



PJA Kickoff Call Report
April 30, 2009

For further information, contact Julie Davids, jdavids@champnetwork.org

This call report mostly follows the PJA overview document, "The HIV Prevention Justice Alliance: Building a Unified and Effective Movement for HIV Prevention in the United States," which accompanies these notes. Please refer to it for greater detail as it corresponds to each section of the agenda.

PJA on the web:

[http://www.champnetwork.org/HIV Prevention Justice Alliance](http://www.champnetwork.org/HIV_Prevention_Justice_Alliance)

Link to call recording:

http://media.champnetwork.org/2009/04-April/2009-04-30_PJA_kickoff/2009-04-30.pja.prekickoff.mp3

(1) Introduction

Dazon Dixon Diallo, Executive Director, SisterLove

At the last National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta, giant puzzle pieces loomed above the heads of hundreds of people who gathered outside the conference hotel. When the dozens of pieces of the puzzle came together - ranging from research to gender equity to drug policy reform to economic justice - the crowd cheered and took to the streets calling out for an end to piecemeal HIV/AIDS prevention policies.

The Prevention Justice Mobilization united hundreds of groups across the country in a series of local and national events, including that photogenic and heartfelt rally. We called for leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS and justice in prevention policies, guided by a statement of principles endorsed by over 350 organizations and individuals.

Now, the folks who brought you that Prevention Justice Mobilization are asking organizations to pull together our individual pieces of the puzzle to form a strong, ongoing federation of groups uniting for better HIV prevention policies: the HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (HIV PJA).

For more detail, see page 1 of the PJA Overview document.

Commentary (Dazon)

The phrase “Prevention Justice” explains the intersection of social determinants and social injustice in communities – in different communities, in different ways, in different populations, whether marginalization, oppression, and structural injustices – these ideas all fit in HR framework. How does addressing that via this perspective allow us to make effective prevention interventions that will actually remove HIV from our communities? How do we make paradigm shift together, given all of our individual HIV/AIDS issues we focus on?

SisterLove became a part of this Alliance because it works at the intersection of HIV/AIDS & reproductive justice. SisterLove addresses issues that cannot be addressed through conventional HIV interventions, research (e.g., how to measure social determinants to determine risk versus vulnerability, which needs at least as much resources devoted to this topic as have been invested in researching behavioral approaches since the beginning of the epidemic.

(2) What is the HIV Prevention Justice Alliance?

Julie Davids, Senior Consultant, CHAMP

Julie guided callers through pages 2 - 4 of the overview, focusing on the 2007 Prevention Justice Mobilization, PJA collaborators, a quick overview of communications messages and materials, and PJA membership structure -- including membership requirements and opportunities.

Discussion

Amber Hollibaugh: How do members determine practical steps for paradigm shift and other goals - how will get this done?

Julie: PJA members will participate to structure steps to accomplish the policy goals in three major ways: (1) Quarterly working calls; (2) email discussion listserv lists; and (3) ad hoc communications with staff supporting the PJA.

(3) Progress to Date: A Response to our Letter to the National HIV Prevention Conference (Dazon)

Dazon reviewed the first public action undertaken by the PJA in February 2009, when the PJA sent an open letter to the co-chairs of the 2009 National HIV

Prevention Conference. It was endorsed by 223 organizations and 423 individuals from 39 states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and it called for cross-government participation in the conference.

In April 2009, the NHPC responded to our requests. The outcomes included a plenary on the Future of HIV Prevention with representatives from federal agencies; a Town Hall Meeting with congressional representatives and community members; increased efforts to reach out to federal agencies beyond HHS; and possible open discussions with leaders from multiple federal agencies.

The letters are available for download on the PJA website:

- Feb 2009 Letter to NHPC:
http://www.champnetwork.org/files/media/PJA_NHPC_Open_Letter.pdf
- April 2009 Response from the NHPC:
http://www.champnetwork.org/files/media/NHPC_Response_to_CHAMP_090406.pdf

This is a nice-sized win (not huge but not small).

The National HIV Prevention Conference is set for August 23-26, 2009 in Atlanta.

NHPC Website: <http://www.2009nhpc.org/>

Discussion:

Waheedah Shabazz-El suggested that we ask in a follow-up letter that the town hall meeting be recorded and that a transcript be provided, so we can hold people accountable to what they promise.

Dazon seconded this idea and suggests that, in addition, the PJA should be prepared to document the proceedings ourselves, in order to hold our leaders accountable.

Julie noted it is important to approach directly the other relevant and intersecting branches and departments of the government that did not respond to the letter.

Waheedah asked what the Justice, Labor and other departments would do at the conference, and if the NGO village will be open to the residents of city of Atlanta not registered to conference?

Dazon and Julie confirmed that the NGO Village would remain open to the

community. Opening the NGO Village was a win from the 2007 Prevention Justice Mobilization.

Dazon suggested the PJA follow-up to determine what other agencies are submitting workshops.

Julie confirmed that we would ask for clarification and point out that late-breaker abstracts can still be submitted. It is important that the agencies are involved in name and in open meetings and other venues to be accountable to questions from the community about how they will address different pieces of the HIV prevention puzzle.

The late-breaker abstracts are due May 15.

Julie confirmed that the PJA has reserved a meeting space for every morning and evening of the NHPC for meet-ups of the Alliance

(4) Moving Forward

Launching Membership: Julie

The HIV PJA will formally issue a call for membership on June 1.

We are seeking organizations and individuals of all types to join the HIV PJA. To become members, organizations must endorse the Prevention Justice Statement of Principles. We ask for dues according to a sliding fee scale, but scholarships are also available.

Membership Dues for Organizations:

Organizational Budget	Annual Dues	Monthly Dues
Less than \$100,000	\$25	
>\$100,000 - 250,000	\$50	
>\$250,000 - \$500,000	\$100	\$10
>\$500,000 - \$2 Million	\$250	\$25
>\$2 Million - \$ 5 Million	\$500	\$50
>\$5 Million - \$10 Million	\$1000	\$100
>\$10 Million - \$15 Million	\$2000	\$200
>\$15 M, Health Departments	\$3000	\$300

Organizations that are unable to afford dues can request partial or full scholarships. Please contact us if you would like to join but need alternative payment framework.

Between April 30 - June 1, organizations can join as founding members. If your organization would like to join as a founding member, contact Julie Davids, jdavids@champnetwork.org, 212-937-7955, ext. 70.

Proposed Policy Goals June 2009 - May 2010

David Munar, Vice President for Policy, AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC)

AFC was a convener of the 2007 Prevention Justice Mobilization, which was an important step in promoting the National AIDS Strategy. The National AIDS Strategy is an important tool to help us leverage goals around social determinants, better prevention outcomes and collaboration across different Federal agencies and departments.

David reviewed policy goals laid out in the PJA overview document, beginning on page 4.

The broad policy goals fall into three major areas.

- Need: paradigm shift in HIV prevention
- Method: leverage targeted research to generate data we need to make the case around social determinants
- Strategy: move forward on advocacy around cross-governmental collaboration

This is not a final product - it is stamped "draft" in every section - and the PJA will work with partners and members to fill in these policy goals with greater detail moving forward. These goals are up for discussion. PJA will talk to members and identify issues and opportunities to fulfill PJA goals.

The PJA should be used as a way to "fill in the gaps." Allies are already organizing important HIV/AIDS issues. For example, the PJA will support the robust AIDS housing movement and does not want to duplicate those efforts.

David reviewed the proposed steps to achieve the proposed goal for each policy goal detailed in the overview document.

Discussion:

Caller from Phoenix expressed concern about not seeing discussion of undocumented populations and their special needs for and barriers to HIV prevention.

David clarified that this is a priority, but it falls under the PJA concept of non-duplication. The PJA does not want to duplicate the National Latino AIDS Action Agenda, but wants to support its inclusive process and its very comprehensive action plan. Supporting efforts to lift the HIV entry ban are another critical area to support. Through these efforts, we can articulate the needs of undocumented communities as well as Latinos in poverty, or who are gay, bisexual and transgender (which are communities that have research needs).

Larry from Harm Reduction Institute, Indianapolis expressed a concern about lifting the ban on syringe exchange. The harm reduction wants to play a role in all aspects of implementation of lifting the ban and rules regulating syringe exchange going forward.

David responded that it is his hope that when the ban is lifted that monies flow into grassroots harm reduction infrastructure. The PJA would turn to the Harm Reduction field and learn from them what can we do to support efforts to ensure regulations to the rules once the ban is lifted are informed by experts on harm reduction and syringe exchange. We don't want to lose the expertise and relationships with IDU communities. This is an example in which the PJA wants to leverage the networks and not duplicate efforts.

Jeanne Bergman raised the issue of another candidate for paradigm shift – or rather, the antithesis of the one the PJA advocates – which is the idea that everyone is equally at risk of HIV and we need to do routine HIV testing for everyone in the United States. This position is really complicated...it is misguided medically and economically...and it is supported by many in the movement, including people of color HIV organizations. This issue has the capacity to split movement, especially around women and HIV. We really need to grapple with this issue.

David suggested that this is great subject for future call. As the epidemic becomes more entrenched in certain populations, how do we how do we reconcile that with calls for routine screening? Though this approach is valuable for those who don't know they are at risk for HIV, how do we do this in a way that does not shortchange populations the needs of populations most at risk? This is a difficult issue for which we do not yet have a strong critical analysis.

This is indeed important for women affected by HIV and in communities of color advocacy organizations.

Dazon agreed that this is a great topic for future call. Regarding the observation that it is especially pushed from people of color communities, it is important to clarify in the conversations that we understand that the Waters legislation, for instance, is more about the lack of health insurance coverage for testing.

Charles Long applauds the PJA for reaching out to allies that are doing the work. How will we identify members and include them in the PJA?

Julie responded that membership in the PJA is more than simply signing up. Through the member organizations and key contacts, the PJA wants members to recruit other members for meetings and mobilizations. Local people know who should be involved at the grassroots levels, and they will drive grassroots membership drives and set goals to engage local contacts. Also, through quarterly briefing packets, members will receive tools, such as PowerPoints and backgrounders, to conduct town meetings and briefings at local levels. The idea is not only to pass on information, but, importantly, to solicit input to guide the PJA.

Marcelo from NYC suggests that the PJA make an explicitly effort to include PLWHA, who as major stakeholders should be a part of PJA dialogue.

Dazon is in absolute agreement. The PJA structure is to engage the community at the organizational level. The PJA specifically wants organizational members who include PLWHA. The PJA, however, is open to plan a process for individuals to become active in the PJA. Individuals might receive information to mobilize people in their communities to engage people with same principles of the PJA.

David also responded that PLWHAs are already embedded within the PJA. The PJA will engage a broad spectrum of the community, and there is no implicit or explicit exclusion. The PJA's tools and work will build off of existing movements, which must include PLWHA. PLWHAs are here, and our roles are highly valued.

Julie explained that one of the roles in the PJA is for people to be key contacts, and we that hope many will be PLWHA – since the beginning this movement, PLWHA leadership has been strong.

Next call: May 27, 2:00 – 3:30 pm EDT

Speaker is Lynn Todman, Director of Adler Institute of Social Exclusion, and is on the core faculty of the Adler School of Social Psychology, Chicago. Her areas of interest are urban poverty and community development. She is particularly interested in ways in which social, economic and political structures systematically marginalize urban populations. She gets it around critical intersections we have identified in the PJA. We are excited about the call!

Your input and questions are welcome!