

Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Forum

A quarterly newsletter published by the Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Capacity-Building Assistance (API HIV CBA) Program, a national program of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through Cooperative Agreement No. U22/CCU918544-02.

APIAHF Continues to Support Community Leadership Activities of Office of HIV/AIDS Policy By Ignatius Bau, APIAHF Staff

For the past two years, APIAHF has been participating in The Leadership Campaign on AIDS (TLCA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of HIV/AIDS Policy (OHAP). The campaign is part of the Minority AIDS Initiative originally created by the Congressional Black Caucus to improve the response of the federal government to the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS in the African American community and other communities of color. The purpose of the campaign is to mobilize leaders from communities of color to become more active on HIV/AIDS issues.

One set of OHAP activities have involved working with Surgeon General David Satcher. Dr. Satcher met with Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community leaders in Washington, D.C. on February 2, 2001 to hear community concerns and to offer his personal support for prevention and care activities in the AAPI communities. The meeting included a presentation on HIV/AIDS surveillance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) during which the CDC acknowledged how little data they had on AAPIs and he admitted that the CDC needs to do better at collecting and disseminating such data. A followup meeting was held at the APIAHF Voices from the Community national conference on April 28, 2001. Dr. Satcher taped a video message about AIDS and the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and OHAP prepared a fact sheet on HIV/AIDS in the AAPI communities for the meeting at the Voices conference.

APIAHF also worked with OHAP on taping a public service announcement released in June 2001 during the 20th anniversary of the first reported AIDS cases. Finally, APIAHF worked with OHAP to identify and support participants at a meeting of transgenders of color with Dr. Satcher in January 2001.

OHAP also has supported the activities of local Asian American and Pacific Islander community based organizations to develop and implement education programs and leadership development programs. For example, OHAP is supporting Honor Thy Children, Inc. in Maui, HI, the work of Al and Jane Nakatani, on its organizational development and its development of a curriculum for educational programs around HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination. (continue on pg.2)

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Youth Track participants from Guam Communications Network in Long Beach, CA. This group filmed some Voices and youth-related activities for their agency's video project.

HIV Capacity-Building Assistance

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We welcome your comments, suggestions, and/ or contributions. Please send to:

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HIV CBA Partner Agencies

Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS (APICHA)
150 Lafayette St., 6th floor
New York, New York 10013
212.324.7940
www.apicha.org

Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center (A&PIWC)

730 Polk St., 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94109
415.292.3400
www.apiwelness.org

Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team (APIAT)

605 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 610
Los Angeles 90015
213. 553.1830
members.labridge.com/lacn/apait

Malama Pono - Kaua'i AIDS Project

P.O. Box 1950
Lihu'e, HI 96766
808.246.9577
www.malama-pono.org

Asian Health Coalition of Illinois

4554 North Broadway, Suite 306
Chicago, IL 60640
773.878.3539
www.asianhealth.org

(continued from pg.1, "APIAHF Continues to Support Community Leadership Activities of Office of HIV/AIDS Policy")

OHAP also supports the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team in Los Angeles, CA, in conducting leadership training retreats for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living with HIV/AIDS; the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center in San Francisco, CA, for improving access to its website in Asian or Pacific Islander languages; and the Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS in New York, NY, for translating HIV/AIDS treatment education materials into Asian or Pacific Islander languages.

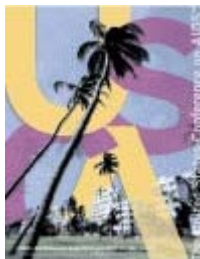
OHAP also supported Ke Ola Mamo in Honolulu, HI, in conducting a leadership development retreat for Native Hawaiian transgender individuals in February 2001, with over 80 participants. 25 participants received HIV testing at the retreat. Finally, OHAP has supported an informal discussion group on mentorship for gay Asian American and Pacific Islander men working on HIV/AIDS issues in the San Francisco Bay Area. Plans are being finalized for a weekend retreat on mentorship for gay Asian American and Pacific Islander men working on HIV/AIDS issues on September 7-9, 2001. Phill Wilson, founder of the African American AIDS Policy and Training Institute, will be assisting in the planning and facilitation of the retreat, providing his insights and experiences from the gay African American community. Invitations to participants from around the U.S. and logistics are being finalized.

OHAP also coordinates the Crisis Response Teams, sent to key impact areas to conduct rapid needs assessments and make recommendations for improved coordination and implementation of HIV prevention and care programs. OHAP intends to target at least one Asian American and/or Pacific Islander community for a Crisis Response Team effort as early as this fall.

General Announcements & Notes

United States Conference on AIDS

September 13-16, 2001 in Miami, Florida at Fontainebleau Hilton Resort and Towers. **Check out www.nmac.org for more information**



Asian & Pacific Islander Institute

Thursday, September 13, 2001 10:30am – 5:30pm

A&PI Institute at USCA is the largest gathering of A&PI HIV/AIDS service providers and affected community members. It provides participants with opportunities to share information, and provide and receive support to enhance programming and community mobilization.

Contact: Prescott Chow (tel) 415.954.9970 or (email) pchow@apiahf.org if you're interested in planning or attending. See you there!

(continue on pg. 7)



PIJAAG: Pacific Island Jurisdictions AIDS Action Group New Developments & Updates

By Prescott Chow, APIAHF Staff

On February 2001, representatives from five of the six Pacific Island Jurisdictions (American Samoa, CNMI, FSM, Guam, and Republic of Palau) met for five days in Honolulu, Hawai'i to discuss the state of HIV prevention and care services in their respective jurisdictions. This group included AIDS directors, program staff, community stakeholders, as well as capacity-building assistance providers from Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) and its partner agencies - Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center and Malama Pono. They discussed shared experiences of the jurisdictions and began developing regional approaches to the epidemic. The group has met three times since that initial meeting: March 2001 at the *Community Planning Leadership Summit* (Houston, TX), April 2001 at APIAHF's *VOICES from the Community Conference* in (San Francisco, CA), and June 2001 at the *HRSA Title II Training* (San Francisco, CA).

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). PIJAAG has submitted recommendations to CDC for consideration and further discussion on HIV prevention in the region. PIJAAG also has been successful in advocating with the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) to support PIJAAG. PIHOA is the association of Health Ministers and Department of Health directors in the Pacific. Through PIJAAG members' urging, PIHOA made HIV/AIDS in the Pacific the focus of their Spring 2002 meeting, with a scheduled presentation by PIJAAG. PIJAAG continues to address relevant issues for the region: migration patterns and implications of the populations, confidentiality issues, policies and procedures for HIV prevention and care, and the availability of services. The discussion also brought forward provocative approaches to address these issues, such as a shared medical records system and regional case management, as well as continuing case conferencing, so a PLWHA's experience getting services is easier and more efficient throughout the region.

PIJAAG has also been instrumental in the advocacy for Pacific Island Jurisdictions with the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), with two PIJAAG members attending the April NASTAD annual AIDS directors meeting to advocate for a greater NASTAD role in the Pacific. In addition, PIJAAG has met three times with HRSA representatives, both with HIV/AIDS Bureau and Region IX staff to discuss developing and strengthening HIV care services in the jurisdictions, from local and regional perspectives.

Background about the Pacific Island Jurisdictions

General

The Pacific Island Jurisdictions are comprised of three U.S. territories and three U.S. freely associated states. U.S. territories include American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Guam. U.S. freely associated states include the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau.

Contemporary histories of the Pacific Island Jurisdictions are complex, with legacies of colonization by Spain, Germany, Japan, as well as the U.S. The current U.S. involvement in the region is equally complicated; issues of self determination, land rights, federal dependency, U.S. military presence, nuclear weapons testing and related illnesses, immigration policies, and labor conditions continue to dominate this relationship. (continue on pg. 4)

(continued from pg.3 “PIJAAG: Pacific Island Jurisdictions AIDS Action Group Meetings & Updates”)

Some basic information about the Pacific Island Jurisdictions:

- All are predominately rural island communities, primarily organized by villages. Each jurisdiction has urban centers, though, which draw people in search of jobs and education.
- The jurisdictions are very small. The largest, FSM, at 270 square miles (not all of which is inhabitable) is smaller than the state of Rhode Island. However, it occupies more than one million square miles of the Pacific Ocean and ranges 1,700 miles from East (Kosrae) to West (Yap).
- Each island has very distinct populations, geographies, cultures, languages, and economies. For example, Guam has one of the largest populations (154,623) on a single island, with \$19,000 per capita annual income; the Republic of Marshall Islands has a small population (68,126) spread out on 31 atolls, with \$1,670 per capita annual income.
- Time zones and datelines vary greatly in the jurisdictions. For example: 4:00pm on Wednesday in San Francisco (7:00pm in Washington, DC; 1:00pm in Hawai’i), is 12:00pm on Wednesday in American Samoa, 9:00am on Thursday in Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 10:00am on Thursday in Federated States of Micronesia, 9:00am on Thursday in Guam, 11:00am on Thursday in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and 8:00am on Thursday in Palau.
- Migration between islands is common, for historical, cultural, and economic reasons. The Compact of Free Association Act of 1988, which establishes the relationship between the U.S. and FSM and RMI, authorized immigration of FSM and RMI citizens into the U.S., its territories, and possessions. This has had significant impact on migration in the region. For example, preliminary results of Guam’s 1997 census show that Guam’s resident population from these nations has increase by about 4,568 persons since implementation of the Compact (*OIA Report 1999*). In addition, many Pacific Islanders travel to and from the continental U.S. and Hawai’i.
- There are few non-governmental agencies (in all areas of health and social services, including HIV/AIDS) in the Pacific jurisdictions. All the jurisdictions rely on the strengths of their health departments, hospitals, and Ministries of Health for the majority of their health care and social service needs.

PIJAAG Mission Statement

We are representatives of the United States affiliated Pacific Island Jurisdictions standing united to speak in one voice around the shared issues of HIV/AIDS in our island communities.

We advocate for the provision of quality HIV prevention and care services in the region.

We advise national, international, and local policy entities on HIV/AIDS.

We strengthen and coordinate AIDS activities through the sharing of information and resources within the region.



Asian & Pacific Islander Women's HIV/AIDS National Network Announcements

Asian & Pacific Islander Women's HIV/AIDS National Network (APIWHANN) Invites YOU to an OPEN MEETING/RECEPTION at the United States Conference on AIDS in Miami. Date and time to be announced.

This will be an opportunity to meet APIWHANN members and others interested in issues facing Asian & Pacific Islander women, girls and transgender women. For more information, please contact ManChui Leung at 415-954-9993 or email mleung@apiahf.org.

JOIN an APIWHANN subcommittee! If you're interested in what APIWHANN does and want to improve the resources available for Asian & Pacific Islander women, consider joining an APIWHANN subcommittee, please contact ManChui Leung at 415.954.9993 or mleung@apiahf.org.

Subcommittees:

Policy/Advocacy

- Make local and regional CPGs aware of APIWHANN.
- Increase utilization of APIWHANN electronic mailing list.
- Introduction letter about APIWHANN.

Focus group report/ research

- Complete focus group report.

Structure/Gaps

- Membership/ representation.
- Relationship between partners.
- Relationship between community members.

Mentorship

- Utilize face-to-face meeting at conferences for training/ leadership training.
- Establish official buddies (short-term goal and ongoing).
- Produce quarterly newsletter - possibly in conjunction with CBA newsletter.

Linkages

- Look at other networks as models.
- Discuss partner agency linkages.
- Prioritize linkages.

Co-chair contacts:

Xuan-Lan Doan tel.- 808.6891569
email- xuanlan@critpath.org

Lina Sheth tel.- 617.426.6755
email- lsheth@maapp.org



If you are interested in APIWHANN, please contact **ManChui Leung** at **415.954.9993** or (email) mleung@apiahf.org. Join APIWHANN's listserv for the latest info on API Women and HIV through emailing a request to apiwhann@yahoogroups.com

South Asian HIV Prevention Meeting

August 24th- 26th, 2001 / Los Angeles, CA By Javid Syed, Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center Staff

South Asian HIV Prevention Meeting

Who are the partners?

Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum,
San Francisco.

Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, Los Angeles.

When is it?

August 24th- August 26th, 2001 in Los Angeles, CA.

What is this meeting about?

This is the first national meeting of HIV workers and key leaders in the South Asian community.

Background Information

1. South Asians (SAs) are the third largest Asian and Pacific Islander community in the U.S.
2. India is the country that has the largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS.
3. There has also been significant immigration from South Asia over the last two decades.
4. Like many other communities of color, as well as recent immigrant communities, South Asians have many economic, linguistic, and cultural barriers to accessing services.

Despite these facts there is no South Asian HIV focused program in the entire U.S. Recognizing the need to improve the South Asian community's access to HIV services, the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Wellness Center is organizing a working meeting as part of its National Technical Assistance Program.

Goals and Objectives

Goal:

To improve South Asian communities access to HIV/AIDS information with a specific focus on men who have sex with men (MSM), youth, women, monolingual, and undocumented communities.

Objectives: To share amongst participants:

1. An overview of what we know about SA (MSM) HIV issues in the US.
 - a) Who are SA in the US?
 - b) Where are the SA communities in the US?
 - c) What research do we have on SA HIV issues in the US, with specific focus on communities?
2. An inventory of needs from community and provider perspective.
3. An inventory of HIV resources for SA communities, including a list of SA serving HIV programs.
4. A plan for the next steps to improve SA access.

Organizing Committee

The organizing committee has representation from the target communities. We meet via monthly conference calls to organize this meeting. We will also be meeting during the Voices conference (a conference on Asian and Pacific Islander Health Advocacy and Policy Issues) to create the agenda for the August meeting.

The Target Community

1. South Asians who are doing HIV/AIDS work and SA HIV service providers
2. South Asian community leaders from MSM, youth, women, monolingual, and undocumented communities who can improve their constituency's access to HIV primary prevention services (continue on pg.7)

(continued from pg.6 "South Asian HIV Prevention Meeting)

In order to facilitate the development of concrete strategies to improve SA access to HIV services, participation in this meeting will be by invitation only. However, if you fit the target community for this meeting, please contact Javid Syed at the API Wellness Center in San Francisco at **415.292.3420 x 327** or at **javid@apiwellness.org**.

Meaning of South Asia(n)

South Asia refers to the geographic region of the world that includes countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma/ Myanmar, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Tibet. South Asian refers to people who trace their ancestry from the above countries, whether directly or from South Asian people settled in countries such as Guiana, Trinidad, Kenya, Canada, etc.

Partner Updates

Midwest HIV/AIDS Conference on Friday, September 7, 2001 at the Radisson Hotel Lincolnwood located at 4500 W. Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood, IL 60712. (tel) 847.677.1234 / (fax) 847.677.0234.

Please just mention a conference by Asian Health Coalition of Illinois when you make a reservation for a room. For more information, please contact Sachie Mizohata, Asian Health Coalition of IL, (tel) 773.878.0761 or (email) Smizohata@aol.com

General Announcements & Notes (continued from page 2)

6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific



"Breaking Down Barriers"

October 5-10, 2001 in Melbourne Australia

www.icaap.conf.au

Contact : Sue Chaplin (email) Sue.Chaplin@icaap.conf.au

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 : **Job Announcement for HIV** :
 : **Program Coordinator** :
 :

: Please check www.apiahf.org for :
 : upcoming details & information. :
 :

HIV Mini-grant Applications

The Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Capacity-Building Assistance Program of the APIAHF announces an upcoming mini-grant cycle for one-time funding to agencies to conduct short-term telehealth activities that will increase the capacity of organizations to provide improved HIV prevention and care services to Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Mini-Grants will be available for projects under two general capacity-building categories. **Supporting HIV Interventions through New Technologies:** This category includes projects that will use new technologies to support new or existing HIV interventions. **Implementing HIV Interventions Utilizing New Technologies:** This category includes projects that will conduct HIV interventions, through new or innovative approaches utilizing new technologies as one of its main activities.

What's the funding amount? Grants range between \$2500-\$5000

Who's Eligible? Not-for profit, community-based organizations currently providing HIV prevention and care services to Asian and Pacific Islanders in the United States and the Pacific jurisdictions.

When's the deadline? Applications must arrive no later than 5pm, September 21, 2001. Mail to: Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, 942 Market Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94102. Fax and email NOT accepted.

How do I apply? For application guidelines, download a Word or PDF copy on our website www.apiahf.org/programs/hivcba.html or email or call Program Associate Rachel Gacula at 415.954.9969/ rgacula@apiahf.org.

Who to contact if I have questions on the application? Contact Kim Nguyen, Mini-Grants Coordinator at 415.954.9962, fax 415.954.9999, or email knguyen@apiahf.org.

VOICES 2001: A Recap

By Rachel Gacula, APIAHF Staff



Participants at a Northern California regional strategy session.

On April 27-29, 2001, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum held its second national conference *Voices from the Community* in Redwood City, CA. Over six hundred participants consisted of health professionals, youth, students, policy advocates, as well as agency and government representative. Opening plenary speakers included Art Chen (APIAHF Chair Board Member), Puanani Burgess (Co-founder of Wai'anae Coast Community Mental Health Center), Reiko Homma-True (Conference Co-chair), Frank Chong (Conference Co-chair), Vince Cristostomo (Executive Director of Coral Life Foundation), Tom Perez (former Director of Office of Civil Rights, DHHS), John Ruffin (Director of Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIH), Tessie Guillermo (Executive Director/CEO of APIAHF), and Shamina Singh (former Executive Director of White House Initiative on AAPIs).

Addressing the conference's theme of "Building Community Readiness to Improve Asian American and Pacific Islander Health," forty workshops, strategy and plenary sessions were offered. Several subject areas included policy building, research development, ethnic and geographic focus, disease topics, telehealth, women's health, and domestic violence. The event also focused on the Presidential Executive Order 13125 and White House Initiative on Asian and Pacific Islander established in 1999. Since then the initiative has become part of efforts to improve the quality of life in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, advocating for increased participation from federal programs, development of better research on AAPIs and strengthening of public, private, and community agency involvement with making advancements in AAPI health and well being.

Youth panelists at the Youth Dialogue Session



Vince Cristostomo, Executive Director of Coral Life Foundation in Guam

New elements of the conference included the Early Career and Youth Tracks. The Early Career Track consisted of graduate students and new professionals, who were matched up with established professionals as their mentors. The mentors and mentees collaborated on activism projects as well as involvement in a career development workshop.

The Youth Track brought out a generation (ages 25 and under), to exchange ideas on youth involvement and issues as well as building intergenerational relationships with conference participants. Track participants especially became an essential part of demonstrating the importance on building leadership and skills in our future leaders.

The positive feedback and speculation of when the next *Voices* conference is going to take place, certainly displayed the wonderful success *Voices* had with bringing together members from diverse communities as well as paving the way for opportunities to share information, network, and building stronger voices for improving the health and well being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. (To learn about the initiative, visit www.omhrc.gov for more information.)

HIV & Youth Update By Rachel Gacula, APIAHF Staff

APIAHF HIV CBA Program Coordinator ManChui Leung and Program Associate Rachel Gacula, convened a meeting at the Voices 2001 conference for the National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV & Youth Working Group. The meeting brought together both youth and providers interested in becoming involved with the working group, and began exchanging ideas about AAPI youth and HIV issues as well as strategies to address these issues as a working group. Agency members from Chuuk, American Samoa, Los Angeles, Boston, Washington D.C., New York, San Francisco drafted some preliminary ideas for working group activities and goals.

- Addressing HIV in the context of Healthy Teen Sexuality.
- Providing research-based information from the community.
- Developing a safe space for youth by helping develop and train peer leaders.
- Advocating for translation services.
- Developing local annual youth conferences.
- Telehealth networking with community based organization providers.
- More health focused community meetings.
- Networking with successful youth programs.
- Online website on youth and HIV.
- Providing technical assistance and support to agencies serving youth.
- Locating youth to become involve with the Speakers Bureau.
- Helping with research study or data.
- Providing organization model of youth programs.
- Increasing knowledge about the GBLT community/youth.



Participants expressed the need to be involved with consistent conference calls and networking in order to successfully meet future goals and objectives of this national working group. So a conference call in July 2001, took place in order to continue on the progress. APIAHF HIV program staff collaborated with with Urooj Arshad (National Youth Advocacy Coalition, Washington D.C.) and Javid Syed (Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center, San Francisco) with the call agenda, which included on planning communication set-up, infrastructure, and addressing some immediate issues such as the new CDC request for proposals for youth MSMs of color. A working group meeting at the United States Conference on AIDS in Miami, Florida (September 13-16) has been proposed to allow face-to-face networking and planning.

HIV program staff members are continuing to compile a list of interested youth, providers and community members. If you or anyone you know who may be interested in the working group, please contact ManChui Leung or forward her contact information so that they can receive more information. mleung@apiahf.org /tel: 415.954.9993

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