



## **SURVIVING AND THRIVING** by John Hatchett

Well, here we are again at the end of another year. We've survived another national election season (if you can call 15 months a season!), and most of us are still here to keep fighting for the funds, programs and policies our communities need to continue surviving and thriving in the face of HIV/AIDS. But while the political news of 2004 may or may not have been to your liking, the LTI is happy to announce that we've received the report we've been eagerly waiting for over a year now: the statewide PWHA training needs assessment!

As most of you know, the LTI received funding in 2003 from the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute to conduct a year-long assessment of the advocacy training needs of New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS. Many of you contributed to the assessment, through participating in our initial series of information-gathering meetings around the state, through completing questionnaires or surveys (>300), or through joining in focus groups (120). You, and hundreds

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## **PWA/HIV ADVISORY GROUP of the New York City HIV HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL**

by Stephen Bailous

### *What is the Planning Council?*

The HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council makes decisions about how to spend the money that New York City receives from the federal government for AIDS care services under Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act. The Council does not decide which providers actually get the money. Rather, the Council decides how to distribute the money in broad service categories (e.g. home care, case management, housing, etc.).

### *What is the People Living with AIDS/HIV (PWA/HIV) Advisory Group and what is its mission?*

The PWA/HIV ADVISORY GROUP of the Planning Council consists of people living with HIV and AIDS who sit on the Planning Council, along with many other PWA/HIV and consumers of AIDS services who live throughout the five boroughs of New York City. (There is a separate PWA/HIV Advisory Group for the Tri-county area: Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam call 914-289-0980.) [ed's. note: Contact information for Title I planning councils in Long Island, Dutchess County, and Lower Hudson (Tri-County) can be found on page 7.]

The mission of the PWA/HIV Advisory Group to the New York HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council is to advocate for the interests and needs of people living with HIV/AIDS in the planning and evaluation of Title I services,

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#### **LTI Community Advisory Board**

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Judy Deane Barton       | Jack Patterson  |
| Diego Betancourt        | Jairo Pedraza*  |
| Ruben Bonilla           | Daphane Sanders |
| Pamela Goodrich         | Erwin Scott     |
| Kevin Huang-Cruz        | David Singh     |
| Michelle Lopez*         | Robin Smith     |
| Karen D. Johnson-Murray | Usungu Utshudi  |
| Kim Nichols*            | Michael Wade    |
|                         | *charter member |

#### **AIDS Institute Staff**

Sallie Perryman  
Dan Tietz

#### **NYC Office of AIDS Policy Coordination**

Stephen Bailous

#### **Program Staff**

John Hatchett *Director*  
Petra Berrios *Deputy Director*  
Greg Huang-Cruz *Trainer*  
Jenny O'Brian *Program Assistant*

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## PWA/HIV ADVISORY GROUP

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and to ensure the empowerment and participation of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Title I planning process. The Advisory Group may, in addition, advocate for non-Title I HIV/AIDS issues.

### **What do we do?**

We assist in creating policy concerning Title I funding and planning for care services through the Advisory Group and the Planning Council's work groups. We seek feedback from consumers about their satisfaction with services. We work to strengthen the consumer advocacy skills of people with HIV/AIDS. We encourage people with HIV/AIDS to become stronger and more vocal advocates in both the Title I planning process and with the programs where they are clients. We work on specific projects through our committees to promote our mission and goals. We advocate for quality, accessible services; we advocate for PWAs who can not advocate for themselves; we fight for our lives. (We do not get involved in planning for AIDS prevention, and we are not an ombudsman service for clients of private or public agencies or health care facilities.)

### **Who can participate?**

Any person living with HIV/AIDS, or who is the parent of a minor with HIV/AIDS, and who resides in one of the five boroughs of New York City (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island) can participate in the PWA/HIV Advisory Group. Our meetings are generally held on the second Saturday of each month. Round trip subway reimbursement and light lunches are provided; American Sign Language interpreters and child care are available upon advance request.

For more information and new member orientation dates, call Steve Bailous, Director of PLWHA Initiatives, Office of AIDS Policy Coordination—DOHMH at (212) 442-3929. ●

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE by Felicia Carroll**

Since graduating from the Leadership Training Institute (LTI) at Cicatelli, I realize that I have the potential to really make a difference. When three years ago I was home looking at the four walls and letting my nasty caseworker and nasty landlord run over me, I got tired of the "bull" and joined the Community Healthcare Network's community advisory board. There I met Michelle Lopez, who gave me an application for the LTI. I filled it out and sent it by fax to Cicatelli; within the next two weeks LTI was sending me my dates for the training.

At first I was reluctant because I never did anything like this before. And my self-esteem was at an all-time low. I took the Core training in December 2000, and it was the most invigorating experience I've ever had! The training boosted my self-esteem and made me realize that just because you have HIV/AIDS doesn't make you a lesser person. From there I went on to the LTI's advanced trainings, and I joined Sisterhood Mobilized for AIDS Research & Treatment (SMART) University.

I started out at SMART as a volunteer, and then went on to become a Peer Educator. After two years with SMART I moved on to Housing Works, doing HIV advocacy here in New York City. Today I'm also on the NYC HIV Planning Council, and I'm serving as Co-chair of the Council's People Living With HIV/AIDS Advisory Group. I'm also on various Council committees.

I have LTI to thank for all that. They gave me the boost and the support I needed to get where I'm at today. Thank you LTI for everything—I couldn't have done it without you.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING by Steve Hemraj**

The Leadership Training Institute (LTI) has opened up my understanding and interpretation of the various cultures, history and dynamics of this huge and oftentimes complicated industry of HIV and AIDS. The training I have received from the LTI over a two year period has helped me tremendously to take on leadership roles on a variety of levels with both the City and State.

The skills one gets from these systematic and structured trainings provide the foundation for advancing consumer participation and taking on leadership roles in community advocacy activities. In my opinion, these trainings are invaluable for any person wanting to join the PPG, the Ryan White Planning Council, etc. They certainly advance the level of consumer participation on the subcommittees and work groups of the NYC HIV Planning Council! But being HIV+ alone is not the only pre-requisite; one must also be committed to further enhancing one's skills in order to be effective and productive in working with the system. The system, in turn, must support and encourage ongoing training for consumers.

Less than 3 years after arriving in this country as an immigrant, the skills I gained through the LTI have propelled me to become a member of the NYC HIV Planning Council as well as its Finance Officer! Today I also hold other positions, such as Co-Chair of the PLWHA Advisory Group to the Planning Council, and member of the Executive Committee, the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation committee and the Consumer Committee. I am also the Executive Director (pro bono) for Just Kids Foundation. Most recently I have joined the (New York State) AIDS Institute's HIV Quality of Care - Consumer Advisory Committee and the Consumer Advisory Committee of Body Positive.

As a community we cannot overemphasize the need for continuous and systematic training of all our consumers. Unless we can provide technical knowledge and training to PLWHA, we cannot empower them. Empowerment first comes from knowledge—through that knowledge we gain the tools for problem solving and decision making.

The LTI must be continuously supported, and it, in turn, must continue to ensure full access to all consumers.

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## A PERSPECTIVE ON THE NYC HIV PREVENTION PLANNING PROCESS

by Gregory Huang-Cruz

In 2000, I applied for and was accepted to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene HIV Prevention Planning Group (whew!), NYCPPG for short. The mission of the NYCPPG and its primary goal is “to eliminate HIV infection and disease in New York City.” To this end, in a joint effort of community and governmental representatives, the NYCPPG develops a comprehensive HIV prevention plan, which is updated annually. The plan examines multiple HIV community needs around prevention, and prioritizes interventions and strategies for identified populations at high risk of HIV infection. The NYCPPG also fosters integration of HIV prevention community planning processes into other planning and policy efforts.

Many PWHAAs, as well as many New Yorkers in general, are unfamiliar with the NYCPPG, and many more individuals have not even heard of it! Hopefully this article will familiarize you with a few of the intricacies of HIV Prevention Community Planning, and describe some of the ways you might want to participate in its processes.

While it is not necessary to be well versed in planning, it certainly helps to be a PWHA. I say this because as a PWHA I am able to articulate my experiences directly and, hopefully,

represent my peers who may not be at the table to speak for themselves.

In my first year as a PPG member, I become engrossed—and even lost—in the myriad of acronyms—MHRA, CTL funds, CBOs, HRA, HHS, UCHAPS, to name just a few! Although I came to NY with prior PPG experience while working and living in California and Hawaii, I relied on my mentor to assist me in recognizing these acronyms to help navigate my way through the discussions. The PPG liaison staff also provides excellent support, ensuring that members are not completely lost in the maze.

The structure of the PPG provides individuals an opportunity to be as involved as they want to be. Especially for PWHA this can either be a lot (due to available time) or a little (because they are working or possibly not healthy enough). I chose to maximize my time and advocacy during my tenure, so in my case, it’s been a lot!

There also is an advisory group of people living with HIV/AIDS that is comprised of PPG members with HIV/AIDS, their alternates and others who are consumers of HIV/AIDS-related services living in New York City. The function of this group is to reflect the perspective of PWHA on issues which come before the PPG and to participate in the development of a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention plan.

A meeting of the PPG is held once a month and usually breaks in August

and October. If you chose to become a chair of a workgroup or committee, then you would attend meetings twice a month. And of course, should you run and be elected Community Co Chair, as I did, it means more meetings per month. New members are appointed at the beginning of each year for a 2 year term, and you may elect to be reappointed for an additional 2 years, rounding off your commitment to 4 years total.

On top of being a member of the PPG, members are invited to attend out of state conferences, primarily the United States Conference on AIDS and the HIV Prevention Leadership Conference. In addition, members of the PWA Advisory Group are given opportunities to advocate in other venues.

### You’re invited!

While the nomination process for 2005 is now closed, opportunities to participate in the workgroups and committees are always available. Submit your nomination for appointment to the PPG as early as possible; as positions become available, you will be contacted. For further information on the NYC PPG, call Yevgeniy Breger at (212) 788-4180. You can also call Gregory Huang-Cruz at Cicatelli Associates Inc. (212/594-7741), extension 271.

For participation and/or nomination to the New York State PPG, call Wendy Shotsky at (518) 473-8484. Like the NYC PPG, the nomination process requires your application. According to Wendy, other opportunities for participation include Community Advisorships, which she can outline for you upon inquiry.

And lastly, I invite you to refer to pages 5 and 7 for additional planning bodies and networks that offer opportunities for PWA involvement and advocacy. ●

All LTI workshops through March are currently fully enrolled with the exception of these two Cores (remember, as a Core graduate, you can’t take the training a second time). Please spread the word—if you know people who are interested in attending upstate in English or in New York City in Spanish, encourage them to call us. The number is: 212-594-7741 x231 or 866-792-5323 x231. The new calendar will be included in the March issue of *The Circle*.

**UPSTATE: March 17-19, 2005, LTI Core, Rochester, NY**

**NEW YORK CITY: February 25-27, 2005, Core en Español, NYC**

## PWAS HELPING PWHAS ADDRESS AND MAINTAIN MENTAL HEALTH

by Gregory Huang-Cruz, John Hatchett

A series of one-day forums aimed at increasing awareness of mental health issues among People Living with HIV/AIDS (PWHAs) was launched on October 8 at the Cicatelli Training Centers in Manhattan. Since then additional forums have taken place in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Long Island, Harlem, Queens and the Bronx.

Funded by the NYS DOH AIDS Institute, the forums are facilitated by a Leadership Training Institute (LTI) PWHA peer educator and a mental health professional that has experience working with PWHAs. They cover general information such as definitions of mental health and mental illness, stressors common among PWHAs and some common barriers to seeking mental health care. The forums also provide information about what kinds of mental health problems are thought to be most prevalent among PWHAs, what types of treatment approaches are available and what to expect from a mental health care provider.

Although attendance is only open to people living with HIV/AIDS, unlike other LTI offerings, you do not have to be a graduate of the LTI Core training to attend the forums; any person living with HIV/AIDS may attend. Lunch is provided for all participants, and at the New York City forums a Metrocard™ is also provided.

Here are some comments we have received from attendees across the state:

**New York City:** "It was an outstanding class..." "Long overdue—this workshop was entirely relevant to the community—great job!!"

**Albany:** "Good information—need more like it!"

**Long Island:** "I thoroughly enjoyed this training and learned new insight concerning mental health treatment."

**Syracuse:** "The training was very informative."

**Rochester:** "I really enjoyed the workshop, it was very beneficial."

We are very excited about this initiative, and interest among PWHAs has been very high. We also hope that these forums will help PWHAs view mental health problems and treatment as part of comprehensive health care, and to appreciate the potential benefits of addressing mental health concerns, such as strengthening medication adherence and other self-care behaviors.

There are still several opportunities to attend this forum. Upcoming forums are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

**Staten Island,** January 31st

Community Health Action of Staten Island, 56 Bay St., 6th Fl., Staten Island 10301

**Brooklyn,** February 11th

Miracle Makers, Inc., 1950 Fulton St., 5th Floor, Brooklyn 11233

**Binghamton,** February 24th

Broome County Health Dept., 225 Front St., Room C, Binghamton 13905

*Advance registration is very important, so that adequate arrangements may be made for food and transportation. We look forward to seeing you at one of the forums!*

To register, or if you have any questions, please call Jenny O'Brian at 212-594-7741 x231. ●

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### FEBRUARY 7, 2005

#### 5TH NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY (NBHAAD).

Information on the 2005 event is forthcoming. For more information on NBHAAD 2004, visit NBHAAD online at <http://www.blackaidsday.org> or call 1-800-992-6531.

### FEBRUARY 19-21, 2005

#### RYAN WHITE NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON HIV AND AIDS

Nashville, TN

Sponsored by the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA). For more information, visit the NAPWA website at <http://www.napwa.org> or call (202) 898-0435.

### JUNE 12-15, 2005

#### 2005 NATIONAL HIV PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Atlanta, GA

### JUNE 27, 2005

#### NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

Sponsored by the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA). For more information, visit the NAPWA website at <http://www.napwa.org> or call (202) 898-0435.

### JULY 31-AUGUST 1, 2005

#### HIV PREVENTION LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (HPLS)

For more information go to the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) website's HPLS page at <http://www.nmac.org/conferences/HPLS2005/> or call (202) 483-6622.

## SURVIVING & THRIVING

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of other PWHA, told us about what motivates you to get involved in community groups, what barriers you face in getting and staying involved, and what topics you need more training in to increase our collective effectiveness in those community groups.

As of this writing the final report is still under review by the AIDS Institute, but Cikatelli Associates Inc. intends to make the report available in 2005 for the entire community. Some of the findings highlight needs that the LTI itself will certainly try to take on—things like trainings in specific skill and information areas—while others are beyond the mission and scope of the LTI, but are areas we hope will be addressed by other groups around the state.

As you might expect, some of the results confirmed what we already thought we knew: PWHA want to increase their knowledge of systems and procedures, as well as the way planning and policy processes work and operate; but we also want to improve our skills, especially skills for effectively presenting ourselves and our ideas to others, as well as skills related to self-advocacy and organization. Other results weren't necessarily surprising, but weren't already in front of us: ways to identify community needs, ways to target and recruit others for community work and/or education, ways to ensure cultural competency in our work and groups, and so on.

Our thanks to everyone who contributed to the needs assessment process. We look forward to sharing the results widely, and using them to plan for the considerable and difficult work ahead. In the meanwhile, all of us at the LTI wish all of you a Healthy and Happy New Year! ●

**N**ow, with community planning activities more important than ever, your local HIV Care Network is the place to be... to be heard, to be seen, to be involved, to be a leader! Below is an updated list of the networks, their coordinators and basic contact information. Give them a call and ask when their next PWA Advisory Committee meeting is, and/or how you can help.

### Albany Region HIV Care Network

**JILL FARNHAM**

**Tel:** 518-434-9194, ext. 116  
**Web:** [www.ccsnys.org/rwnet](http://www.ccsnys.org/rwnet)  
**Email:** [jfarnham@ccsnys.org](mailto:jfarnham@ccsnys.org)

### Bedford Stuyvesant/Crown Heights HIV Care Network

**EVE AMMONS-JOHNSON, COORDINATOR**

**Tel:** 718-622-8184, ext. 101  
**Email:** [eve117@ptd.net](mailto:eve117@ptd.net)

### Binghamton Tri-County Region HIV Care Network

**SANDRA KOSTY**

**Tel:** 607-778-3066  
**Email:** [skosty@co.broome.ny.us](mailto:skosty@co.broome.ny.us)  
**Web:** [gobroomecounty.com](http://gobroomecounty.com)

### Bronx HIV Care Network

**SOCRATES CABA**

**Tel:** 718-231-3598  
**Email:** [scaba@montefiore.org](mailto:scaba@montefiore.org)

### Buffalo Region HIV Care Network

**ANDREW KIENER**

**Tel:** 716-882-7840  
**Email:** [aidsnet@pce.net](mailto:aidsnet@pce.net)  
**Web:** [www.aidsnetwork.net](http://www.aidsnetwork.net)

### Central Harlem HIV Care Network

**JUDITH BUTLER MCPHIEZ**

**Tel:** 212-926-8000, ext. 15

### East Harlem HIV Care Network

**JOSE MARTIN GARCIA ORDUNA**

**Tel:** 212-828-6143  
**Email:** [jorduna@unionsett.org](mailto:jorduna@unionsett.org)  
**Website:** [www.aidsnyc.org/network](http://www.aidsnyc.org/network)

### East New York Brownsville HIV Care Network

**GWENDOLYN EDWARDS**

**Tel:** 718-907-3726, ext. 3725  
**Email:** [enybhcn@aol.com](mailto:enybhcn@aol.com)

### Lower Hudson Region HIV Care Network

**KELLI EVERETT**

**Tel:** 914-428-2114, ext. 230  
**Email:** [ulwswd@aol.com](mailto:ulwswd@aol.com)

### Mid-Hudson Region HIV Care Network

**ANITA WYATT**

**Tel:** 845-563-8058  
**Email:** [anita8059@hotmail.com](mailto:anita8059@hotmail.com)  
**Web:** [www.mid-hudsonhivcare.org](http://www.mid-hudsonhivcare.org)

### Nassau Suffolk Region HIV Care Network

**DEBRA ROSS**

**Tel:** 631-940-3700, ext.6480  
**Email:** [dross@unitedwayLI.org](mailto:dross@unitedwayLI.org)

### Queens HIV Care Network

**MARITZA VILLACIS**

**Tel:** 718-389-5100, ext. 188

### Rochester Region HIV Care Network

**LYNN VARRICCHIO**

**Tel:** 585-461-3520, ext. 106  
**Email:** [lynn@flhsa.org](mailto:lynn@flhsa.org)

### Staten Island HIV Care Network

**REBECCA ORTIZ**

**Tel:** 718-448-8789  
**Email:** [rebecca.ortiz@siatf.org](mailto:rebecca.ortiz@siatf.org)  
**Website:** <http://community.silive.com/cc/hivcarenet>

### Syracuse Region HIV Care Network

**STEVE WALDRON, Ph.D.**

**Tel:** 315-472-8099, ext. 105  
**Email:** [sewaldron@cnyhsa.com](mailto:sewaldron@cnyhsa.com)

### Williamsburg/Greenpoint/Bushwick HIV Care Network

**RICHARD FERREIRA**

**Tel:** 718-455-6010, ext. 138  
**Email:** [referreira@earthlink.com](mailto:referreira@earthlink.com)

# web sites

The Internet is an invaluable resource for information about all aspects of the AIDS epidemic. Sites range from highly technical medical information and online journals to support organizations to chat rooms for HIV+ people to share experiences and resources. Most web sites also have links to other HIV/AIDS sites. The following sites offer comprehensive information, referral, non-technical medical up-dates, news items, community event announcements and links to other sites. These sites are invaluable tools for PWHA, counselors, educators and anyone who works with or cares about us.

## **Access Project (AIDS Treatment Data Network):**

**<http://www.atdn.org/access>**  
This "information clearing house" is an excellent resource for information on available HIV-related medications, ADAP programs, Medicaid, expanded access programs, etc.

## **ÆGIS (AIDS Education Global Information System):**

**<http://www.aegis.com>**  
ÆGIS offers daily news stories ("updated hourly"), current treatment data, resources and many other links—the mother of all AIDS databases, and still the largest (and most comprehensive).

## **AIDSMEDS.COM**

**<http://www.aidsmeds.com>**  
"Easy-to-read, comprehensive treatment info," founded by longtime HIV+ AIDS activist Peter Staley, *aidsmeds.com* offers a number of user-friendly resources, including "Graph Your Labs," "Check My Meds," community forums, treatment news, as well as simple lessons about HIV itself, how to read lab reports, available treatments, opportunistic infections, etc. An excellent resource!

## **AIDS Treatment Data Network:**

**<http://www.atdn.org/>**  
Treatment education and counseling for all persons with HIV/AIDS. The site includes treatment fact sheets, research data base, glossaries, information in Spanish, news, and links to other sites.

## **The Body: A Multimedia AIDS and HIV Resource:**

**<http://www.thebody.com>**  
Contains an orientation to HIV/AIDS, treatment overviews and up-dates, a large selection of information and sites for women with HIV, special section on

quality of life issues, "how to" section on obtaining support from various AIDS service organizations nation-wide, and links to other sites.

## **Gay Men's Health Crisis:**

**<http://www.gmhc.org>**  
The nation's first and largest AIDS support organization. GMHC offers case management, counseling and support, financial, legal, recreation, and medical services. Their "Treatment Issues" is a monthly up-date on recent developments in AIDS treatments that is comprehensive and reliable.

## **Health GAP (Global Access Project):**

**<http://www.healthgap.org/>**  
Health GAP is "an organization of U.S.-based AIDS and human rights activists, people living with HIV/AIDS, public health experts, fair trade advocates and concerned individuals who campaign... for drug access and the resources necessary to sustain access for people with HIV/AIDS across the globe."

## **HIV | InSite:**

**<http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu>**  
Sponsored by the University of California, San Francisco, this site is an excellent resource for treatment updates, national news, social issues, state by state list of AIDS Drug Assistance Programs and much more. It also has several sub-sites in Spanish.

## **National Association of People With AIDS:**

**<http://www.napwa.org>**  
Resource for advocacy for PWAs. Includes information on education and outreach, treatment, government policy, conferences, etc.

## **Project Inform Home Page:**

**<http://www.projinf.org/>**  
AIDS treatment and advocacy organization. Site includes treatment fact sheets, research up-dates, political issues, policy recommendations. This site strives to help "all of those who have made the decision to take charge of their health."

## **Women Alive:**

**<http://www.women-alive.org/>**  
Billing itself as "the national premier treatment-focused organization by and for women living with HIV/AIDS..." Treatment information, peer support, advocacy; newsletter, fact sheets, online treatment questions forum.

## **New York City Department of Health, AIDS/HIV page:**

**<http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/html/ah/ah.html>**

General HIV/AIDS information; links to NYC HIV surveillance data, training calendars, other publications.

## **SEE ALSO:**

## **New York City HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council**

**<http://www.nyhiv.org/>**  
All aspects of Planning Council business, including meeting calendars, PLWHA Advisory Group, Office of AIDS Policy, MHRA RFP announcements, etc.

## **New York State Department of Health:**

**<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/aids/>**  
General HIV/AIDS information and links to other services available throughout NYS.

## **AIDS Action:**

**<http://www.aidsaction.org>**  
Resources to keep abreast of national AIDS-related funding, program and public policy issues. The site also provides news and articles on topics such as Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization, the national response to CDC's initiatives and many others.

## **NMAC – National Minority AIDS Council**

**<http://www.nmac.org>**  
NMAC's website offers dates and contact information for upcoming national and international HIV/AIDS-related conferences as well as information on technical assistance, treatment, and advocacy. Extremely informative site, with reference materials, brochures and other downloadable communication tools. A great resource with links to many other information resources.

## **PWA LTI**

**<http://www.cicatelli.org/lti>**  
The LTI website is where you can find our training calendar, descriptions of our workshops, and registration/ application forms in both English and Spanish for both the Core training and our Advanced Topic trainings. We have also begun posting issues of The Circle, the LTI's newsletter, on the webpage. One click takes you to the main web site for Cicatelli Associates Inc., with course descriptions and calendars for a wide range of programs.

## WHAT'S WITH ALL THOSE FORMS?

As anyone who's completed an Leadership Training Institute (LTI) training knows well, we do a good amount of evaluation. The Core training begins with a lengthy pre-training questionnaire, intended to create a sort of baseline for evaluating the program's impact on participants' community involvement. And every workshop we offer concludes with a written evaluation questionnaire, usually running to three pages, that asks participants to give us feedback on how well the workshop met its objectives, the usefulness of the workshop for them personally, their satisfaction with the workshop materials and trainers, and any complaints or suggestions for improvement.

Your responses to our evaluation questions let us know what's working for you in the workshops and what we may need to rethink, redesign or just plain toss. This evaluation has been central to the LTI's development over the last seven years. Especially in the first two years of the program, participant feedback led to major changes in the Core training and eventually determined the roster of Advanced Topic workshops we currently offer. This year, the decision to introduce the Advanced CAB Leadership training this coming spring was in large part a result of your suggestions on our evaluation forms.

Now, we report this evaluation data to a number of places: monthly to the AIDS Institute, quarterly to Medical &

Health Research Association (MHRA) of New York City (NYC data only) and semi-annually to Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the original federal source of the two main contracts that support the LTI. But one place we've never reported our evaluation data is here, in The Circle. There's too much data to include in full, but giving our readers some basic numbers and a sampling of participant feedback seems a good way to let LTI grads know what we actually do with all those darn forms you fill out for us!

With this issue we're instituting what we hope will be a recurring feature in selected issues of The Circle: an update to our graduates on what they themselves are telling us about our trainings. As many of you are aware, the Ryan White Title II (New York State) contract year begins on April 1, and each fall we submit to HRSA a six-month progress report that covers all LTI activities for the first half of the year, or April 1-September 30. So the most recent data we've reported to Washington covers that period for 2004 and we thought our graduates might like to see what kinds of information we reported this fall. The data that follows shows the main elements of our reports: all the trainings and numbers of participants for the reporting period, along with a narrative description of evaluation results for the Core training and evaluation results for the Advanced Topic trainings. It's a lot of information, so we're only including a sample - enough to give an idea of what gets reported and how it looks.

The comments you add at the end of the evaluation forms are used internally to help us identify concerns, issues and suggestions that need follow-up; one example is our decision to offer more of our workshops on weekends, which was something a large number of participants told us would make the trainings more accessible. So here's a look at what you told us in the first half of the LTI's 2004-2005 year.

*(continued on page 8)*

## ALL TRAINED UP AND NOWHERE TO GO?

There are many chances to use your LTI experience to assist our communities in planning, strategizing and priority setting for services and interventions for PWHA. Every region of the state has a Ryan White Title II **HIV Care Network** (see list on p.5), and several regions are also Ryan White Title I designated EMAs, with their own **Planning Councils** and **PWHA Advisory Groups**. If prevention is your passion, check out the city or state **Prevention Planning Groups**.

In other words, there are lots of opportunities for our involvement in different kinds of groups all around New York State. All of these groups depend on our contributions and expertise as PWHA, and some are actively recruiting members right now!

*Please directly contact any of the groups below for more information or for schedules of their open public meetings.*

### DUTCHESS COUNTY HIV SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL

Call: (845) 452-8805 • Contact: Berta Martin

### NASSAU/SUFFOLK COUNTY HIV PLANNING COUNCIL

United Way of Long Island • Call: (631) 940-3716 • Contact: Myra Alston

### NEW YORK CITY HIV HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL

Call: (212) 442-3929 • Staff Liaison: Stephen Bailous • [www.nyhiv.org](http://www.nyhiv.org)

### TRI-COUNTY RYAN WHITE TITLE I PLANNING COUNCIL

Westchester County Department of Health (also includes Rockland & Putnam Counties)  
Call: (914) 637-4752 or 2453

### NEW YORK STATE HIV PREVENTION PLANNING GROUP (PPG)

General Number: (518) 473-8484 • Staff Liaison: Wendy Shotsky

### NEW YORK CITY DOH HIV PREVENTION PLANNING GROUP (PPG)

Call: (212) 788-4180 • Staff Liaison: Yevgeniy Breger  
Email: [dohmhppg@health.nyc.gov](mailto:dohmhppg@health.nyc.gov)

**WHAT'S WITH ALL THOSE FORMS?**

*(continued from page 7)*

We hope you'll recognize some of your own feedback in these numbers, and that we'll be seeing many of you soon in other workshops!

**Core Training Course Evaluation**

Overall, evaluation results were positive for the three 3 Day Core trainings delivered between April 1, 2004 and September 30 2004 (N=78). The group consisted of more males than females (53.8% and 34.6%, respectively, with one participant identifying as transgendered); 70.5% of the group identified as black or hispanic, 69.2% as between 25-49 years of age, and just over 47% identified as heterosexual. Thirteen respondents (16.7%) reported their age as 50+ years.

All respondents (100%) agreed that they were glad they participated in the training (question 14), that the "training was very good at teaching leadership skills" (question 12) and that they "would recommend this training program to a friend" (question 15). A large majority agreed that they felt comfortable sharing information about themselves with the whole group (question 10, 93.5%), and that they learned a lot of leadership skills from the training (question 13, 97.7%). Altogether, there were five facilitators involved in these trainings: four regular LTI staff/consultant trainers and one LTI apprentice trainer. All five received positive feedback.

Most participants indicated that the training was "extremely helpful" or "very helpful" in the areas questioned (questions 23-32). For example, a large majority (94.8%) responded that "discovering [their] strengths as a leader" (question 23) was "extremely helpful" or "very helpful"; 98.7% said the same about "using the self-assessment questions to identify... strengths, knowledge and interests as a leader" (question 30). Over 90% reported that "using the Johari Window exercise to learn more about [themselves]" and "how other people see [them]" (questions 27-28)

was "extremely" or "very helpful." Over 90% of respondents also found "developing" and "putting into place [a] personalized action plan" "extremely" or "very helpful" (questions 31 and 32, respectively).

**Advanced Topic Course Evaluation**

*Working Effectively In Groups*

There were two Working Effectively in Groups trainings offered between April 1, 2004 and September 30, 2004 (N=34). Approximately equal numbers of females and males attended this training (16 versus 15, 3 declined to respond). In addition, 70.6% of participants identified as Black or Hispanic, over half (67.6%) were between the ages of 25-49, and about half the group (52.9%) identified as heterosexual (5 participants, or 15% of the group, declined to respond).

Overall, results from this training were again positive. All respondents (100%) agreed that the "training was very

good at teaching about group effectiveness" (question 10), that they were "glad (they) participated in this training" (question 12) and 97% indicated that they "would recommend this training to a friend" (question 13). All three facilitators received positive ratings from the participants.

Lastly, a large majority of participants (97-100%) responded that the training was "extremely useful" or "very useful" in all areas questioned (questions 21-33). For example, 97% of participants responded that "being able to adopt different conflict management skills" (question 28) and "learning... different consensus building methods" (question 30) were "extremely" or "very useful," and 100% found "learning techniques to successfully negotiate with others" (question 26) and "developing strategies for increasing effectiveness in groups" (question 25) either "extremely" or "very useful." ●

| DATES             | TOPIC               | LOCATION      | # REGISTERED | # ATTENDED | # COMPLETED |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| 4/16/04 - 4/18/04 | Core                | New York City | 31           | 20         | 20          |
| 4/23/04- 4/25/04  | Core                | Buffalo       | 29           | 26         | 26          |
| 4/30/04 - 5/1/04  | CAB Roles           | New York City | 13           | 15         | 14          |
| 5/5/04 - 5/7/04   | Working in Groups   | Schenectady   | 19           | 18         | 18          |
| 5/13/04 - 5/15/04 | Working in Groups   | New York City | 20           | 18         | 16          |
| 5/21/04 - 5/22/04 | Presentation Skills | New York City | 17           | 16         | 15          |
| 6/4/04 - 6/5/04   | Community Planning  | Poughkeepsie  | 13           | 12         | 12          |
| 6/11/04 - 6/12/04 | Presentation Skills | Albany        | 17           | 16         | 16          |
| 6/25/04 - 6/26/04 | Community Planning  | New York City | 13           | 5          | 5           |
| 6/29/04 - 6/30/04 | Proposal Review     | New York City | 14           | 10         | 9           |
| 9/17/04 - 9/19/04 | Core                | Albany        | 22           | 18         | 17          |
| 9/21/04 - 9/23/04 | Core                | New York City | 22           | 6          | 15          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   |                     |               | <b>230</b>   | <b>190</b> | <b>183</b>  |