

Asian & Pacific Islander HIV FORUM

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CREATING A VOICE

By Sophia Kong, Los Angeles, CA

It is a strange phenomenon that people assume Asian & Pacific Islander (A&PI) women are not infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. This year many A&PI women across the nation sent abstracts to the 2002 United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) focusing on the strategies, crucial issues, and programs of A&PI women infected, affected, and at risk for HIV/AIDS. The only abstract accepted was one focusing on young transgender women.

Instead of being passive and submissive A&PI women are assumed to be, ManChui Leung of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum gathered a few women together in California to organize around getting more workshops on API women. After some work with National Minority AIDS Council, they agreed to set us up with some space and time at the USCA for a panel on what our abstracts were written on.

The panel (the first of its kind) was composed of 4 women from various organizations throughout Northern and Southern California who spoke about issues and strategies on A&PI women sex workers, the under-utilization of healthcare and how that puts A&PI women at risk for HIV, and on the Queer Asian & Pacific Islander Chicks (QUACK) program at A&PI Wellness Center which supports A&PI young queer women in San Francisco.

The speakers on the panel included Rosalinda Castaneda from Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team in Los Angeles, Jennifer Lee from Asian Health Services in Oakland, Julie Peralta from A&PI Wellness Center in San Francisco, ManChui Leung as the moderator and myself. At first I was really nervous and excited to speak on this panel (because I hate public speaking) but after a lot of encouraging and supportive words from my friends, colleagues and family, I gathered enough courage to do it. The experience was truly empowering and a huge honor and privilege to speak on this panel with these amazing women who have done phenomenal work in our community and to speak with and learn among the many participants who have been doing this work for many years building and creating the strength for our voices. Hopefully, this panel will be an example for the organizers of USCA to recognize this 1) issue; 2) draw more awareness to all people; 3) give it the time and space it deserves for dialogue, workshops, and seminars.

Life and work can be a bit time consuming, so thanks a million to for making this a priority for us to create a voice to make us heard!

More USCA 2002 highlights on page 2.

A copy of this newsletter is available online at: www.apiahf.org/programs/hivcba.html

We welcome your comments, suggestions, and/ contributions.

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The Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Capacity - Building Assistance Program

is a national program of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF). Our HIV Capacity - Building Assistance Program, seeks to increase the organizational and programmatic capacities of community-based organizations (CBOs) who provide HIV prevention interventions to API populations in the United States and U.S. jurisdictions.

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1935 Main St., Suite 101
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Wailuku, Maui 96793
808.242.4900
www.mauiids.org

Youth Plenary a Hit at USCA 2002

The 2002 United States Conference on AIDS Youth & HIV/AIDS Sunday plenary featured two Asian & Pacific Islander youth:



Kaniela Pau explained that beneath the paradise image of Hawai 'i there are communities of poverty, drug abuse and disillusioned youth. He lamented the absence of prevention messages and programs geared toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, "We need to increase prevention message in populations with low incidence rates to keep those rates low. We

need to incorporate peers into a youth-driven program." He closed by speaking in Hawaiian, "The life of the land is perpetuated in unity."

The final youth speaker, **Angela Lucero** from Los Angeles, discussed the challenges and difficulties she faced as a transgender youth. "Most transgenders have been stereotyped as sex workers, prostitutes, porno stars, etc. We are not all like that. I have a college degree, but it is difficult to find a job. People should not look at our transgender, but look at us for our abilities. We need to establish transgender-specific – not just MSM [men who have sex with men] and gay – HIV prevention programs. My community needs role models," said Lucero. She then sang "There Can Be Miracles If You Believe," a duet with her mentor Elizabeth Mediano, to a standing ovation from the crowd, as participants wiped tears from their eyes.



Reprinted from National Minority AIDS Council. [Youths Speak Out. *United States Conference on AIDS Today*. September 23 2002, Volume 1 Issue 5. Retrieved from: www.nmac.org.]



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Staff ProfileGretchenjan Cube Lactao, Research Assistant.....



Born and raised in the Philippines, the first fifteen years of my life was spent in Quezon City. With my mom and sister, I shared a house with a number of my tito's, tita's, and cousins, watching Tagalog television sitcoms after 5-hour power outages in the evenings.

After moving to the US in 1993, I continued my high school education at a public school in Richmond, California. I was the first in the family to graduate from an American college, earning a degree in Molecular & Cell Biology at the University of California at Berkeley. Being a female, immigrant minority in this institution of higher education, I was inspired to become involved in various activities outside academia, and address issues of access and opportunity particularly towards underrepresented communities such as my own. My work included involvement in political activism and community service in the areas of education and public health.

This year marks my first whole year at APIAHF. I was involved in various projects including a research study on the cardiovascular risk in Asian communities in the U.S., a project of the National Heart Lung Blood Institute. I have recently joined the APIAHF HIV Program team and am currently working on designing a research project on Asian and

Pacific Islander youth. The study will focus on the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and behavior of API adolescents towards HIV and AIDS. The project is under the guidance of a diverse advisory board composed of experienced researchers, community leaders, and CBO program coordinators.

Working with the APIAHF HIV Program is a great opportunity to learn about issues on HIV and AIDS within our community, and most especially a great way to exercise my commitment to service.

Consultants Wanted!

Are you a grant writing expert? Have you started or implemented HIV programs before? Do you have skills as an advocate on your Community Planning Group? Have you helped mobilize your community to be involved in HIV prevention? APIAHF is expanding its database of consultants to help build capacity of CBOs and Health Departments regarding HIV Prevention programs targeting Asians & Pacific Islanders. We're looking for consultants in different priority areas, including organizational development, program development, community mobilization, and HIV prevention community planning. We will be recruiting consultants in all regions, including the Northeast, the Midwest, the South and Southwest, the Northwest, the West, Hawai'i, and the Pacific Island jurisdictions.

If you would like to be on our database, please contact us and send us your resume. We will also send you an application. We will also be posting the announcement and application on our website @ www.apiahf.org.

For questions and info, contact: Prescott Chow @ 415.954.9970 / pchow@apiahf.org.

Request for Proposals:

2002/2003 Equal Access Initiative Computer Grants Program

The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) and the National Institutes of Health's Office of AIDS Research (OAR) seek applications from qualified community-based organizations in the United States, its territories and possessions to participate in the Computer Grants Program of the 2002/2003 Equal Access Initiative. All applications must be received in NMAC's offices by 2:00 p.m. EST on Tuesday, December 3, 2002.

Online Information: www.nmac.org

10th Annual Ryan White National Youth Conference on HIV and AIDS February 14-17, 2003 Westin Park Central Dallas - Dallas, Texas

Online Information: www.rwnyc.org

National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Deadlines:

Workshop or Skills Building Institute Abstract Deadline: November 15, 2002

RWNYC Scholarships (Ages 14-25 on February 18, 2003) Deadline: November 15, 2002

11th Community Planning Leadership Summit for HIV Prevention March 12-15, 2003 Sheraton Hotel - New York City, NY

Online Information: www.nmac.org

National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)



APIWHANN Welcomes New Steering Committee Members

The Asian & Pacific Islander Women's HIV/AIDS National Network (APIWHANN) steering committee continues to grow and diversify with the addition of new steering committee members.

Joining APIWHANN in the mission to empower A&PI women impacted by HIV/AIDS through creating and maintaining a forum that develops leadership, provides support and advocates on HIV/AIDS related issues are:

Dawn Passar (Oakland, CA)

Clarita Santos (Chicago, IL)

Elaine Ramos (Los Angeles, CA)

Gurpreet Clair (New York, NY)

Jaimie Kahale (Honolulu, HI)

Phuongmai Nguyen (Boston, MA)

Shalini Eddens (San Francisco, CA)

All these women bring to APIWHANN an immense amount of experience, multi-talented skills, and creative perspectives. They have been activists and community organizers working with A&PI women, women living with HIV/AIDS, immigrants, refugees, sex workers, incarcerated women, and youth.

The new members join, Eleanor Sos (Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia), Erme Maula (Philadelphia, PA), Hieu Ngo (San Francisco, CA), Joslyn Maula (Washington, DC), Joy Alumit (Los Angeles, CA), Justine Leyson (Seattle, WA), Suki Terada Ports (New York, NY) and Xuan-Lan Doan (Honolulu, HI) to make up the 2002/2003 APIWHANN steering committee.

APIWHANN would also like to thank those steering committee members who helped laid the foundation for APIWHANN and are stepping off to support and develop new leadership.

Denise Tang (San Francisco, CA)

Ginny Bourassa (Washington, DC)

Joann Wong (Oakland, CA)

Joanna Su (Chicago, IL)

Lina Sheth (San Francisco, CA)

Nancy Shearer and Jessie Chan (Los Angeles, CA)

Piliana Loney (Tiyan, Guam)

Rita Wong (Oakland, CA)

Therese Rodriguez (New York, NY)

In loving memory, APWHANN acknowledges the passion, work and vision of Syl Hufana from Hagatna, Guam who was active with APIWHANN since the beginning and has offered APIWHANN much love, guidance and inspiration.

Interested in linking with a network?

Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Networks are expanding. Check out the information!

East Coast Asian AIDS Network

Formed in September 1999 at the Second East Coast Conference, organized by Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS Inc. (APICHA) of New York City, the East Coast Asian and Pacific Islander AIDS Network (ECAAN) is made of A&PI AIDS service providers and affected community members from the East Coast. The mission of the East Coast A&PI AIDS Network is to increase advocacy and visibility of east coast HIV/AIDS issues and communities within the context of Asian and Pacific Islander health through collaboration, coordination and the sharing of resources.

Anh Do, Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS Staff . anhdo@apicha.org, 212.334.7940

API HIV/AIDS Caucus of Los Angeles County & API HIV/AIDS Community Planning Group of Orange County

API HIV/AIDS Caucus of Los Angeles County and the API Community Planning Group of Orange County seeks to ensure culturally competent and linguistically sensitive HIV/AIDS services for Asian and Pacific Islander communities through leadership, partnership, advocacy, resources and training. Goals are: 1) increase public awareness and access to HIV/AIDS related services in the API communities. 2) develop a group of providers, clients, and other interested persons to share resources and strategize, network, and collaborate to better serve the needs of the API communities. 3) train and enhance member's skills to advocate for the needs of HIV/AIDS services for the API communities at local, state and national levels.

Jury Candelario, Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team . Jesse837@aol.com, 213.553.1894

Midwest Asian American & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Network

The Midwest Asian American & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Network is an e-mail list serve of community based organizations, researchers, public health professionals, and other health providers concerned with Asian American & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS issues in the Midwest region (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin). The Midwest Asian American & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Network provides a centralized infrastructure for Asian American & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS capacity building through information sharing in the areas of regional needs assessments, resource development, and skills building.

Clarita Santos, Asian Health Coalition of Illinois Staff . clarita@asianhealth.org, 773.878.3539

Chicago Asian American & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Network

Chicago Asian American & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Network is an e-mail list serve of community based organizations, researchers, public health professionals, and other health providers concerned with Asian American & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS issues in the Chicago area. The Chicago Asian American & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Network provides a mechanism for coalition building and advocacy at the local level through information sharing in the areas of data collection, health department collaborations, health policy and resource development.

Clarita Santos, Asian Health Coalition of Illinois Staff . clarita@asianhealth.org, 773.878.3539



Pacific Island Jurisdiction AIDS Action Group

Pacific Island Jurisdiction AIDS Action Group (PIJAAG) has representatives from the six Pacific Island Jurisdictions (American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Republic of Palau, and Republic of the Marshall Islands). Since their first meeting in February 2001, the collaborative group of AIDS directors, program staff, community stakeholders, as well as CDC funded capacity-building assistance providers who have worked together on formulating a regional plan to address HIV/AIDS needs. PIJAAG strongly advocates for changes in the response to the AIDS epidemic in the Pacific region, both internally as a region and externally from federal agencies like the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Prescott Chow, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum Staff . pchow@apiahf.org, 415.954.9970

Hawai'i Multicultural HIV Resource Project

The Hawai'i Multicultural HIV Resource Project (HMHRP) strives to ensure that the diverse people of color of Hawai'i infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS receive culturally appropriate HIV/AIDS education, awareness, and care. This network is also part of a national API capacity building program working to enhance HIV prevention interventions through development, implementation, and design, strengthen community capacity for HIV prevention, and strengthen HIV prevention community planning.

Xuan-Lan Doan, Maui AIDS Foundation/ Hawai'i Multicultural HIV Resource Project Staff . xuanlan@critpath.org, 808.947.3190

Asian & Pacific Islander Women's HIV/AIDS Network

The Asian and Pacific Islander Women's HIV/AIDS National Network (APIWHANN) consists of activists and participants from API service providers concerned with the specific issues and barriers to HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention in API women. The formation of the group in 1998 started a movement in the API AIDS movement to explicitly address the risks of API women. The group strives to serve the community through advocacy, research, and making culturally appropriate, and linguistically sensitive recommendations to overcome the barriers to treatment and prevention.

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 Joy Alumit, Co-Chair . jalumit@aol.com
 Erme Maula, RN, MSN , Co-Chair . erme@mindspring.com

National Southeast Asian HIV/AIDS Network

On August 16-18, 2002, thirty-seven individuals representing various Southeast Asian American communities and organizations met to discuss current efforts and challenges in conducting HIV prevention in their communities. Through the course of the networking, brainstorming, and discussion that occurred at the meeting, the participants decided to create a national network on HIV prevention for Southeast Asians in order to stay in touch with one another and to work collectively to improve HIV prevention efforts in Southeast Asian communities nationwide.

Lina Sheth, Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center Staff . lina@apiwellness.org, 415-292-3420 x 320





National South Asian HIV/AIDS Network

The National South Asian HIV/AIDS Network is a coalition of South Asian providers, people living with HIV/AIDS, and community activists working together to improve the delivery of HIV/AIDS prevention and care programs for the South Asian diaspora living in the US through organizing, community advocacy, organizational capacity, community collaboration, and education and outreach. Through its work, the Network hopes to address the fact that the South Asian diaspora living in the US has particular demographics, cultural realities and barriers that prevent it from accessing effective HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care services.

Javid Syed, Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center Staff . javid@apiwellness.org, 415.292.3420 ext.327

National API Transgender Network

The National API TG Network was formed through a meeting of API transgender service providers from all over the United States in San Francisco, July 13-15, 2001. The Network is a loose coalition of providers and peer educators through their collective efforts aim to increase API TG sensitivity of HIV service providers. They also hope to provide more awareness to the specific and overlapping access concerns of API TGs to HIV and its related services. They also wanted to ensure that national funding bodies recognize the importance of creating TG specific funding streams.

Lina Sheth, Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center Staff . lina@apiwellness.org, 415-292-3420 x 320

National Asian & Pacific Islander Youth and HIV/AIDS Network

The National Asian & Pacific Islander Youth and HIV Working Group is a network of youth, youth providers, advocates and allies interested in addressing the critical HIV related issues facing Asian & Pacific Islander youth in the United States, including the Pacific Island Jurisdictions. Started in the spring of 2001, the working group is convening regular conference calls and has begun work on collaborative projects. There are four sub-committee projects: API Youth and HIV/AIDS “Best Practices/ Programs that Work Guide”, “Resource Library”, “Queer Resource Guide” and “Youth Leadership Development.”

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Urooj Arshad, National Youth Advocacy Coalition Staff . uarshad@nyacyouth.org, 202.319.7596 ext. 19

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