



## Prevention Justice Mobilization Strategy Session

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

*After the Prevention Justice Rally and March, participants joined for dinner and broke up into groups to brainstorm **issues and strategies** for ongoing prevention justice efforts. Here are the notes from that meeting:*

### Group One:

**Issue:** Funding in communities of color for research into crack cocaine use and HIV. It seems like there are studies on crystal meth and link to HIV among MSM, but no studies in African-American communities where there are highest rates of HIV that could be associated with crack cocaine use.

**Strategy:** We need an advocacy coalition, including representatives from health departments, recovery institutions, therapists, media (Black and urban in particular), drug users and recovered addicts, to make demands around funding and research around these issues to the NIH.

### Group Two:

**Issue:** Housing- when people are released from prison/jail, nothing is available in terms of medical resources, emergency housing, etc.

### Group Three:

**Issue:** many counties have zero prevention or care services. For example, look at the structure of funding within Tennessee: Tennessee has Title I funding, but this doesn't reach rural communities. There are also issues in the immigrant populations of rural Tennessee, who are particularly marginalized, and distinct issues of substance abuse in rural Tennessee (we need to look into the cocaine disparities that exist, in particular).

**Strategy:** develop rural media tools, and create a statewide watch group, which could do fact checks, education and advocacy.

### Group Four:

**Issue:** comprehensive sex education

**Strategy:** put issue at the front burner outside of HIV community, particularly school boards and advisory committees who can push for changes.

Group Five:

**Issue:** Universal Health Care; the challenge is people not believing it can happen in this country

**Strategy:**

- Pass ETHA, the Early Treatment for HIV Act
- Continue to fight for full funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP)
- Engage in coalition-building- support each other's priorities and projects across health care needs
- Statistics are powerful- show "where the pain is"- for example in DC, 1 out of 20 people is HIV+; that is information that if made known broadly, could move people

**Strategic Opportunities** (it would make sense to do Prevention Justice Mobilization work around all these events):

- CBC debate in South Carolina in January
- Democratic National Convention and Republican National in August & September
- National HIV/AIDS Black Awareness Day on Feb 7

Group Six:

**Issue:** Lack of awareness about HIV and the Trans community. Trans people are pigeonholed and there is no data about transgender people and HIV

**Strategy:** Generate the data ourselves. Do not violate transpeople by treating them as guinea pigs, but create trust. Develop our info, versus relying on the CDC

Group Seven:

**Issue:** transphobia, racism and poverty, and how institutionalized racism intersects with inaccessible health care.

**Strategy:** Political candidates have platforms around health care. We can try to push candidates to incorporate PJM principles into their campaigns. Amongst ourselves, ensure access to disenfranchised communities to health care.

Group Eight:

**Issue:** the community versus the individual. Too many people, especially HIV+ people, are displaced from the prevention discussion. Serodiscordant relationships are largely unaddressed.

**Strategy:** HIV+ people must reclaim our role in conversations on prevention. HIV- partners of HIV+ people can speak out about prevention in “high risk” relationships, which can be very powerful

#### Group Nine:

**Issue:** Incarceration of massive numbers of Black women, men and youth on drug charges.

#### **Strategies:**

- Have an action at the International AIDS Conference In Mexico City to raise it as an issue of human rights and embarrass US officials
- Research cost of drug treatment versus incarceration, state by state, city by city and write up report to present to officials
- Organize a legal group to file lawsuits re: the failure to provide condoms to prisoners and overall lack of access to medical care within prisons
- Raise these issues in the context of the elections
- Collaborate with Human Rights Watch (US division), World Health Organization, civil rights advocates, historians (to give historical analysis/context), treatment providers, the prison caucus, and public health advocate groups.

#### Group Ten:

**Issue:** An utopia would be politicians at the table with us, in relationship to us and building with us, and building strong communities. But the reality is that we are not only disenfranchised, but also very isolated (including from each other)

**Strategy:** We need to break bread and break isolation together. Create transformation from the inside out. Keep doing events like this one to build community and relationships

#### Group Eleven:

**Issue:** In Boston, there is a lot of funding overall, but there are still many people “living outside the box”. There is marginalization of communities who are living in supposedly “dangerous” parts of Boston, who are suffering without any funding for services.

**Strategy:** needs to happen at the individual, organizational, and community level.

- We need to raise awareness about impact of policies.
- We need current data (we always wait too long for data to be analyzed).
- We need equal opportunity service delivery that is culturally competent in order to reduce barriers to participation
- Everyone should be involved; we all are responsible and accountable

### Group Twelve:

**Issue:** concentration of prevention work in cities; lack of access in rural areas

**Strategy:** the mobilization must be like a “river flowing, not trickling from the cities into rural areas”. The mobilization can’t stop in cities. We need to demand access to generic meds in rural areas. We need to study each culture (African-American, Latino/a, etc.), because we can’t assume the issues and needs of rural communities are the same. And we need to examine if different people’s bodies respond differently to illness and to meds. We need to set up different organizations. We need to do outreach at gay bars in rural areas.

### Group Thirteen:

**Issue:** women do not have the tools to use for ourselves to prevent HIV, and thus need to depend on the male condom

#### **Strategies:**

- Microbicide research
- Understand why female condoms are not useful for many women
- Need advocacy for real research
- We need to educate our sisters
- Get involved in clinical trials: both HIV+ and HIV- women
- Participate in elections

#### **Additional Discussion:**

- 1) Keep conversation going; particularly at conferences such as: USCA, APHA, NMAC, drug reform conferences, syringe exchange conferences
- 2) Act with a sense of urgency around Prevention Justice
- 3) Use the term “Prevention Justice”- in our newsletters, in lecture series, invite guest speakers to speak on PJ, write op-eds in our local papers. If we use the concept, it will stay alive; we create reality through language. We can do this work on our own in our organizations and communities.
- 4) How we can work together as if we thought we would be working together over the next 20 years, because that is what it will take to build this movement and achieve the victories we are demanding. So what can we do to begin building these long term relationships with each other?
- 5) Recognize that it can take staff to keep this work coordinated
- 6) We need a core group that should keep in contact with each other, so when there is a need or opportunity, we can jump in and mobilize. We need to continue to work together and build relationships
- 7) There is strength in numbers, we need to build our numbers -- expand the circle of people building a PJ movement

- 8) Although we are focusing on HIV/AIDS, people with cancer and other diseases should understand that when they are fighting for generic medications, and improved health care, they are fighting for Prevention Justice. Prevention Justice should be fighting for everybody.
- 9) We should develop an alert list to send info to each other; we should invite people whose work is not HIV-specific to be on it. This could be an effective mechanism to begin to build solidarity
- 10) We need to develop respect and honor among groups working on building a PJ movement. We need to continue to do that -- against the grain of fighting against each other for funding -- and figure out a way to sustain that.
- 11) We should summarize all that we have discussed tonight and get it e-mailed to everybody here - and then folks can distribute it and get the word out to their own communities.
- 12) Create Form Letter to the editor to give people a template/ a head start - so they can get prevention justice issues in their local and "niche" media

**Ideas for keeping the momentum in the next 3-6 months:**

- 1) We need clearer ways of explaining prevention justice, a solid sound bite. It was difficult to explain to friends what "prevention justice" is, despite getting the info on it from e-mails and conference calls.
- 2) Organizations are too competitive and isolated. We need to put forth an effort to truly collaborate with one another; then we can step forward to address the war for funding amongst different organizations and do real prevention work.
- 3) We need to take advantages of PR opportunities, such as movies and the elections. We need to put candidates feet to the fire, put pressure on them. Organizations in Iowa going to Manchester, NH and South Carolina for the early primaries. Candidates may promise anything to get into office; but we must keep them honest.
- 4) Mail a letter back to ourselves in 3-6 months so that we have a checklist of what we want to do to further PJ.
- 5) CHAMP is great at large conference calls. We should do more and have speakers to address PJM goals, issues, etc.
- 6) We should not just focus on the presidency and national elections, when so many issues are decided on a neighborhood levels. We need tools that we can use locally; like voter turn-out templates for local polls if people are running for office. You can make a huge difference on local elections
- 7) Create unity amongst ourselves; and we will only continue to grow and grow