

**Open Letter to Co-Chairs and Coordinator of the
2009 National HIV Prevention Conference:**

February 24, 2009

Kevin A. Fenton, MD, PhD, FFPH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Bob Kohmescher, MS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Ms. Beverly Watts Davis, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Richard J. Wolitski, PhD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Dear Drs. Fenton and Wolitski, Ms. Watts Davis and Mr. Kohmescher,

Barack Obama's election as the 44th President of the United States signals a renewed commitment to efficient government guided by science in the development of public policy. His plans to develop and implement a National AIDS Strategy (NAS) sends a bold message to maximize the federal government's resources in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the United States. To that end, we support the goals of an NAS oriented around measurable outcomes, an actionable plan to achieve results, and greater coordination across agencies.

Achieving President Obama's vision of a NAS can begin immediately by approaching HIV prevention in a broad context with the full force and authority of the federal government.

For this reason, the HIV Prevention Justice Alliance urgently requests that the 2009 National HIV Prevention Conference take deliberate steps to include sessions and discussions from a broad array of relevant federal agencies and departments beyond CDC and beyond the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

As a national conference, NHPC must strive to advance HIV prevention with the full force of the federal government. The conference should emphasize cross-governmental collaboration for HIV prevention to achieve this vision.

We applaud that this year's conference co-sponsors includes the Food and Drug Administration, the Indian Health Service, National Institutes of Health, and the Offices of Minority Health, Population Affairs, and Women's Health – all of which are part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

However, we note that key government agencies or departments with relevant roles in HIV prevention are not currently co-sponsors, including the Administration for Children and Families, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Justice, Department of Education, Department of Labor, the Domestic Policy Council, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

As community partners, we urge you to please consider the following to ensure a broad-base government approach to advance HIV prevention:

1. Inclusion in conference planning and conference proceedings of officials from all government agencies with relevant HIV prevention activities, as well as full participation of all relevant divisions of HHS.

2. Government agency cosponsors should have meaningful roles at the conference. Their involvement must not be in name only.
3. Provision of a “cross-cutting theme” at the conference focused on intergovernmental coordination in HIV prevention.
4. At least one open meeting with conference attendees and officials from relevant government agencies.

The HIV Prevention Justice Alliance is coordinated by Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP) in collaboration with AIDS Foundation of Chicago and SisterLove. We promote unity in the AIDS community on the demands for leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS and for justice in HIV prevention policies. We understand that HIV prevention involves a large range of social determinants and public policies, some of which are outside of the mandate of CDC. We encourage the NHPC planners to take the lead on using this year’s conference as an opportunity to expand the government’s response through a more effective integrated approach.

As you know, we joined hundreds of allies to coordinate a series of events in 2007, called the Prevention Justice Mobilization, that included a vibrant rally and march through Atlanta during the conference itself. The HIV Prevention Justice Alliance has been a catalyst for community based organizations and prevention advocates to be more integrated and unified in our efforts to effect change in prevention policies. We need federal agencies to better employ a similar strategy.

We look forward to engaging with you on this year’s conference, and thank you for your commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)
SisterLove

on behalf of 223 organizations and 423 individuals from 39 states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands:

A Brave New Day, Jackson MS
A Family Affair, Orangeburg, SC
ACT UP Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA
Action Cycling Atlanta and the AIDS Vaccine 200 Decatur, GA
AECOM-DOSA, Bronx, NY
African American Office of Gay Concerns, Newark NJ
African Services Committee, New York NY
AIDS Action Baltimore, Baltimore MD
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Boston MA
AIDS Action, Washington DC
AIDS Affects Us All, Ojai CA
AIDS Alabama, Birmingham AL
AIDS Alliance for Faith and Healing, Atlanta GA
AIDS Education Global Information System, San Juan Capistrano CA
AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago IL
AIDS Global Action, New York NY
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Chicago IL
AIDS Project Hartford, Hartford CT

AIDS Project Los Angeles, Los Angeles CA
AIDS Project Rhode Island, Providence RI
AIDS Resource Alliance, Williamsport PA
AIDS Services of Austin, Austin TX
AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland OH
AIDS Treatment Activist Coalition (ATAC), Van Nuys CA/ New York NY
AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC), New York NY
AIDStruth, New York NY
Alliance of AIDS Services Carolina, Raleigh NC
Allies Linked for the Prevention of HIV and AIDS (a.l.p.h.a.) Boise ID
Alternative Therapy, Little River SC
Ambiente Magazine, Miami Beach FL
American Medical Student Association, Reston VA
Aniz Inc. / TILTT, Atlanta GA
Aniz, Inc, Atlanta GA
APC Community Services, Brooklyn NY
Aspirations Wholistic Tutorial Services, Baton Rouge LA
Atkins House, York PA
Austin Health Center of Cook County, Chicago CA
Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, Roanoke VA
Brighter Beginnings, Oakland CA
Bronx AIDS Services, Bronx NY
Brother 2 Brother, Inc., Spencer NC
CAEAR Coalition, Washington DC
California Black Women's Health Project, Inglewood CA
CAVDA, Mt. Prospect IL
CCSF, San Francisco CA
Center for Sex and Culture, San Francisco CA
CHAIN (Community HIV/Hepatitis Advocates of Iowa Network), Des Moines IA
Chicago Women's AIDS Project, Chicago IL
Children with AIDS Project of America, Tempe AZ
Citiwide Harm Reduction, Bronx NY
Common Ground – the Westside HIV Community Center, Santa Monica CA
Community Education Group, Washington DC
Community Health Improvement Center, Decatur IL
Community Healthcare Network, New York NY
Concilio Latino de Salud, Inc, Phoenix AZ
Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition, Hartford CT
Conscious Contact of New York, Inc., New York NY
Copasetic Women Over 50, New York NY
Dandypants Films, San Francisco CA
Department of Community Health Sciences, UCLA School of Public Health, Los Angeles CA
Desert AIDS Project, Palm Springs CA
Desiree Alliance, Henderson NV
Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, Detroit MI
East Los Angeles Women's Center, Los Angeles CA
Entre Hermanos, Seattle WA
Exponents, New York NY
Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network, Santa Rosa CA
Fan Free Clinic, Inc., Richmond VA
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research, Brooklyn NY
Gay and Lesbian Dominican Empowement Organization, New York NY

Gay Men of African Descent, New York NY
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York NY
Georgia Equality, Atlanta GA
Georgia Rural Urban Summit, Decatur, GA
Global Campaign for Microbicides, Washington DC
Global Justice Ministry, Metropolitan Community Churches, New York NY
Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS North America, Washington DC
Harlem United Community AIDS Center, New York NY
Health GAP, New York NY
Healthcare Responses, Inc, Birmingham AL
HealthReach Harm Reduction, Augusta ME
Healthy University/HIV University, Kansas City MO
Hepatitis, AIDS, Research Trust, Florence CO
Hispanic AIDS Forum, Inc, NYC NY
HIV Databases, Los Alamos NM
HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County, Oakland CA
HIV Law Project, New York NY
HIV/AIDS Law Project, Phoenix AZ
HIV/AIDS Services for African Americans in Alaska, Anchorage AK
HIV/AIDS Volunteer Enrichment Network, Inc. (HAVEN), Arnold MD
HIVictorious, Inc., Madison WI
HOLA, Bronx NY
Howard Brown Health Center, Chicago IL
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, New Brunswick NJ
IDU Health Alliance, New York NY
In The Life Ministries, Bronx NY
Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies, New Orleans LA
International AIDS Empowerment, El Paso TX
International Foundation for Alternative Research in AIDS (IFARA) Portland OR
International Women's Health Coalition, Washington DC
Internet Interventions, Inc, Chelsea MA
Intersect Worldwide, New York NY
Iris House, Inc, New York NY
Kupona Strategic Consulting, LLC, Chicago IL
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, Los Angeles CA
LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland OH
LGBT Health Resource Center, Philadelphia PA
Liberty Research Group, Rochester NY
Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Seattle WA
Living Room, Inc., Atlanta GA
Longview Wellness Center, Longview TX
Louisiana Latino Health Coalition for HIV/AIDS Awareness, Baton Rouge/New Orleans LA
Love Heals: the Alison Gertz Foundation for AIDS Education, Brooklyn NY
Love in Motion-Global, Plantation FL
McLean County Aids Task Force, Bloomington IL
Men of Color Health Awareness Project Inc., Pennsauken NJ
Metro Teen AIDS, Washington DC
Metropolitan Community Churches Global HIV/AIDS Ministry, San Francisco CA
Metropolitan Community Churches, Sarasota FL
Michigan Positive Action Coalition (MI-POZ), Detroit MI
Ministerio Esperanza De Vida, Inc., Orlando FL
Mujeres Unidas Contra el SIDA, San Antonio TX

Nashville CARES, Nashville TN
National AIDS Housing Coalition, Washington DC
National Association of People Living with AIDS (NAPWA), Silver Springs MD
National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition (NBGMAC), Washington DC
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN), Brooklyn NY
National Women's Health Network, Washington DC
New Age Services Corporation, Chicago IL
New Concepts Support Services, Bronx NY 2
New Jersey Association on Correction, Trenton NJ
New Mexico AIDS Services, Albuquerque NM
New Phoenix Assistance Center, Chicago IL
New York AIDS Coalition (NYAC), New York NY
New York City AIDS Housing Network, Brooklyn NY
New York Harm Reduction Educators, Bronx NY
Nia's Ark, High Point NC
Nightsweats & T-cells, Co, Cleveland OH
NY Presbyterian Hospital, New York NY
Okaloosa AIDS Support and Information Services, Ft. Walton Beach FL
Open Door Clinic, North Aurora IL
PAB 1917 Clinic, Birmingham AL
PAC, Garden City GA
Pacientes de SIDA pro Politica Sana, San Juan PR
Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services of South Carolina (PALSS), Columbia SC
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative, Chicago IL
Penn Center for AIDS Research, Philadelphia PA
Pierce County AIDS Foundation, Tacoma WA
Positive East Tennesseans, Maryville TN
POZ Magazine, New York, NY
Prevention Point Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA
Prevention Rocks!, Franklin NC
Project Inform, San Francisco CA
Project Vida, Chicago IL
PROJECT: MALE, Fresno CA
Proyecto SOL, Philadelphia PA
Pueblo Family Physicians, Phoenix AZ
PULSE, Spanish Fort AL
PWA Coalition Tampa Bay Inc, Tampa FL
Recovery 2000, Chicago IL
Red Hispana Florida, Fort Lauderdale FL
Regional Addiction Prevention (RAP), Inc., Washington DC
Regional HIV/AIDS Consortium, Charlotte NC
Renew, Providence RI
Request It, LLC, Washington DC
RH Reality Check, Seattle WA
River Fund Inc, Sebastian FL
Riverside Church HIV/AIDS Ministry, New York NY
Ryan White Part A Council, Las Vegas NV
SafeGuards Project, Philadelphia PA
San Antonio AIDS Foundation, San Antonio TX
San Francisco AIDS Foundation, San Francisco CA
Search For A Cure, Cambridge MA
Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP), San Francisco CA

Smith College's Student Global AIDS Campaign, Northampton MA
Smith Student Global AIDS Campaign, Cold Spring NY
Southern AIDS Commission, Inc., Greenville MS
Span Inc, Boston MA
Special Health Resources for Texas, Inc., Longview TX
St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction, Bronx NY
Status C Unknown, Medford NY
STOP AIDS Project, San Francisco CA
Straight Up Peer Educators!, Woonsocket RI
Street Works, Nashville TN
Tennessee Association of People with AIDS (TAPWA), Nashville TN
TERROS, Inc., Phoenix AZ
Test Positive Aware Network, Chicago IL
The AIDS LIFE Campaign, Hartford, CT
The Guardian Inc, Orlando FL
The Lambda Letters Project, Sacramento CA
The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation, San Francisco CA
The Women's Center/Montefiore Medical Center, New York NY
The Women's Collective, Washington DC
The Woodhull Freedom Foundation, Washington DC
Trans-health Information Project, Philadelphia PA
Transdiaspora Network, Inc., Brooklyn NY
Transgender Training and Advocacy, Hinesburg VT
Translate Gender, Northampton MA
Treatment Action Group (TAG), New York NY
TruthAIDS, Philadelphia PA
Tulsa C.A.R.E.S., Tulsa OK
Turning Point, Brooklyn NY
U.S. Positive Women's Network (U.S. PWN), Oakland CA
UCHAPS: Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services, Washington DC
United Bronx Parents, Inc., Bronx NY
United Community Centers, Brooklyn NY
Unity Coalition|Coalicion Unida, Miami FL
Universal Family Connection, Inc., Chicago IL
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago IL
Village Care New York, New York NY
Visual AIDS, New York NY
Voix La Tortue, Miami FL
Washington Heights CORNER Project, New York City NY
Wheelerave Baptist, Houston TX
Who's Positive, Charlottesville VA
Women At Risk, Culver City CA
Women Together for Change, Kingshill VI
Women With a Vision, New Orleans LA
WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Disease), Oakland CA
WORTH, New York NY

Cc: Melody Barnes, Domestic Policy Advisor; Jonathan Mermin, MD, MPH, Centers for Disease Control