University, Los Angeles’ Center for the Study of Genders and Sexualities (CSGS) Director, Dr. Talia Mae Bettcher kicked off the event with a presentation she and Bamby Salcedo of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles did on Cultural Competency.

Masen Davis, the Executive Director of the transgender Law Center in San Francisco, and Terra Slavin on the Legal Services department at LA Gay & Lesbian center gave an over view of legal issues.

Drian Juarez and Alexis Rivera presented on the Community Clinics Campaign (C3) and Assessing your agency Policies and Procedures.

We ended the day with an Intake and Registration workshop run by Elizabeth Mendia, the executive Director of Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project.

118 people registered.
This was a 6-hour training.
Every year we offer a legal training, we have a full house, and this year was no exception. This year we worked with the HOPWA Oversight Committee to ensure that they would be able to attend the training.

Thomas DeBoe, Housing Attorney has practiced law in California for more than 8 years and worked for several nonprofits including Westside Legal Services, Legal Aid Foundation of L.A., Tarzana Treatment Centers, and the Minority AIDS Project. He is well known in the legal community for his expertise in housing/tenant rights and HIV/AIDS discrimination.

Peggy Roman-Jacobson, obtained her Juris Doctor from the City University of New York School of Law at Queens College in 1999, and became a member of the California State Bar in 2000. During law school she secured fellowships with several national public interest law firms including the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the ACLU. Since obtaining her license to practice law, Peggy has worked as litigator for various civil rights firms including Schonbrum DeSimone Seplow Harris & Hoffman, specializing in plaintiffs-side employment discrimination and police abuse matters where she obtained several million dollars in jury verdicts and settlements for victims of discrimination. Peggy has also provided pro bono legal assistance and advocacy to clients of Clean Needles Now and Common Ground, the Westside HIV Center for the last eight years. As Legal Director, she provides direction and case oversight to the HALSA Legal Team and handles cases involving HIV/AIDS discrimination in employment and places of public accommodation, privacy and denial of treatment and medical access cases.

Pearl Saracho, has headed HALSA’s immigration practice since 2004. Ms. Saracho has headed HALSA’s immigration practice since 2004. Ms. Saracho received her B.A in political science from University of California, Irvine. She went on to law school at Western State College of Law in Fullerton California. After graduating from law school Ms. Saracho took on other endeavors such as working as a case worker for Orange County’s abused and neglected children. During this time Ms. Saracho became certified in court and community mediation. She worked for Orange County Human Relations as a mediator for three years. Ms. Saracho then went on to practice law as an immigration attorney for Orange County Catholic Charities. Ms. Saracho is considered one of the top 2 public interest Immigration attorneys for people living with HIV in California.

129 people registered. This was a 3-hour training.

We have heard for many years from the community that no one ever focuses on crack cocaine since crystal meth epidemic started to receive so much attention. We wanted to make sure that the HIV DATF could address this issue, and we wanted to focus on African-American women because this is very often an overlooked population.

We worked with Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science, The Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center to enlist Alison Hamilton Brown, Ph.D., of UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs.

Precious Jackson, who works with incarcerated women through the Center for Health Justice presented on HIV and incarceration issues. Margie Lopez, of Angels Step Inn (SCAADP) talked about treatment issues.

141 people registered. This was a 3-hour training.
Our 2nd annual One Gay at a Time was an Evening of LGBT comedy to honor and support our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, gender-fabulous and genderqueer brothers, sisters and others during Recovery Month. Sandra Valls (from Showtime’s Latin Divas of Comedy) was back again this year to organize and MC the event. This year’s event was dedicated to Kat Howard, who died earlier in the year. She participated in our first event as the Stage Manager.

This year’s Network and Nosh was fantastic. We had representatives from over 70 agencies, consortia, and planning groups. This year we had representatives from substance abuse, housing, mental health, sex worker services, HIV, hepatitis, medical, educational, and other services, as well as SPA and Task Force representation.

The HIV Drug & Alcohol Task Force sends out our gratitude to the chefs at Cri-Help, who cooked up a storm for us.

We had over 35 presentations, and numerous agencies represented at the resource tables.

We don’t have folks sign in for N&N so we don’t have the breakdown that we have for other events.
COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

- AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- Alcohol and Drug Program Administration
- Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
- Bienestar
- California State University, Los Angeles
- Community Prevention Initiative
- Charles Drew University
- Children's Hospital
- Cri-Help, Inc.
- FTM Alliance Los Angeles, C3 Campaign
- HALSA, Inc.
- Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center
- Minority AIDS Project
- National Recovery Month
- Precious Blood Church
- Sandra Valls
- SCHAC
- Sex Worker's Outreach Project (SWOP)
- Tarzana Treatment Centers
- Transgender Service Provider Network
- Van Ness House
- Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project
PRESENTERS AND PANELISTS

The HIV DATF would not be able to do what we do if it wasn’t for the ongoing, generous support of the community. This list does not include the people who presented at Network & Nosh. The following people gave freely of their time and energy as presenters and panelists:

- Danny Alecio
- Talia Bettcher, Ph.D., California State University, Los Angeles, Center for the Study of Genders and Sexualities
  - Dr. Didra Brown
  - Masen Davis, Transgender Law Center
- Thomas DuBoe, HIV/AIDS Legal Services Alliance, Inc. (HALSA)
  - Pedro Garcia, Bienestar Human Services, Inc.
  - Daniel Gould, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
  - Kim Hall, Tarzana Treatment Center
- Alison Hamilton Brown, Ph.D., UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs
  - Matt Hamilton, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center
  - Phil Hendricks, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center
- Gennifer M. Hirano, Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP)
  - Dr. Sharon Hudson, Health Research Association
  - Precious Jackson, Center for Health Justice
- Drian Juarez, C3 collaborative, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center
  - Katrina Kubicek, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
  - Margie Lopez, Angels Step Inn SCAADP
  - Jonathan Lynch, Private Practice
- Elizabeth Mendia, Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project
- Claud Moradian, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center
  - Ruel Nolledo, AIDS Project Los Angeles
  - Jerome Pitts
- Daniel Rivas, AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- Alexis Rivera, C3 collaborative, Transgender Law Center
  - Peggy Roman-Jacobson, HALSA, Inc.
- Bamby Salcedo, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
  - Pearl Saracho, HALSA, Inc.
  - Kim Scott, Minority AIDS Project
- Terra Slavin, Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center
- Valerie Spencer, Transcend Empowerment Institute
  - Joey Terrell, AIDS Healthcare Foundation
  - Kathy Watt, HIV Commission
WHO WE REACHED

People:
In 2008, over 648 people registered to attend the trainings provided. This number does not reflect people who attended multiple trainings (they are only counted once), or people who attended One Gay at a Time or Network and Nosh.

Agencies:
Attendees represent over 194 agencies in LA County (plus 27 participants who left their agency affiliation unidentified). We counted agencies with multiple sites as separate for this number, so that each site would be represented.

Zip Codes:
We provided trainings to agencies located in over 205 L.A. County zip codes (plus 10 unidentified/non-L.A. County)

SOCIAL EVENT ATTENDEES

One Gay at a Time II was a first-come, first-serve event held at LAGLC’s The Village Renburg Theater. Over 180 people registered.

Recovery homes and residential treatment programs which provide services to LGBT clients were invited to book blocks of seats for their clients.

Almost 3 hours later and hardly anyone left to go smoke? That’s how good the comics were!

We did not maintain a registration list at Network & Nosh as we were not providing certificates of attendance, CEUs or HIV training hours. It was an open-house, and people came throughout the day. We had over 20 presentations.
HIV DATF MEMBERSHIP

There are many ways to be involved with the Task Force, with varying levels of responsibility and commitment. If you agree with our mission statement, there is a place for you in the Task Force.

General Membership

General membership entitles you to attend our trainings, join our email list, and access the multitude of resources available on the website. There are no further responsibilities associated with this level of membership. To obtain general membership, all you need to do is to join the website (yahoogroup) or attend a meeting or training and sign up. General membership allows you to vote any time there is a vote.

The HIV DATF meets  
the first Wednesday of every month  
from 9:30am to 11:30am  
at Precious Blood Church  
435 South Occidental Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Unless we are holding a training. Training locations vary.

Active Membership (Committee Work)

Advocacy Committee:
The Advocacy Committee is an organic, grass-roots arm of the Task Force. The agenda is set by the committee, and not the Steering Committee. Decisions about what issues to tackle and how to tackle them are made by the Committee itself. To join this arm, please attend an advocacy meeting

- Daniel Rivas, AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- Mark Hufford, Twin Town Treatment Centers
- Tim Young, Asian-Pacific AIDS Intervention Team

Steering Committee & Training Committee:
The HIV DATF Steering Committee represents the core group of people who take care of everything the Task Force does, from training logistics to the web site. This small group of people does a tremendous amount of work over the course of a year. The Committee is responsible for planning future trainings, locating speakers, working up appropriate curricula and creating the training agendas. This committee is great if you have an interest in continuing education.

The Steering Committee meets  
the last Friday of every month  
from 10am to noon  
at Behavioral Health Services, Inc.  
6838 West Sunset Blvd.,  
Los Angeles, CA 90028

The meetings are open to anyone who wishes to participate. 2007 active members of the Steering Committee are:

- Cinderella Barrios-Cernik, ADPA
- Farina Dary, LAGLC
- Christine Downs, Cri-Help, Inc.
- Susan Forrest, BHS CASC
- Kathy Watt, Van Ness House

HIV DATF WEBSITE AND LISTSERV

Susan Forrest maintains the listserv and website. There is also a MySpace page (http://www.myspace.com/hivdatf). The yahoogroup & site started in April of 2003 and have grown steadily since that time. The listserv is extremely active. The listserv is used by CASC and by service providers and community members. Events are posted. News items and articles are shared. Providers who need assistance with referrals can post their query and will receive – usually immediately – multiple responses. Agencies that have slots available post this information as well. In 2007 there were 1,073 unique posts – none of them spam (the listserv is moderated), or an average of 89 posts per month. There are currently 325 registered members on the yahoogroup, and over 600 people on a non-yahoo email list. Joining the group (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hivdatfla) provides access to all of the resources on the website, in addition to being able to read and post to the listserv.
These trainings are subject to change. Please join our listserv or check the website regularly for locations, speakers and other information.

Feb  Alcohol & HIV in 3 Unique Communities: Native American, Skid Row Residents, Lesbian and Gay
Mar  HIV Beyond "101": Mental Health, Substance Abuse Medical Issues
Apr  Harm Reduction, TB and Hepatitis
May  Heroin and HIV
Jun  TranSolutions III substance use, addiction, treatment and recovery in transgender & genderqueer communities
Jul  Los Angeles County Resources forum and resource fair
Sep  PCP and HIV
Oct  Addictions: Gambling, Shopping and Sex
Nov  Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse
Dec  Network & Nosh IV Annual party for all LA County Task Force participants, service providers and advocates to... “network & nosh” or “eat ‘n meet”

OTHER LOS ANGELES COUNTY TASK FORCES

Boyle Hts/ELA Commmty Coalition 3rd Wednesday of the month 1:30pm – 3:00pm Comunidad Cesar Chavez 207 N Breed St LA CA 90033 Kris Freed 323.264.1114 or kfreed@lafh.org
Case Management Task Force 3rd Wednesday of the month 10:00am Gloria Urbina, 818-988-6335
Harm Reduction Collaborative 1:00-3:00 pm 1st Friday of the month HHCLA 512 E. 4th Street Los Angeles, CA 90013 Meeting day may sometimes change. Meghan Ralston 213-382-6400 mralston@drugpolicy.org, Michael Marquesen, michael@cleanneedlesnow.org
Hep C Task Force for LA County 3rd Wednesday of the month 1:30pm-3:30pm HHCLA 2330 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90057 Brian Risley, brisley@apla.org, Danny Jenkins, dannyj@cri-help.org
HIV Commission 2nd Thursday of the month 9am – noon St. Anne’s 144 N Occidental Los Angeles, CA 90057
HIV Counseling & Testing T/F 3rd Thursday of the month 1:30pm Tiffany Horton, thorton@laglc.org or 323-993-7351 or Manny Cortez mcortez@tarzanatc.org
HIV Homeless Task Force 4th / last Wednesday of the month 1:00pm – 3:00pm Alegria House 2737 Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90026 Julie Lewis at 323. 454.4217 or julie_lewis@usw.salvationarmy.org ~ meets September – June ~
HIV Incarcerated Task Force last Wednesday of the month 2:00pm – 4:00pm Twin Towers Ron Snyder at ron@healthjustice.net
HIV Mental Health Task Force 2nd Wednesday of the month 9:30am – 11:00am The Village 1125 N. McCadden Place Los Angeles, CA 90038 Jonathan Lynch jlynch-mft@earthlink.net
HIV Prevention Planning Committee (PPC) 1st Thursday of the month 12pm – 4pm St. Anne’s 144 N Occidental Los Angeles, CA 90057
Jail Advocacy Task Force 4th / last Friday of the month 10:00am – 11:30am 1616 Beverly Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90026 Mary Tiedeman 213.977.9500 ext 281 mtiedeman@aclu-sc.org
LA City Human Relations Commission LGBT Advisory Council 4th / last Thursday of the month 10am – 12pm City Hall 16th Floor Susan Forrest 323.461.3161 RSVP for parking*
Overdose Prevention T/F 2nd Thursday of the month 1:000pm-3:000pm Cri-Help 11027 Burbank Blvd. North Hollywood, CA 91601 Contact: Heather Edney at odprevention@gmail.com