

# HIV/STD NEWS

VOLUME TWO ISSUE TWO  
JUNE 2007



## BRIEF FROM THE CHIEF

Michael G. Harmon, MA. Chief, HIV/STD Service

### OKLAHOMA'S VOICE WAS HEARD

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) was held in Washington, D.C., April 29 – May 2, 2007. As Oklahoma's State AIDS Director and a member of the NASTAD Executive Committee (EC) for 2006-2007, I was once again humbled to be at the table with so many brilliant, committed, passionate colleagues from our fifty states and U.S. territories. This past year, I made sure that our state's voice was heard and that the issues we have faced with declining funding for our programs was placed among the many issues of our alliance of states. At this meeting, I was re-elected to the NASTAD EC for two more years.

With the Reauthorization of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006, Oklahoma, as did many southern states, gained some funding as a result of the federal legislation that changed the funding allocation from cumulative AIDS cases to living HIV/AIDS. This will allow us to improve our HIV Drug Assistance and Health Insurance Programs as well as expand primary care services, a Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) directive related to core medical services.

The meeting addressed such topics as: "Confronting the Epidemic Among African American Women"; "The Prevention Landscape—Looking Forward"; "Latest Developments in Surveillance"; "Ryan White Implementation Issues"; "Viral Hepatitis Integration": and "Health Disparities".

There were many opportunities to network with colleagues. Jan Fox, MPH, RN, Director of the Surveillance and Care Delivery Division, HIV/STD Service attended with me.

The highlight of this gathering was the Hill visits by the State AIDS Directors to the Congressional delegates of their jurisdictions. Jan and I were fortunate to meet with Senator Tom Coburn and his health staffer. We also had meetings with the health staffers of Representatives Mary Fallin, John Sullivan and Dan Boren. Our purpose was to educate them about the epidemiology of HIV disease in Oklahoma and trends over time, our decreased federal funding since 2003, its implications to Oklahoma's programs and the unmet need of those out-of-care. We then presented the NASTAD talking points that included more funding for care, HIV and STD prevention, hepatitis, and core surveillance at the national level.

This is important work for public health. Without this kind of national attention to infectious diseases and prevention needs by State AIDS Directors, community partners and coalitions, we could not expect to have the funding necessary to support our domestic programs.

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## OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STAFF PARTICIPATE IN INTENSIVE OUTREACH IN BARTLESVILLE

From April 2, 2007 through April 6, 2007, OSDH staff were involved in an intensive outreach and field investigation in Bartlesville to obtain more information about the syphilis outbreak in Washington County.

Nursing staff from the Washington County Health Department joined forces with the HIV/STD Service Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) from Tulsa and Canadian Counties to re-interview over 20 previously diagnosed individuals. From those interviews, they identified six previously un-named sex partners. The staff also collected almost 60 blood specimens from people at high-risk for sexually transmitted diseases. Many of those were people who use drugs and/or were incarcerated.

The DIS staff who participated in the outreach event were: Casey Cooper, Anne Kozak, Ron Kroening, William Patterson, Aaron Racz, Adib Salim and Vanessa Walker. The Washington County nurse who was deeply involved in the outreach event was Brenda Davis, RN.

### COMMUNITY PROMISE COMES TO OKLAHOMA

For the year 2007, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) HIV/STD Service has an HIV prevention program called Community PROMISE. "PROMISE" is an acronym for "Peers Reaching Out and Modeling Intervention Strategies." PROMISE is a community-level HIV/STD prevention intervention that relies on role model stories and peers from a target population. PROMISE is successful because it is created anew each time it is implemented in collaboration with a specific community.

PROMISE was developed in response to an urgent need for effective community-level interventions that could be reasonably implemented by local health departments and service organizations.

Contractors who are implementing Community PROMISE in 2007 are Health Outreach Prevention Education (HOPE) located in Tulsa, and Red Rock Behavioral Health Services located in Oklahoma City.

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## OHPC

### **A Note From Don Little -- OHPC Co-Chair**

In 2007, the Oklahoma Community Planning Group and the Oklahoma HIV Treatment and Care Consortium (OHTCC) officially merged as one group. It is now the Oklahoma HIV Planning Council (OHPC). During the transition, I was selected to be a Community Co-chair.

I am Native American (Absentee Shawnee/Seminole) and have been active in the Community Planning Group process since 2002.

I also co-chair the Oklahoma Native American AIDS Coalition, am a member of the National Native Community Planning Group and am a member of the Oklahoma Gay Natives Organization.

At the first meeting, the co-chairs presented information about committee member roles and responsibilities. Since my experience has been on the prevention side, I felt comfortable explaining to the prevention committee what activities they will undertake in the coming months.

Being an OHPC Co-Chair will be a learning process for me, and I accept the challenge. When my term ends, I plan to continue to participate in the OHPC meetings.

The 2007 OHPC voting members are:

Jerry Boatright, Charles Cook, George Curry, Midge Elliot, David Ewing, Diana Gomez, Gerald Hall, Melissa Hill, Dana Jones, Khepra NuRa Khem, Lindy Kroenert, Angela Martinez, Brandi Moerles-Campbell, Rachel Morse, Janice Nicklas, Theodore Noel, Jeff Robbins, Bob Settles, William Shanahan, Jeremy Simmons, David Smith, Leah Taylor, Lisa Toahty, Ronda Vance, and Taron Winans.

Co-Chairs for the 2007 OHPC are: Sally Bouse-Pittser, Health Department Co-Chair; Dr. Mike Jackson, Community Co-Chair; and Freddie Don Little, Community Co-Chair.

The OHPC meets six times a year. The remaining OHPC meetings for 2007 are:

Monday, July 9	Oklahoma City, Room 806, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Monday, September 10	Oklahoma City, Room 806, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Monday, November 5	Oklahoma City, Room 806, Oklahoma State Department of Health

The OHPC is an open meeting process, and welcomes attendance and input from the public. For information about the OHPC please contact Sally Bouse-Pittser at (405) 271-4636 or [SallyB@health.ok.gov](mailto:SallyB@health.ok.gov).

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## WHERE TO GET HELP FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

### **2-1-1**

2-1-1 is a FREE 24-hour telephone number that connects Oklahomans with important community services 365 days per year.

### **918 area code:**

Oklahoma State University, Center for Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine - (OSU-COM) Health Care Center, Tulsa (918) 382-5058

### **405 and 580 area codes:**

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, College of Medicine, Infectious Disease Institute, Oklahoma City (405) 271-6434

DHS (the Department of Human Services) has AIDS Care Coordinators who help people with HIV/AIDS:

Tulsa and the eastern part of the state:

(800) 734-7516 or TTY (918) 581-2146

Oklahoma City, north central, and northwest Oklahoma:

(800) 884-1572 or TTY (405) 271-5816

Case management, applications for medications, and other services are available through Ryan White Part B and other resources.

### **918 area code:**

Tulsa C.A.R.E.S. (918) 834-4194 or 800-474-4872

### **405 and 580 area codes:**

RAIN, Inc., Oklahoma City (405) 232-2437 or 800-285-CARE (2273)

RAIN, Inc., Lawton (580) 353-7900

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[www.OKPHIL.net](http://www.OKPHIL.net)



Oklahoma State University, in partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), is hosting a website that focuses on detailing the symptoms of the three stages of syphilis as well as the necessity of (1) avoiding procrastination in seeking testing and treatment and (2) thinking not only about one's self but also about sex partners. The website also provides contact information for those interested in seeking testing and treatment. The Kansas State Department of Health generously shared artwork from their syphilis campaign with the OSDH.

The project also provides an ad that will run in the STAR magazine and posters that will be displayed primarily in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa areas. The poster directs the readers to the [www.OKPHIL.net](http://www.OKPHIL.net) website. If you would like a copy of the poster in a PDF file please email Pat Kelly at [Patk@health.ok.gov](mailto:Patk@health.ok.gov).

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<b>June 27, 2007</b>	National HIV Testing Day	<a href="http://www.napwa.org/hivtestinfo/">http://www.napwa.org/hivtestinfo/</a>
<b>Exciting things are planned for Testing Day. Call Pat Kelly at (405) 271-4636 for a list of activities.</b>		
<b>September 30, 2007</b>	Oklahoma City AIDS Walk	<a href="http://www.aidswalkokc.org/">http://www.aidswalkokc.org/</a>
<b>October 6, 2007</b>	Tulsa AIDS Walk	<a href="http://www.aidswalktulsa.org/">http://www.aidswalktulsa.org/</a>
<b>October 15, 2007</b>	National Latino AIDS Awareness Day	<a href="http://www.nlaad.org">www.nlaad.org</a>

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## NEWS AT A GLANCE

### HIV PREVENTION CONTRACTS UPDATE

The following successful bidders were awarded contracts for fiscal year 2007.  
Total HIV Prevention Awards = \$ 838,523.00

#### Fiscal Year 2007 HIV Prevention Contractors

**RAIN, dba CarePoint, Inc.**

600 NW 23rd St., Suite 101  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103  
(405) 232-2437  
Anonymous/Confidential Test Site

**Red Rock Behavioral Health Services**

2401 NW 39th, Suite 100  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
(405) 524-6500  
Community PROMISE Intervention

**HOPE**

3540 E 31<sup>st</sup>, Suite 6  
Tulsa, OK 74135  
(918) 749-8378  
Anonymous/Confidential Test Site  
and Community PROMISE  
Intervention

**Guiding Right, Inc.**

7901 NE 10th, Suite A-111  
Midwest City, OK 73110  
(405) 733-0771  
Many Men Many Voices  
Intervention (3MV); African  
American Counseling, Testing  
and Referral Services

#### Fiscal Year 2007 Interagency Agreements

**OSU – COM IDI Clinic**

635 West 11th St.  
Tulsa, OK 74127  
(918) 382-3507  
Comprehensive Risk Counseling and Services;  
Peer-to-peer Inreach/Outreach & CTRS

**OUHSC – IDI Clinic**

1200 Everett Dr., Room 6E-238  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
(405) 271-6434  
Comprehensive Risk Counseling and Services

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## NEWS AT A GLANCE

(continued)



### **CDC RECOMMENDATION AFFECTS MEDICATION TREATMENT FOR GONORRHEA**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the incidence of fluoroquinolone-resistant *N. gonorrhoeae* (QRNG) is now widespread in the United States. This information prompted new recommendations for treatment from the CDC. Now county health departments in Oklahoma are using ceftriaxone, the preferred treatment for all types of gonorrhea infection, on all individuals with a positive gonorrhea lab result. With the new recommendation comes a new challenge. The cost per dose to treat a gonorrhea client will increase from 7 cents per dose for ciprofloxacin to over \$1.50 per dose for the ceftriaxone treatment. The HIV/STD Service will be looking for creative ways to provide funding for the recommended treatment change. For more information about the CDC study, contact Janet Wilson, RN with the HIV/STD Service at (405) 271-4636 or go to <http://www.cdc.gov/std/gisp/>.

### **One Test . Two Lives.**

*"One Test. Two Lives."* is a campaign from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that focuses on ensuring that all women are tested for HIV early in their pregnancy.

Perinatal transmission accounts for 91% of all AIDS cases among children in the United States. Antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy can reduce the transmission rate to 2% or less. The transmission rate is 25% without treatment.

*"One Test. Two Lives."* provides quick access to a variety of resources for providers and materials for their patients, to help encourage universal voluntary prenatal testing for HIV.

For more information go to <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/perinatal/1test2lives/default.htm>

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## INFORMATION CORNER

**Free live and archived coverage of events on various subjects**, such as [Medicare](#), [Medicaid](#), [prescription drugs](#), [health information technology](#), [HIV/AIDS](#), [minority health](#) and more is available from Kaisernetwork.org HealthCast. Go to <http://www.kaisernetwork.org/>

**For information about HIV/AIDS** go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/>

**For information about STDs** go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/>

A slide set was recently updated by the **CDC**. HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults (through 2005). Go to <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>

**Looking for statistics?** Information about Oklahoma's statistics for HIV/AIDS/STDs is available from the HIV/STD Service on a quarterly basis. Go to <http://www.health.state.ok.us/program/hivstd/epi/Stats.htm>

**The OSDH, HIV/STD Service offices will be closed** July 4 and September 3 for state recognized holidays.

### HIV/STD Service Staff Changes

**New Staff:**

**Kristen Eberly, MPH** is the new Manager, HIV/STD Surveillance

**Ronald Loper; Rosa Pérez-Wright and Patrice Staley** are new Disease Intervention Specialists housed at the OKC/County Health Department

**New Assignments:**

**Steven Payne** is the new Administrative Technician for HIV/STD Surveillance

HIV/STD News is a quarterly Enewsletter published by the HIV/STD Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health, as authorized by James M. Crutcher, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health and Commissioner of Health.

HIV/STD Service Chief

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