

HIV/STD NEWS

VOLUME TWO ISSUE THREE
September 2007



BRIEF FROM THE CHIEF

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

EARLY TREATMENT SAVES LIVES AND DOLLARS

The Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) has failed to pass in the previous three Congresses. ETHA may be closer than ever before, given its longtime champion, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), who now serves as the Speaker of the House. Also, the ETHA legislation is claiming bipartisan support, which is encouraging.

ETHA gives states the option to provide Medicaid care to uninsured, poor and low-income people living with HIV before the disease progresses to AIDS. ETHA would correct "a real irony." Medicaid eligibility rules currently require most people to become disabled by AIDS before they can get the Medicaid care that may have prevented them from developing AIDS in the first place.

New HIV treatments continue to improve both the health and quality of life for many people living with HIV and AIDS. However, without access to early intervention healthcare, these advances remain out of reach for thousands of poor and low-income persons living with HIV.

Though ETHA would cost more to begin with, over time the government would see huge savings. It is estimated that Medicaid costs alone would be reduced by \$31.7 million. Because fewer people would become permanently disabled by AIDS, Social Security would also see savings and healthier people means stronger local economies.

ETHA could also help prevent the spread of HIV. Anti-HIV drugs reduce the amount of the virus in a person's blood and body fluids, which reduces the likelihood of transmitting the virus to others. Under ETHA, more people would get these drugs; that could help control the epidemic.

Most important, ETHA would improve people's health and save lives. Nationwide, over the next ten years, there would be 35,000 more people with CD4 counts exceeding 500, and AIDS-related deaths among people on Medicaid could be reduced as much as 50%.

As a board member of the Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC), we supported a SAC letter of support for ETHA legislation in July. At the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) Annual Meeting in May of 2007 in Washington D.C., Jan Fox, our Director of Surveillance and Care Delivery, and I encouraged Congressional support for ETHA legislation. If passed nationally, this could make a real difference for HIV care in Oklahoma!

HIV/STD NEWS

VOLUME TWO ISSUE THREE
SEPTEMBER 2007



OKLAHOMANS COLLABORATE FOR NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

National HIV Testing Day was held June 27, 2007. Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in both Oklahoma City and Tulsa hit the streets to offer free HIV testing. In Oklahoma City, some organizations collaborated efforts by driving a mobile unit through selected communities throughout the city. These neighborhoods were chosen due to the prevalence of high-risk activity and behavior. The mobile unit, which was supplied by the Oklahoma AIDS Care Fund for a total of three days, allowed easy access and privacy for those wanting to test and receive same day results from HIV rapid tests.

Organization

H.O.P.E. (Tulsa)
Latino Community Development Agency (OKC)
Guiding Right, Inc. & Urban League (OKC)

Number of Tests Administered

27
50
89



HIV/STD NEWS

VOLUME TWO ISSUE THREE
SEPTEMBER 2007

OHPC



The OHPC Needs You

The Oklahoma HIV Planning Council (OHPC) is recruiting members to fill current vacancies. OHPC members are representatives of HIV treatment and care, HIV prevention, members of at-risk populations, people with knowledge about those at-risk for HIV in their community, and people living with HIV/AIDS. OHPC members work throughout the year to assist the HIV/STD Service with HIV treatment and care and HIV prevention planning.

Membership representation is currently needed in the following areas:

African American males living with HIV/AIDS
African American males who have sex with males (MSM)
African American females living with HIV/AIDS
African American females at high-risk for HIV
Hispanic males or females living with HIV/AIDS
Hispanic males who have sex with males (MSM)
Hispanic community representatives

The OHPC meets six times a year. **The remaining OHPC meeting for 2007 will be held at the American Red Cross, 601 NE 6th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73104.** One meeting remains for 2007:

Monday, November 5, 2007

Meeting agendas are available on the Oklahoma State Department of Health website at the following address:

<http://www.health.ok.gov/calendar/mtngs/OHPC.html>

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.

HIV/STD NEWS

VOLUME TWO ISSUE THREE
SEPTEMBER 2007

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 (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

HIV/STD NEWS

VOLUME TWO ISSUE THREE
SEPTEMBER 2007



NEW WEBSITE SEEKS TO “CONNECT” HIV/AIDS ORGANIZATIONS WITH CLIENTS

Launched last spring, **www.HIVConnect.net** promotes itself as a place of free dialogue for people living with HIV/AIDS, Community Based Organizations, AIDS Service Organizations, researchers and others in the community. It is a unique site that connects all sectors of the HIV/AIDS community.

The website was created to be a place where organizations can link with their clients on-line and their clients can link together, bringing the concept of a local “drop-in center” to the internet. HIVConnect.net includes a place for member profiles while offering a comprehensive library with various topics of relevance to different types of groups. Members are invited to post articles and comment on articles currently posted. The three types of memberships available through HIV Connect are as follows:

- 1) HIV-positive community members
- 2) Community based organizations
- 3) Friends and family members of HIV-positive community members

To ensure privacy and comfort, only those with HIV have access to the HIV-positive community. The website seeks to make life easier for all who are affected by HIV/AIDS while educating those who support them.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 30, 2007	Oklahoma City AIDS Walk	http://www.aidswalkokc.org/
October 6, 2007	Tulsa AIDS Walk	http://www.aidswalktulsa.org/
October 15, 2007	National Latino AIDS Awareness Day	www.nlaad.org
December 1, 2007	World AIDS Day	http://www.worldaidscampaign.info/

HIV/STD NEWS

VOLUME TWO ISSUE THREE
SEPTEMBER 2007



NEWS AT A GLANCE

The HIV Prevention & Training section of the HIV/STD Service offers training in several HIV/AIDS/STD related topics. Trainings throughout the year include:

[Online HIV 101 training](#)
[HIV Counseling and Testing](#)
[HIV/STD Risk Reduction Counseling](#)
[Bridging Theory and Practice](#)
[STD 101](#)

For a complete list of course descriptions and dates contact:

Raymond Dallas, MPH
Coordinator, Prevention, Capacity Building & Training
405.271.9444 ext. 56619 or RaymondD@health.ok.gov

The training staff can also prepare and present HIV/AIDS/STD presentations and trainings based on request and trainer availability. To request a presentation or training contact:

Sally Bouse-Pittser, MPH, CHES
Manager, HIV Prevention and Training
405.271.9444 ext. 56621 or SallyB@health.ok.gov

For online HIV 101 training, contact:

Raymond Dallas, MPH
Coordinator, Prevention, Capacity Building & Training
405.271.9444 ext. 56619 or RaymondD@health.ok.gov

To join an email list that alerts community partners about HIV/AIDS/STD related trainings, updates and events contact:

Amani M. Smiley, MHR
HIV/STD Prevention Training Specialist
405.271.9444 ext. 56626 or AmaniL@health.ok.gov

HIV/STD NEWS

VOLUME TWO ISSUE THREE
SEPTEMBER 2007



Oklahoma's own Lauren Nelson, who is the reigning 2007 Miss America, will serve as the Grand Marshall of the upcoming AIDS Walk of Oklahoma City. The Walk will take place on Sunday, September 30, at the Myriad Botanical Gardens.

Registration and festivities begin at 12:30 pm followed by a 2:00 pm step off.

There is no fee to walk in this important community event, which builds awareness and funds each year for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS in the greater Oklahoma City area.

The 15th Annual AIDS Walk of Tulsa is 9 am, October 6th, 2007, at Veteran's Park.

The Tulsa AIDS Walk is a project of the Community Service Council. All funds raised at the walk will go to support direct HIV/AIDS services in Tulsa and will receive matching funds from a National AIDS Fund challenge grant.

7:30 am	Volunteers Arrive, Set-Up
9:00 am	Registration Begins
9:30 am	Celebrity Walker Welcome
9:45 am	Walkers Gather @ 21st & Boulder, Step Off
10:45 am	Walkers Return to Start / Finish
11:00 am	Awards to Teams & Individuals, Thank You and Festivities

HIV/STD NEWS

VOLUME TWO ISSUE THREE
SEPTEMBER 2007



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):

<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.ok.gov/program/hivstd/epi/Stats.htm>

The OSDH, HIV/STD Service offices will be closed November 12, 16, 22, and 23 for state recognized holidays.

HIV/STD Service Staff Changes

New Staff:
Rajeanna Mayo, Administrative Technician for HIV/STD Surveillance

HIV/STD News is a quarterly E-newsletter 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
Director, Division of Surveillance and Care Delivery
Director, Division of Prevention and Intervention
Production

Michael G. Harmon, MA
Jan Fox, MPH, RN
Chang K. Lee (CDC)
Amani M. Smiley, MHR

Copyright 2007, Oklahoma State Department of Health, HIV/STD Service, 1000 NE 10th, Oklahoma City, OK 73117; Phone (405) 271-4636; FAX (405) 271-5149. Contents may be copied if OSDH is credited.