



Fall 2008

Draft General Assembly minutes

Thursday, October 23rd, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Friday, October 24th, 9:00 am to 12 noon

Facilitator: Sheena Campbell

Thursday, October 23rd

Regional Meeting Reports - Stacy LeBlanc

Joint regional meeting – VCH/PHSA, Northern, Vancouver Island, Fraser, Interior

Highlights: by and large the regional meetings were very well attended. Organizations were able to send more people because the travel/distance was less.

Northern meeting: + Forum – very low attendance. There is a lot going on in people's lives, so the attendance wasn't great.

Looking to future meetings: need to have buy-in from the groups in the region, and develop a session that will work for them. Getting local investment important to make it more relevant.

General evaluation feedback: people liked the sessions, being in their regions and the ability to get into specifics. For many people this was important. They felt like they were being heard, and had the space to talk about their issues in a meaningful way. When we asked the ? About what their purpose for coming to the meeting was, and if we met those expectations, folks generally felt yes. Good feedback on logistics, setting the agenda, etc. A handful of negative comments, folks who did not like the sessions. As a pilot project, which essentially is what it was, it worked well. People responded well to it, etc.

Recommendations:

Regional board reps in any given region need to champion the event – take control, decide on format, agenda, how the meetings are going to look. That didn't happen this year, in part because of low numbers on the PAN BOD. In the future, people need to take ownership of the meeting and decide what they want the meeting to look like.

Facilitator – facilitation is critical. If there is a strong facilitator from the region, then that is who should be facilitating the session.

Agenda – it is the role of the PAN BOD members to meet with the organizations and determine what the agenda should be. This was very well done in the Interior.

PAN needs to do a better job of articulating what it is that PAN does. A lot of people are showing up and forgetting that PAN is a member-based network of organizations. People show up as individuals and want to put individual specific issues on the table for the discussion. Then they end up leaving the meeting disappointed.

Organizations need to take initiative to determine what will work specifically for the region.

Reports will be posted to the website and they also went out in the e-news on October 10th.

Co-Chairs Report

Chris & Malsah - See written document

Remarks from Evin

Acting Executive Director – Verbal report on PAN’s “new directions”, reflections regarding assuming the position of Acting ED for the Network

Rick Kennedy Presentation on OAN Followed by Q&A

**

Friday October 24th

Presentation of New Applications for Membership

Prince George New Hope Society

Sponsor: Positive Living North

Allison Paul spoke to the application. Allison is the Chair of New Hope Society of Prince George. Addressing issues relating to prostitution and sex trade work. New Hope is dedicated to addressing the barriers experienced by women and young women involved in the sex trade. Their focus is working with survival sex workers and sexually exploited youth. A part of this mandate is improving the health status for women and youth living with HIV/AIDS and HCV. Many of the women have not been tested. They are very at risk. Some of these women have children working in the sex trade as well.

Board of PAN has vetted this and recommending them for membership to PAN.

Carried unanimously.

Western Canadian Pediatric AIDS Society – Camp Moomba

Sponsor: YouthCO AIDS Society

Luke Balson spoke to the application. Camp Moomba is dedicating to supporting kids living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Camp Moomba has ongoing programs plus summer and winter camps. Camb Moomba wants to connect with PAN members, and spread the word about Camp Moomba (so kids that PAN member organizations work with can access the camps, etc.)

Board of PAN has vetted this and recommending them for membership to PAN.

Carried unanimously.

Positive Living Fraser Valley Society

Sponsor: BC Persons With AIDS Society.

They are not present in the room. Mark Smith sent his regrets. Ross Harvey, ED of BCPWA therefore spoke to their application/nomination, noting that presently in the entire East Fraser Valley region there is one needle exchange in Chilliwack. That's it for services. PLFV is committed to strong representation of PHA's. A very credible organization, addressing a region where there is a huge need for services (including Abbotsford).

Board of PAN has vetted this and recommending them for membership to PAN.

Carried unanimously.

Question raised by John Cameron regarding PAN membership criteria?

Chris MacKenzie stated that the Board of PAN will be looking at the membership criteria and examining this over the course of the coming year.

John Cameron noted that Mat-Dot, a program of Vancouver Coastal Health wants to become a member of PAN but they don't meet the criteria. Believe that it is what a program does is what matters. Criteria for membership need to be re-examined and be more flexible around that.

Linda Keefe also raised the question of Central Interior Native Health. Are they eligible for membership or not? Chris indicated again this issue would be explored.

PAN's Current Membership Criteria: AIDS mission stated; support the Society's community action principles; organization must have care, prevention, treatment, support, education, advocacy, reduction of vulnerability or harm reduction as one of their goals; demonstrate significant and appropriate representation of people living with HIV disease.

Presentation by Publi Chakraborty, Public Health Services Authority

The PHSA funds a number of community contracts for provincial organizations, including PAN. Great to see the energy in the room and the desire to move towards a new model.

Need to let other organizations know that they are welcome to attend these meetings, i.e. mental health, addictions, poverty groups should ideally be in the room as well.

Challenge for all of us: how to find ways to work more collaboratively including at the funding level. In order to advance the goal of social justice.

Role of PAN – creating that voice on coordinated action and focusing on the policy, etc. for change. Also, improved provincial coordination. Great to see all the different regions represented at these meetings. Thanks to everyone for being here and the new interest.

Funder's intention – to come to PAN to meet you, hear of front-line concerns, etc. You are the "voice on the ground", etc.

Question from Katrina Jensen: this is my 2nd year at PAN. Very heartened by yesterday's presentations. What is the possibility of PAN getting enhanced funding next year, to meet some of these goals, etc?

Publi: Executive of PHSA decides whether or not PAN gets a lift. Funded groups need to be creative. PAN should start with a small chunk of work that can be done. Do it successfully, and then seek additional funding. Small successes then advocate for more funding from there.

Question from Katrina Jensen: by end of fiscal year, or into the next – what kinds of things would you like to see in order for PAN to get enhanced funding?

Bubli: Outcome evaluation working group to better help evaluate successes. Large working group that people are welcome to join and that PAN is a member of. Part of the goal of this group is to make reporting process more efficient. PAN should also explore creating partnerships with mental health and addictions groups. Some of this work is gearing up next month. 09/10 successes could set PAN up for more funding in 10/11.

Question from Buffi Mills: can you give us an update on Renewing Our Response?

Bubli: this is a meeting of the Aboriginal leadership groups. Working for approx 3 years. They will be getting some funding through PHSA, First Nations Health Council and PHAC. They are focused on Aboriginal HIV issues. Open to collaboration with non-Aboriginal organizations as well, such as PAN.

Overall, PHSA tries to coordinate with other funders and make sure that needs are being addresses, i.e. supporting Positive Living Fraser Valley. It is a small pie.

Comment from Malsah: lots of optimism regarding PAN- lots of positive change, a great deal of promise. But PAN needs good board members who are prepared to do some work and also lend some skills.

Forum Report Back – Sheena Campbell

What we worked on during the day was how to ensure that PHA's are a strong voice within PAN and also, at their own member organizations, in their own communities, etc. We asked ourselves the question: How should the time and resources available at PAN best be used by PHA's? Part of what was explored was looking at skills and leadership development opportunities.

Attrition rate was low; the room was engaged in the conversation and openness to making changes. People expressed an appetite for change and for something concrete.

Overview of Board Roles & Responsibilities – Evin Jones

Regional Caucuses & AGM Preparation – Determination of Regional Board Candidates

Announcement of regional deliberations (to be ratified at AGM):

Vancouver Coastal: Darren Lauscher, Stephanie Grant

Provincial Health Services Authority: Marcie Summers, 1 seat to be addressed in future

Interior: Bob Hughes, Chris MacKenzie

Northern: Veronica Bock, 1 seat to be addressed in future

Vancouver Island: Katrina Jenson, Mike Humphries

Fraser: 2 seats to be addressed in future

**

Bob Hughes: called on delegates to acknowledge and honour Malsah and thanked him for the years of dedicated service to PAN

Presentation by Laurie Edmiston, Executive Director, CATIE

CATIE: HIV knowledge exchange broker with a focus on HIV/AIDS prevention. We have received a broad new mandate from the Public Health Agency of Canada. CATIE unfortunately did not receive too much by way of additional resources to handle the enhanced mandate.

Doing more network-based, intensive trainings customized in areas. Also commitment to capacity building – with CATIE making longer term, more sustained commitment.

Desire to be involved with PAN in a more consistent way; along with the other provincial networks. MSM network meeting; POZ prevention have also been identified as priorities

Part of role of knowledge exchange broker – to help exchange knowledge and info b/n service providers. Where a 'Best Practice' and unique program exists in one part of Canada...share that in another part of Canada and provide technical assistance to them to implement their own program.

Also, help link researchers and front-line workers. For example, with regards to treatment info – make it more accessible for folks "in the field". Additionally, take your (community) research priorities and communicate that to researchers. So two way flow of communication. "Facilitating brokerage"

CATIE has taken over the Clearinghouse (as per funder requirements). The Canadian HIV/AIDS Information Centre is now managed by CATIE.

PAN member organizations are invited and encouraged to see what resources are available via CATIE by contacting CATIE directly or checking out the website.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENTATIVE SKILLS BUILDING DATES: Sometime the week of February 23rd (still to be confirmed)

One theme already identified is "leadership"