

Get Screened Oakland: The Highlights

Mayor Dellums addresses Global Business Coalition at U.S. HIV Initiative Meeting

(May 6, 2009) Mayor Ronald V. Dellums delivered the luncheon address at the first U.S. HIV Impact Initiative meeting of the Global Business Coalition (GBC) on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The meeting took place in New York City at the National Basketball Association (NBA) corporate headquarters. Joining Mayor Dellums in NYC were Marsha Martin, Director of Get Screened Oakland, and Abby Ginzberg of Ginzberg Video Productions, who is the community founder of Get Screened Oakland.

The Global Business Coalition (GBC) comprises representatives from leading U.S. businesses, multi-national corporations, worldwide media conglomerates, pharmaceutical companies and corporate and private foundations. It is the pre-eminent private sector organization in the global fight to address the world's most vexing global health issues: HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

The goal of the U.S. HIV initiative is to galvanize companies to engage in collective corporate action on HIV in the United States. Mayor Dellums was invited to speak at the GBC following the May 2009 Oakland Economic Summit. Among the summit attendees were GBC CEO John Tedstrom and John Newsome, Senior Director of the U.S. HIV Impact Initiative.

The U.S. HIV Impact Initiative meeting had a full agenda. Congresswoman Barbara Lee gave opening remarks and encouraged those attending to examine the implications of the demographics of the U.S. HIV epidemic and address the disparities in access to care and information. Kevin Fenton, MD, Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) gave an update of the U.S. epidemic. Phill Wilson, Executive Director of The Black AIDS Institute, gave an overview of the state of AIDS in the nation's African American community.

Following the opening remarks and updates, the meeting turned a spotlight on HIV in two U.S. cities: Washington, DC and New York, NY.

Shannon Hader, MD, head of the DC HIV/AIDS Administration, presented an overview of the DC epidemic. Calling it a modern epidemic, Dr. Hader said the trends in Washington's epidemic are distinctive from HIV trends nationally. In DC, the demographic variability of HIV cases is greater than it is nationally. DC's epidemic has large numbers of positive heterosexual adults, late testers and older adults. Between the years 2003 and 2007, 7,432 new HIV/AIDS cases were reported. And, in 2007, the city's overall prevalence rate was 3%. Washington launched a municipal screening program in 2006. Since then, the program's activities have included a "1 million condoms" distribution program with more than 250 partners, a new harm reduction syringe exchange program, and expanded access to HIV medications through the local AIDS Drugs Assistance Program.

Monica Sweeney, MD, Assistant Commissioner of the NYC Department of Health, spoke about the NYC epidemic and shared data from a "handwritten surveillance report from 6-29-82 with a total of 233 [infections]." The report documented 42 AIDS cases among heterosexuals: 13 females and 29 males. It also documented 90 cases of Kaposi's sarcoma and 101 opportunistic infections.

NYC has the largest and oldest documented HIV epidemic in the “western world.” Since 1977, 200,000 have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the city, and 98,000 have died. Today, 1.3% of New Yorkers are known to be living with HIV. Dr. Sweeney reported the following statistics for the year 2007:

- 2,012 deaths were attributed to HIV infection.
- 3,787 people were newly diagnosed with HIV.
- 3,346 people were diagnosed with AIDS.
- 24% of people with AIDS learned of their HIV infection when they were diagnosed with AIDS.

NYC has more HIV cases than Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami and Washington, DC combined. NYC has 3% of the U.S. population but 17% of AIDS deaths. It is these data that led NYC to create a branded condom distribution program and to develop a municipal HIV testing initiative: The Bronx Knows.

Marjorie Hill, Executive Director of the Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC), rounded out the “cities” panel with highlights from client stories and vignettes about the day-to-day operations of a large urban AIDS service organization (ASO). GMHC provides prevention and care services to more than 15,000 men, women and families who are living with or affected by HIV/AIDS in New York City. It also advocates for scientific, evidence-based public health solutions for hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. As the nation’s oldest ASO, GMHC offers a variety of services, providing meals, crisis intervention, HIV testing and counseling, hotline services, legal services, support groups, return to work workshops, and on-going client advocacy services. Sixty-five percent of GMHC clients are people of color.

Basketball Commissioner David Sterns addressed the meeting at lunchtime, welcoming everyone to the NBA headquarters. In his remarks, he emphasized how important strong leadership is in addressing HIV. The commissioner recalled Magic Johnson’s announcement in 1991, which served as a catalyst for the NBA to increase its knowledge of HIV and its involvement in HIV causes. Since that time, the NBA has been an active member in the GBC.

Following Commissioner Sterns remarks, Mayor Dellums took the meeting participants on a bit of a biographical journey, sharing stories from his distinguished career in public service and junctions where his career intersected with HIV/AIDS. He touched on his experience participating in pre-PEPFAR congressional delegations to Africa and Asia to call for a U.S. response to the emerging AIDS pandemic, co-chairing President Clinton’s Presidential Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS (PACHA); serving on the AIDS Action Council Board of Directors; serving as a Bristol Myer Squibbs Secure the Future advisor; supporting the Leach-Lee bill for support to address AIDS in Africa; and advocating for HIV testing and knowing one’s status. Mayor Dellums next discussed and described Get Screened Oakland and stressed the importance of getting all of the community partners together to collaborate on a new approach to HIV on the local level. Following Mayor Dellum’s presentation, Kevin Fenton, MD, asked him to help the CDC reach out to other big city mayors to implement a similar program.

After the presentations, John Newsome presented an outline of proposed next steps for the Global Business Coalition members in an effort to answer this question: What is the most “impactful” way for the GBC to promote and support local efforts to address the U.S. HIV epidemic? The discussion that followed centered on a proposed five-component framework for action:

1. Population analysis and population priority focus
2. Public education/outreach and development of local messages
3. HIV testing expansion and facilitation
4. Reducing barriers to care, treatment and support services and increasing access to antiretrovirals
5. Advocacy and public policy priorities.

John Tedstrom said that the initiative will, in short, include mobilizing a team of businesses, government and civic groups to pursue a range of approaches, including: national level advocacy by CEOs of companies with strong brand power; private sector collaboration on the National AIDS Strategy; targeted community education coordinated with local govern-

ment and civic groups; employee engagement programs to encourage testing, HIV education and community volunteerism; and support for existing counseling, testing and treatment providers.

National HIV Testing Day Commemoration Planned

(May 29, 2009) Representatives from Oakland's HIV service organizations met in Oakland City Hall to review and discuss ideas for the 2009 National HIV testing day commemoration to be held on June 26.

The following ideas had been suggested as ways to mark the occasion: a repeat of the 2008 care fair and family day at Eastmont Town Center; a youth and family focused music festival at Oakland City Hall; a care fair and family day at Pak N' Save shopping center; and a youth and family day at DeFermery Park.

Get Screened Oakland staff completed an outreach assessment of proposed venues. Adriann McCall, Get Screened Oakland Program Manager, reported that the property management company at Eastmont Town Center wants to work with the community to bring the care fair back this year. The Center has assigned a person to work with Adriann and is committed to reaching out to the tenants and business owners for support. The property management company of Pak N' Save said they would work with the community to create a successful event; however, they have no money or staff to commit to the effort. After much discussion, the meeting participants agreed that commemoration activities should be held at Eastmont Town Center. Adrian McCall will coordinate with the Town Center management team.

There will also be several HIV-focused events "around Testing day." They include: a Youth HIV Workshop at Allen Temple Baptist Church on June 24; "Bruthas," a production of the Cornerstone Theatre Company/Gilead Sciences at the Malonga Center for the Arts on June 25; Women and HIV Living Positive Summit at La Clinica on June 26; and the Youth Action Institute from June 23 to June 27 at UC Berkeley. In addition, Grupo Fremont VIP is sponsoring several HIV awareness workshops entirely in Spanish on May 31 and June 21.

For more information contact: Gloria Crowell, Allen Temple; Christina Ainsely, Carol H. Williams PR; WORLD, Naina Khanna; and Angel Fabian. The community is encouraged to participate in the pre-testing day activities.

Three other upcoming and important events were also announced at the meeting. WORLD is holding a fundraiser on June 11 at the GAIA Building on Berkeley. The fundraiser will provide an opportunity to meet WORLD's new executive director, Cynthia Carey-Grant. The 21st Annual East Bay HIV Update will take place on Friday, June 12. This conference, a collaboration between the East Bay AIDS Center and the East Bay AIDS Education and Training Center, will feature plenary topics that include: Controversies in HIV Treatment: 2009; View from the Alameda County Office of AIDS; HIV Testing & the East Bay Epidemic; ARVs 2009: Updates & Effects on Care and the Science of Patient Retention. The workshop themes are: Influencing the Future: HIV Health Policy and the Reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act; HIV 101 for the Non-Provider; Room for Improvement: Making QI Work for Your Clinic; Women & HIV; Transgender People in the East Bay: Have We Made Progress?; Hepatitis C Update; Integrating Mental Health Into HIV Care; Beyond T-Cells: HIV + Diabetes + Heart Disease.

Other Oakland Community News

2009 U.S. Conference on AIDS (USCA) Host Committee Meeting held in East Bay

(May 28, 2009) The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) brings together annually more than 2,500 HIV clinical and community service professionals. This year, the three-day conference will be held at the San Francisco Hilton from October 29 to October 31.

Each year, NMAC assembles a Host Committee in the area where the conference will take place. NMAC does this by working with representatives from local community-based organizations, HIV positive persons, government officials and foundations. The local Host Committee is then responsible for designing a conference experience that is consistent with

local community needs. Accordingly, this year's USCA local Host Committee met at the Alameda County Office of AIDS Administration to discuss next steps in coordinating the conference.

The Committee is charged with the responsibility of making suggestions for conference themes, planning a series of special community cultural events to enhance the conference attendees' experiences; planning local agency involvement; recruiting between 50 and 75 volunteers, guaranteeing access to health services for those requiring them and creating the persons with AIDS (PWA) Lounge. In addition, the local Host Committee develops and coordinates an institute on a subject matter of its choosing.

The East Bay local Host Committee has been meeting since late 2008 with meeting locations alternating between the East and West Bay. It is chaired by Norm Nickens, NMAC Board Member and Deputy Director for EEO, Affirmative Action and Cultural Competency at the San Francisco Department of Public Health,

Many ideas for East Bay community involvement have been raised and discussed. They include: an opening night reception at Oakland City Hall; a sunset boat ride on the Bay; a showcase of agencies and a reception with Oakland Mayor Ronald V. Dellums; and a ball.

Mayor Ronald V. Dellums has been invited to join San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsome in welcoming the conference participants. Alameda County Office of AIDS Administration Director Ron 'Kabir' Hypolite is the official government representative on the East Bay local Host Committee. Of special note, the local Host Committee is considering raising funds to support expansion of the number of registration scholarships for the conference, thereby permitting an increased number of East Bay staff and residents to participate in the conference. *Mark your calendars and stay tuned.*

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority hosts Annual Women's Empowerment Conference

(May 30, 2009) With the theme "Enriching Your Mind, Body and Soul" more than 350 women of all ages came together to learn how to be healthier. This year's conference, held at the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, CA, celebrates the 21st time that Delta Sigma Theta has brought Solano County's diverse community of women together to receive information on the leading health issues confronting women and to promote health and wellness. This year's line up included: a spoken word message about empowerment and self-determination from Vanessa Oden, a young woman who has worked with women and children living with HIV in Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia; a health experts panel including Dr. Donna Carey speaking about asthma, Dr. Phil Gardner speaking about smoking, Dr. Vaneida White speaking about heart disease, Dr. Nicole Buscaglila speaking about nutrition and obesity, and Ms. Annmarie Baker speaking about diabetes. In addition, Dr. Craig Adams, a therapist in private practice gave some practical tips for sustaining healthy intimate relationships – from a "male perspective." Ms. Rosalia Velasquez, Executive Director of the Solano Coalition for Better Health, gave an overview of various health disparities in the local community and encouraged attendees to take their health seriously, eat a proper diet, get plenty of exercise and drink plenty of water. She suggested using the following formula to determine how much water to drink each day: drink in ounces one half of your weight.

The workshops covered the following topics: improving your money management skills; estate planning; preventing family violence; how to prepare nutritious meals on a tight time and budget schedule; beauty make-over suggestions; and ergonomics and you.

Dr. Brenda Wade, the acclaimed psychologist, author and television host, gave the luncheon address. Dr. Wade challenged attendees to make special time to take care of themselves. She said they would then be better able address the needs of their intimate relationships and families. Marsha Martin, Director, Get Screened Oakland, gave a call to action on Women and HIV, encouraging the women in the audience to ask their doctors to test them for HIV. In doing so, Dr. Martin added, they would help to dispel the myths about the virus and the stigma attached to it. Lucinda Brannon Bazile of Lifelong Medical Center served on the planning committee for the daylong conference. PJ Ballard of Kaiser Permanente Media Relations served as the conference moderator.

Testing for HIV part of the Walk to End Poverty Activities

(May 30, 2009) The City of Oakland sponsored a "Walk to End Poverty. Approximately 300 walkers gathered around the Lake Merritt bandstand at 9:00 a.m. to begin the 3.5-mile walk around the Lake. Supervisor Keith Carson extended greetings from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. The "Pop Lyfe Project," which is composed of a group of students from the Oakland School of the Performing Arts, provided musical performances to support the walkers. The students in the project are being tutored by R&B star Dwayne Wiggins. Mr. Wiggins, formerly of Tone, Toni, Tony, is committed to supporting Oakland through a variety of musical endeavors. Get Screened Oakland provided information on HIV Testing and Screening, while the East Bay Volunteers of America Bay Area unit provided rapid HIV testing.

Asian Family Pride Celebrates Public Support for Private Courage

(May 30, 2009) Asian American families and their LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and intersex) family members gathered to celebrate the "private courage" of their loved ones.

Since 2004, Asian & Pacific Islander API Family Pride has organized its annual Family Presentation Banquet to honor persons who have supported API LGBT persons throughout their journey of self-discovery and coming out. The annual Family Presentation Banquet has honored over 60 mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, and numerous other accepting family members who have faced deep-rooted homophobia in order to love and accept their LGBT relatives. The Banquet is an opportunity to honor this private courage with public support and recognition. This year the banquet honored two mothers, two Methodist ministers, who are "family" to LGBTQI people, and a sister—all of whom have provided support and unconditional love. An important component of the program, the API Family Pride's Family Honor Roll, is a way of acknowledging the process that Asian families have undergone to overcome homophobia and understand and accept their LGBTQI children.

Get Screened Oakland commends the private, personal struggles of love and transformation in the API families and encourages all families to reach out to and embrace all of their family members.

Community Calendar 2009
Upcoming Events and Dates to Keep in Mind

June

- Th. 6/4 **Hold the Date:** Faith Leaders Summit on HIV: Cancer, Health and Wellness; Marriott Hotel, Oakland City Center; 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- F. 6/12 **Hold the Date:** 22nd Annual East Bay AIDS Update
- Th 6/25 “Bruthas,” a play in the Beyond the Diagnosis series; Cornerstone Theatre Company at Malonga Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice Street, Oakland, CA. For more information, contact Christina Ainsley, 510-587-1717 .
- F 6/26 It’s My Life: Women Living Positive National Summit; La Clinica de la Raza, Fruitvale Village Clinic, 3451 E. 12th Street, 3rd Floor, Oakland, CA. For more information, call and RSVP to 877-933-4310, ext. 93936.
- F 6/26 National HIV Testing Day Commemoration; Eastmont Town Center, Oakland, CA. For more information, contact Adriann McCall, Get Screened Oakland, 510-238-7070.
- Sa. 6/27 National HIV Testing Day
- Sa 6/27 East Bay Bench and Bar Stage; 2111 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA; 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Manager of Bench and Bar at 520-444-2266.
- Su 6/28 National Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Transgender Pride
- Su 7/19 - W 7/22 International AIDS Society: 5th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2009); Cape Town, South Africa. For more information, go to www.iasociety.org.

August

- 8/9 - 8/13 “Empowering People, Reinforcing Networks: 9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP); Bali, Indonesia. For more information, go to www.iasociety.org.
- Su 8/15 –M 8/16 Art and Soul; Downtown Oakland, various venues.
- Su 8/23 – W 8/26 Innovation and Action to End the HIV Epidemic, 2009 National HIV Prevention Conference; Hyatt Regency Atlanta and the Marriott Marquis. For more information, go to www.nhpc.org.