

## **Fall 2008**

### ***Draft Minutes***

### **HIV+ Forum**

**Date & Time:** **Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Breakfast 8:30 am to 9:30 am**  
**Meeting 9:30 am to 4:00 pm**

---

The Forum is for HIV positive delegates only.  
The timing of the morning and afternoon breaks will be established on the day.  
*Facilitator: Sheena Campbell*  
*Minutes: J. Evin Jones*

Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8:30       | Registration Opens & Breakfast                                 |
| 9:30-12:00 | <b>Welcome (Chris, Malsah)</b>                                 |
|            | <b>Call to Order/Minute Taker/Housekeeping Issues (Sheena)</b> |
|            | <b>Moment of Silence (Chris)</b>                               |
|            | <b>Review and Adoption of Agenda (Sheena)</b>                  |

#### **History of PAN and the role of the HIV+ Forum (Chris, Malsah)**

1995 – BC AIDS Conference – informal conversation – concern that provincial govt was planning cuts to HIV/AIDS funding  
A meeting happened of advocates, PHA's, etc. and PAN was born  
1<sup>st</sup> success – contributing to an increase in funding by prov govt  
PAN was initially a network with an agency of record (BCPWA, AVI)  
Then PAN became a Society – process of incorporation was time-consuming, etc.  
Most recently the PAN BOD hired an Acting Executive Director – J. Evin Jones. Evin has been involved with HIV/AIDS movement work since 1995. Evin will take the minutes today if folks are good with her being in the room?

Role of the Forum – to ensure that PHA's provide direction to PAN and its work – & to give a provincial mechanism for PHA's to have "a voice"  
Forum – initially, the resolutions that came from the Forum were to go to the General Assembly, and then to the Board of PAN for action.  
Unfortunately, for various reasons, over time, the resolutions were not always acted upon.

---

Comment from Ed S.:

One problem was all the multiple resolutions – BOD could not act upon them all – and their own lack of ability to follow through. Forum needs to simplify and go forward with just a few priorities very strongly. Regional meetings – saw good participation – 3x as many people participated. Website – a wonderful tool for communication. Could be better utilized by PAN.

Comment from Chris/Malsah:

Our desires for today – to have conversations dedicated to ensuring that PHA voice is meaningful w/in PAN. Want an in-depth discussion regarding the Forum – past successes, challenges, etc.

### **Introductions – who is in the room? (Sheena)**

*Questions:*

*Name of your organization?*

*Last book that you read or the last movie that you saw?*

*What is the best thing they ever experienced at a PAN Forum?*

*What is the one thing they would never want to experience again at a PAN Forum?*

Kevin K., ASK Wellness Centre, Kamloops  
Sheena C., PAN Facilitator  
Gerald S., Vancouver Native Health Society, Vancouver  
Leyanna S., Vancouver Native Health Society, Vancouver  
Rod R., Vancouver Native Health Society, Vancouver  
Ron K., ANKORS, Nelson  
Ken B., BCPWA Society, Vancouver  
Ed S., Victoria AIDS Resources Community Services (VARCS), Victoria  
John C., Consumers Board, Vancouver  
Maura, Consumers Board, Vancouver  
Juanita M., Consumers Board, Vancouver  
Chuck O., South Fraser Community Services, Surrey  
Sandy L., Red Road HIV/AIDS Network Society, Vancouver  
Bonny R., ANKORS, East Kootenays  
Patience C., BCPWA, Vancouver  
Heather M., ASK Wellness Centre, Kamloops  
Randy B., Society of Intravenous Drug Users (SOLID), Victoria  
Mike H., Vancouver Island PWA Society, Victoria  
David N., ANKORS, Nelson  
Rodney L.M., Healing Our Spirit BC Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Network, Vancouver  
Tammy L., Positive Living North West Society, Smithers  
Alison P., Positive Living North, Prince George  
Darryl M., McLaren Housing Society, Vancouver  
Jennifer M., PAPBC, Vancouver  
Peggy F., Southern Gulf Islands AIDS Society, Salt Spring Island  
Margarite S., Southern Gulf Islands AIDS Society, Salt Spring Island  
Glyn T., BCPWA Society, Vancouver  
Dakota D., Friends For Life, Vancouver  
Darren L., Friends For Life, Vancouver

---

Richard O'D., AIDS Vancouver, Vancouver  
Kath W., Positive Women's Network, Vancouver  
Malsah, South Fraser AIDS Services Society, Surrey  
Chris M., Living Positive Resource Centre, Kelowna

### **Presentation of Ontario AIDS Network (OAN) video on their "Leadership Development Program offered for People with HIV/AIDS"**

Comment from Chris/Malsah:

Rick Kennedy – the ED of Ontario AIDS Network – will be presenting at the General Assembly tomorrow on the OAN and the Leadership Training; also, tomorrow morning there will be an Interactive Cafe on the *Future of the HIV/AIDS Movement in BC*

### **Small Group Work**

*What are the responsibilities of PHA's at PAN?*

*What do you need to know/learn to fulfil that responsibility?*

*How would you like to gather that knowledge?*

### **Glyn T.'s Report back:**

- We had a very animated conversation in our group.
- Reaffirmation that people who come here are the voice of PHA's from their region.
- We have to do a better job of mentoring. New folks need to be made to feel welcome at PAN.
- More flexibility – for PHA's to come and observe what we are doing here.
- Action Wise, we need to revert to a lot of low cost advocacy mechanisms that have worked well in the past, i.e. space for support groups.
  
- Positive Forum – good camaraderie, we need to use the Forum to its best advantage.
- Regionally, people have more reliance on their local groups.
  
- What is working?
- Things need to continue with an HIV focus.
- Folks feel that when they go back to their communities, those things/their priorities are not being heard. PHAs feel disenfranchised when they go back to their regions/organizations.
  
- Member organizations have lost a lot of people because we are not relevant anymore. Our agencies target specific groups and don't look at the bigger picture any more. There are other things we could be doing that don't cost a lot of money. But they are being overlooked by agencies because they aren't things that can be "sold".
- How much of the \$ at our organizations actually goes to direct services? Agencies seem to be secretive about where the \$ is going.
- PHA's want proper involvement. Namely: "GIPA – Greater Involvement of Persons Living with AIDS"

Comment from Sheena:

---

Also MIPA, meaningful involvement of PHA's – also PHA's need the skills so they can effect meaningful change and involvement.

#### Glyn T.'s Report Back, cont:

- That is why the need better mentoring. Ensure that people with experience and wisdom pass that along to the “next generation”.
- Pre PAN – there was a provincial health ministers committee on HIV. When that was dissolved, we lost a lot of our landscape (as we became a subsection of mental health and addictions). This has been problematic. It is not HIV anymore it is also these other things. Hope was that PAN would address that, keep HIV at the forefront.
- The Forum – this is an important part of community for folks, especially those in rural settings. Meaningful for folks living with HIV/AIDS to meet with each other, connect, etc.
- PAN should not be heavy handed around PHA's having to attend all the meetings, or a whole day of long meetings. Barriers...there are many that have issues around having to sit for long periods of time. Need to break things up more. There are issues for folks and why they can't be at the full meeting. Child care – this is another barrier to look at.
- We need training for PHAs into how to hold our agencies accountable and how to prevent being token presences there. One PAN-example, how to make sure there is an HIV+ voice at the General Assembly i.e. ED (assuming they are not positive) arrives and they vote (versus PHA delegate).

#### Richard O'D.'s Report Back:

- The folks at our table want to see PAN provide public speaking and communication skills. As well as networking skills. Also, how to foster empathy amongst ourselves, awareness that by listening to and acknowledging other people's stories/realities, that doesn't make my story any less important.
- PHAs need to be provided the info and skills to increase their ability to identify the key issues – to look at the bigger picture and be able to identify the top priorities.

#### Malsah's Report Back:

- Responsibilities of PHAs at PAN – to find ways to work together; to be knowledgeable about their own organization and their community and the issues; learning and finding out about gaps in services; to advocate on issues that are of importance; to be a leader; to learn and to get educated; to provide insight and the experience of living with HIV particularly to non-positive folk.

Comment from Kevin K.:

PHAs are not just taking on HIV/AIDS but they are having to take on the housing issue, the drug issue, etc.

Comment from Peggy F.:

Organizations are getting less funding. And agencies are keeping staff and cutting services just so they can keep the staff.

Comment from Ed S.:

Use communications tools, i.e. the e-news, website (work in progress) - PAN BOD members should also spread the word of PAN.

---

### Malsah's Report Back Cont.:

- And having a willingness to share one's personal story or experience, to provide a broader understanding of living with HIV and what that means.
- ? What do you need to learn or know? Our table said PHAs needed:
  - Peer support
  - Conflict resolution
  - Sensitivity training
  - Advocacy skills
  - Assertiveness training
  - Skills regarding the communication process – i.e. how to effectively engage
  - Public speaking skills
  - Self care
  - Peer support including around addictions
  - On-site, at conference support to folks around not relapsing, etc. We need people at PAN meetings who can provide that support – on site counselling, support services.
  - Mentorship and that PHA's are seen as mentors
  - Mutual support – finding ways to be kind, caring and considerate of each other
- ? How would you like to gather knowledge?
  - Leadership development training
  - Skills building through peer interaction
  - Education days for PHAs
  - Peer support programs
  - Support groups
  - Web based learning – for facts and data

### Chris M.'s Report Back:

- Responsibilities of PHAs at PAN: the need to report back when we go home to our member organizations and our communities; to look at all viewpoints; to look at people as a whole.
- Knowledge: we feel that people have the knowledge but it is a matter of how to deliver it.
- Skills our Table was interested in:
  - Parenting skills (how do PHA's manage issues around disclosure with their children, etc.)
  - How to Gather Information: internet; provide information on PAN members and what they do; provide people with an acronym list.
  - Self-advocacy, and workshops on things like process, i.e. you have a concern ...how does it go from a concern to a completed action?
  - How to write a good letter
- PAN should make sure our mission statement is available to everyone who comes to the Forum/GA/etc.

? from Sheena:

Let's look at the role of the PAN member organization/agency in preparing all delegates to attend PAN conferences/events, PHA or non-PHA. Is it happening and if not, why aren't those mechanisms happening with the organization?

Comment from Allison P.:

That is definitely not happening!

---

Comment from Rodney L.M.:

The host organization does not have the time to train the delegates. PHAs need an extra day when coming to the conference.

Comment from Kevin K.:

How many people have actually been told by their organization why we are coming to PAN?

Comment from Chuck O:

Or how PAN operates? What happens at a GA? An AGM?

Comment from Chris M:

Perhaps ask delegates if this is your first visit to PAN, is there a buddy or mentor you would like to sit with? And if you are in a position to be a buddy, then who can I mentor?

Comment from Sheena:

I know in the past PAN tried to have orientation sessions for the Forum the night before...not very many people would attend.

Comment from Malsah:

This was seen as a more social opportunity.

Comment from Mike H:

Folks should attend skills first – and get oriented – then come to the more business meetings.

Comment from Chris M.:

Let's not re-invent the wheel. I.e. BCPWA has a retreat at Loon Lake – is this is something that PAN can partner around? BCPWA could be approached to come in and do leadership training at PAN?

Comment from Malsah:

PAN should create an orientation package and develop tools to assist PHA's to prepare to come to their meetings.

Comment from Tammi L.:

Another skill set I would like to see PHAs provided with is how to evaluate? Evaluation tools.

Comment from Glyn T.:

Another key skill is how do you create good policy at your member organizations? Do we really have meaningful dialogue within the organizations? How to ask some difficult questions. There are agencies out there that don't want to answer these questions. How to hold your organizations accountable. There is a power imbalance and PHAs need some tools to even these things out.

Other Specifics on Skills for Stacy ☺ :

- Leadership skills
  - Communication skills- effectively getting your point across
  - Networking – what is it? How do you do it?
  - Public speaking skills
-

- Facilitation workshop – teaching people how to facilitate their own support groups
- Governance – what is a Board of Directors? What do they do?
- How to get the information and convey the message and have fun while doing it
- Positive gathering – different age group streams
- How to facilitate the forum
- Life skills – how to communicate in a basic manner to a group, these are the things you DO NOT say
- Conflict resolution
- Fashion tips and tofu tangy tastiness
- Cultural integration
- How do we know we are making a difference? – Evaluation of the self and self awareness
- Sensitivity training around the different populations most impacted by HIV/AIDS i.e. cultural differences that if we are not aware of can be hurtful...cross cultural understanding and empathy

Comment from John C.:

PAN just keeps restructuring itself. Strategic Planning, Regional meetings, etc. A lot of people aren't coming. They aren't coming anymore because PAN doesn't do anything for people with HIV/AIDS. Best conferences were when we met out of town, and we brought kids from the communities. That was the one thing that PAN did that was better. Victoria – we marched on the Parliament. Prince George...also a lot of youth there. Suddenly PAN is not inviting youth anymore.

Comment from Sheena:

Because this? was raised just to clarify on who can vote at PAN (General Assembly and AGM).

Every PAN member organization / agency can send two delegates to each provincial meeting. One of these delegates must be a PHA.

Every PAN member organization / agency gets one vote. So two delegates, one vote.

It is up to the PAN member organization to determine who the voting delegate is and how the organization wishes to vote on any issue/resolution.