



the circle

Fall 2006, N° 20

leading lines advocacy outreach community

SURVIVING AND THRIVING It's back-to-school time!

by John Hatchett

OK, it's true: it's been a while since I was in school, but for many of our colleagues and friends (not to mention many, many of our children), September brings with it a renewed frenzy of activity after the usually relatively quiet days of summer. These past couple of months weren't so quiet, however, and LTI graduates, staff and CAB members were all occupied with a wide range of projects—from the International AIDS Conference to the Empire State AIDSride, from advocating around reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act to writing letters to POZ magazine, from attending the biannual Ryan White Grantees Technical Assistance Meeting in Washington to accepting new appointments to Planning Councils and Prevention Planning Groups. There's too much to detail it all here, but suffice it to say that New York's PLWHA have been busy!

A couple of articles in this issue do highlight some of what folks have been up to: Bill Kress shares with us about volunteering for the AIDSride, and Jack Miller describes a national prevention project for African American communities (PAAN) that he's involved with. There's also an update on the latest (as of "press time") news on CARE Act reauthorization—and it ain't pretty. Be sure to stay in touch with NYAC (www.nyaidcoalition.org) and/or your local HIV Care Network (see list on page 6) for the latest information on this continuing drama.

(continued on page 2)

THE FOURTH ANNUAL NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY (NLAAD)

The Fourth Annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) is a collective movement that is targeted to help educate and mobilize communities to increase their knowledge and understand the impact of HIV/AIDS among Latinas/Latinos. The LTI is trying to help promote awareness of and involvement in the fourth annual NLAAD event next month, to draw attention to the importance of HIV testing and prevention education in Latino/a communities.

More than 1,000 institutions in 350 cities across the continental United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin islands are all part of promoting NLAAD. This event will take place on October 15, 2006, the last day of Hispanic Heritage month. So, let's all be a part of this day to bring awareness to all Latinos together, regardless of region or country of origin, to

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SURVIVING AND THRIVING

(continued from front)

Coming up right away in this autumn season, it's time for the **Fourth Annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD—October 15th)**. If you're not familiar with this important and growing national movement, or if you'd just like to know more of what NLAAD is all about, take a look at the article on page 1. There are NLAAD activities planned all over New York State, so find out what's happening in your community. (And if nothing is, then think about making it happen!)

As for the LTI program itself, well, we've been busy with trainings as well. Two upstate Next Step workshops (CAB Roles and Working Effectively in Groups) were well attended, and the NYC Working... in Groups training had empty seats, but those who were there did some great work together. [We're not sure why it is, but New York City

trainings always seem to have a number of no-shows. (See Aanchal's **Registration Update** on page 6.) So remember, NYCers—sign up early and often, and if you do sign up, don't forget to SHOW UP or at least call us to cancel.] If you missed Working in Groups, don't fret—it's coming up again in New York City in December, and is tentatively scheduled for upstate again in January of 2007. It's always worth a look at the training calendar included in each issue of *The Circle* to be reminded of upcoming trainings. Even if they're "full," we always end up placing some folks from the wait list, so you never know!

Also over the last few months, LTI has added three new CAB members: first, representing New York City, Glen Phillip joined us in May, and Denise Drayton in July. (Many of you will know Denise from her work as LTI's first Deputy Director and long-time trainer, or from the ARRIVE program in NYC.) Also in July, the Northeast

region's new representative, Hank Albrecht, took his seat on the CAB. You can learn a little more about each of them on page 4. Welcome to Glen, Denise and Hank!

Finally, LTI says "so long and thank you" to Steve Bailous (page 7), as he moves to take on new challenges in the belly of the beast (Washington, DC, that is). He's not completely off the New York hook, however, since his new position at **NAPWA** means he'll be putting up with—uh, working with—New Yorkers as much as ever. We wish him all the best.

Thanks to all our graduates, peers, friends, colleagues and allies who've been working so hard this summer to make a difference for all of us living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. We look forward to seeing you all in trainings, meetings and at our local polling places in the months ahead. **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!** ●

NLAAD (continued from front)

combat the stigmas and fears often associated with HIV/AIDS.

We all share a responsibility to each other. So let's take this opportunity to empower our communities and make this day a call to action to protect and preserve lives. No matter what region or country you are from, or what part of the state you live in, you can help educate others about the importance of HIV testing, prevention, treatment and care.

Let's celebrate our culture by spreading the word about NLAAD. We urge you to share this information with everyone you can. We are also proud to recognize NLAAD as a quest to reach out and improve the lives of Latino communities.

As PLWHA, and as LTI graduates, we know better than many people that

access to information and treatment is crucial. Yet we also know that poverty, lack of information and education, and negative attitudes often stand in the way.

With the HIV/AIDS epidemic taking many lives, we all need to take part in spreading the word, bringing communities together for future generations to follow.

Visit www.nlaad.org to find out how you and/or your organization or community group can participate in this year's event. The website includes a list of NLAAD sponsors, like Univision, NBC/Telemundo, Noche Latina, Kaiser Family Foundation, the Office of Minority Health, Viacom, Cable Positive, and many more. There is also an event listing form, so you can list your local events and highlight your organization's information, and testing report forms so you can docu-

ment the successes of HIV Testing from your local event. You can also find a Resources Kit on how to hold a press conference to market your event or just get data on Latinos and HIV to use in talking to the media.

LTI would like to thank Wesley Tahsir-Rodriguez, MPH, of the Latino Commission on AIDS for the following information highlighting NLAAD in this issue of *The Circle*.

Contact Information for:

Wesley Tahsir-Rodriguez,
MPH Director of Health Policy
National Latino AIDS Awareness
Day Coordinator

Latino Commission on AIDS

phone: 212-584-9324

fax: 212-675-3466

email: wrodriguez@latinoaids.org

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 PWHAs. Also, every region of the state has a Ryan White Title II **HIV Care Network** (see list on p.6), 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 PWHAs, 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: Andrea Sarich
www.hivplanningdutchess.org

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

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: Barry Walston

NEW YORK CITY DOH HIV PREVENTION PLANNING GROUP (PPG)

Call: (212) 788-4180
Staff Liaison: Linda Battle
Email: dohmhppg@health.nyc.gov

POSITIVE AFRICAN AMERICAN NETWORK (PAAN)

by LTI CAB member Jack Miller

Hello Circle readers! My name is Jack R. Miller, PWA LTI CAB member for New York City (Brooklyn), and I would like to briefly tell you about my participation in an important HIV prevention initiative called the Positive African American Network (PAAN).

PAAN is an initiative of The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), an organization in Washington, D.C. that provides grassroots advocacy for PLWHA throughout the United States. The initiative is funded by the federal Office of Minority Health (OMH), and its goal is to identify, develop and sustain leadership within the African American community around the country to improve utilization of voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing and increase access to education about HIV transmission and living with HIV/AIDS. PAAN also tries to focus on implementing and designing prevention messages geared specifically to the African American communities that help to break down the barriers that hinder HIV counseling and testing and access to treatment and care.

The Network has members (also known as Team Captains) in 11 large cities, with new areas coming on board this year. PAAN has targeted the cities of

Atlanta, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., New York, Newark, Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia and Houston as cities with large African American communities and high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in those communities.

I am the Team Captain In the New York City Regional area, and one of the first events that I worked on was National HIV Testing Day in the Brooklyn area in conjunction with the Bedford Stuyvesant/Crown Heights Ryan White Title II HIV Care Network. The event took place on June 27th in Fulton Park near the Boys and Girls High School, located in Bedford Stuyvesant. Everyone was invited to bring their family and friends out to the event to get tested!

I believe that knowledge is power, and to know one's status appears to help combat stigma and discrimination that one may face today. The target populations that need special help with prevention and testing efforts are young gay men of color between 15-29 years old, women and IDUs that may be sharing needles with each other.

NAPWA is committed to educating and mobilizing the African American community, especially those living with HIV/AIDS. I think that this is a very exciting initiative, and I look forward to working as a Team Captain for the New York City area. ●

I believe that knowledge is power, and to know one's status appears to help combat stigma and discrimination that one may face today.

WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU!

We want to be able to send you the most up-to-date information about LTI programs and related HIV/AIDS events. Please call us if your contact information has recently changed, and remember to let us know if you move or change your phone number in the future! 866/PWA-LEAD (866/792-5323)

x231; adhar@ciatelli.org



AIDS RIDE TAKES US TO PEACEFUL VALLEY

by Bill Kress

It was the fourth night of the 2006 Empire State AIDS Ride (ESAR) when it hit me. We made camp at Peaceful Valley, somewhere between Downsville and Roscoe N.Y., in the southwestern Catskills, an area hit hard by the floods earlier this year. Today we saw collapsed shoulders, lots of road repair and sudden detours. It was a tough day for the riders, which translated into a tough day for those of us on the road-support team.

Just over half-way into the 560-mile journey to New York City, I was beginning to realize this was much harder work than I'd anticipated—though nothing compared to the effort the riders were putting in. So I couldn't complain. I had to stay focused. Our mission was to support our assigned group of riders. They depended on us. I was a long way from home.

Four days in, three to go. Tired and alone in a deep dark valley beside a fading campfire and people I'd met only days ago. With no connection whatsoever to the outside world, I missed my partner, my dog, my comfortable bed. As I slipped off to my quarters, somewhere along a row of 50 or so little blue tents, I was truly alone now. Suddenly, with nowhere else to turn, I was face to face with the real meaning of this ride, and I was hit hard by a meteor of emotion.

First, a little background: On Aug. 12, I met up with 56 bicyclists and 25 support crew in Niagara Falls for a seven-day, 560-mile ride across New York State to the tip of Manhattan. Months earlier, when I signed up as a volunteer for this annual fundraiser, it seemed like a neat idea. I had no idea it would change my life.

Along with a college student out of Seattle named Michael F., I was assigned to support the front-runner bicyclists by trailing them in my car. We were their rescue team in the event of a mechanical failure or if a rider grew too tired or fell down. We cheered

them on and provided water, butt balm, and an edible substance called "GU" that offered a sugar-caffeine boost to get riders up the next hill.

Our secondary mission was to serve as the public relations vehicle for the entire seven-day event. Young Michael made the trip primarily in support of his dad, a Boeing airplane engineer who was riding in memory of his brother who died of AIDS about seven years ago. Armed with a laptop and wireless internet service, Michael and I filed press releases with local news media across the state—even spoke on a morning radio show—all from the front seat of my Lincoln Town Car. Miles ahead of Ithaca, for instance, we emailed a localized version of our press release to the assignment editor at the Ithaca Journal, forwarded downloaded photos, and set up interviews with riders—all this hours before arriving in town. It was an incredible experience for this old PR guy.

But it was on this lonely night, somewhere between exhaustion and exhilaration, that I began to truly understand what this ride was all about. Simply stated, it was about beauty and love. It was about dedication and the power of the human spirit. Upon a backdrop of waterfalls and orchards and mountains and skyscrapers, it was about the power of one event and its participants who struggle so for people they once knew and for others they will never know. And in the end, nearly \$300,000 would be raised for four different AIDS support agencies across the state, including my own AIDS Rochester, Inc., where I have been a client for five of the most challenging and rewarding years of my life. [The other beneficiaries of the event are AIDS Community Resources of Syracuse, AIDS-Related Community Services of the Hudson Valley and AIDS Community Services of Western New York in Buffalo.]

This was the moment. This was my chance to give back, but in doing so, I was getting so much in return. ●

MEET THE CAB, GREET THE CAB

Welcome to these new LTI CAB members!



Denise Drayton

Region: New York City

Work affiliation: Director of Education and Prevention, Exponents Inc.

Advocacy and Volunteer Involvement:

Member Bed-Sty Crown Heights HIV Care Network—Community Awareness Committee; Cicatelli Associates Inc CAB; Emmanuel Baptist Church Healing Touch HIV/AIDS Ministry member

Hobbies: Singing in Total Praise church choir; Dancing (specialty Brooklyn Hustle!); Co-facilitator of mixed adult study group; Travel (avid Carnival Cruiser).



Hank Albrecht

Region: Northeast (Albany region—serving Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton,

Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington counties!)

Work affiliation: Clinic Case Manager, AIDS Treatment Center @ Albany Medical Center

Advocacy and Volunteer Involvement:

Member, Northeastern NY HIV Care Network: Steering Committee, Case Management Committee, PLWA Committee; NYS ADAP Working Group; Board of Albany Housing Authority Shelter Plus Care; CAPCR—AIDSWalk, team captain

Hobbies: I love to ride my motorcycle *every day* if it's not raining; I enjoy the outdoors and camping; Hanging with my peers.



Glen Phillip

Region: New York City (Brooklyn!)

Advocacy and Volunteer Involvement: Member Bed-

Sty Crown Heights HIV Care Network; Brownsville-East NY HIV Care Network; Client and CAB at Caribbean Healthcare Network; Caribbean Access Initiative volunteer; Board member, Body Positive

Hobbies: Television watching (Law and Order and CSI, documentaries); Cooking & enjoying Caribbean food, especially Mauby, Sorrell, Punch de crème, coquito, egg nog, Pelau (rice and peas, but cooked with more meat in it); For fun: like sitting on stoop and being entertained

STAYING ALIVE

by Gregory Huang-Cruz

Each year hundreds of People Living with HIV/AIDS converge on a selected metropolis somewhere in the United States. In 2005 it was Los Angeles, California, the previous year, Atlanta, Georgia and before that, Denver, Colorado. And in 2006, it will be New Orleans, Louisiana. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many of our brothers and sisters were left with little to no HIV/AIDS services and the city is slowly regaining its capacity to serve PWAs. So the summit, which will be held from December 6th through 10th, 2006 will offer you an opportunity to support the efforts of rebuilding New Orleans and bringing attention to the plight of PWAs.

The Staying Alive: Positive Leadership Summit is a unique national conference for all people living with HIV/AIDS. Of all the national HIV/AIDS conferences in the United States, Staying Alive is the only one organized specifically by and for people living with HIV/AIDS. Although focused on the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, the conference is open to all regardless of HIV status. Staying Alive is presented by the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) in collaboration with a local host committee and national program committee.

Sessions at Staying Alive cover a diverse range of topics of interest to people living with HIV/AIDS, including up-to-date information about treatment and care, organizing for social change, the realities of intimacy and relationships and the challenges of the worldwide AIDS epidemic. Sessions include breakfast and lunch plenary presentations, workshops, panels, roundtables and performances. Presenters are drawn from leading experts in peer education, activism and advocacy, health care and research.

Perhaps most importantly, Staying Alive offers the opportunity to meet, network and share experiences with the most diverse national gathering of HIV-positive people, our allies and supporters.

Staying Alive truly reflects the face of today's HIV/AIDS epidemic and brings together current and future leaders of the people living with HIV/AIDS movement. Begun in 1997, Staying Alive has emerged as a major national conference. In 2004, Staying Alive participants came from 35 U.S. states and territories. Nearly three-quarters of participants were people of color and more than 50% were women. Almost half of the participants were heterosexual, with an equal number being gay, lesbian or bisexual. The vast majority of Staying Alive participants were people living with HIV/AIDS.

You can be a part of this important summit by registering to attend. You can go online to register at :
http://www.napwa.org/staying_alive_06/register.asp.

Additionally, see some added information about conferences and how to get yourself there in the adjoining article. This year NAPWA is offering the Annual Terje Anderson Leadership Fund Award to a qualified individual. You may self-nominate, but do it soon!

GETTING YOURSELF TO A CONFERENCE...WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.

Investigate Your Resources

- Are you on the Ryan White Title I Planning Council or a CDC Community Planning Group?
- If you work for or receive services from an AIDS service organization (ASO), they may have funds to send staff, volunteers or clients to conferences.
- Local foundations often provide financial assistance to attend conferences. (This could include health care foundations, foundations that support HIV work and, if you are HIV+, foundations that support the personal growth of PLWHA.)
- Pharmaceutical companies also provide money for PLWHA to attend conferences, especially ones where they may be exhibiting. However, in recent years this support has tended to be in the form of support for the conferences' scholarship programs, rather than direct sponsorship of individuals. Still, it may be worth investigating.
- Fundraising appeals to churches or other community groups you may be a part of can sometimes yield partial support.
- Family and friends—you'll never know if you don't ask!

Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Different organizations provide support for different things; very few pay for the whole cost. For example:

- An ASO might support your conference registration
- A pharmaceutical company may provide travel expenses
- An AIDS activist organization may be able to help with your lodging or even help you find housing with a local person for the conference.
- Many conferences offer partial scholarships more frequently than full scholarships.

Remember: No matter who you are approaching, what you're selling is yourself.

- Offer a "product" as a result of your participation at a conference in the form of 1) a report back, 2) a daily log, or 3) a personal letter recounting your experiences.
- Showcase your community experience. If you don't have any, start working now to create some!
- Get involved in your community organizations. Even when they can't support you to go to a conference, they may know others who can. ●



DEAR LTI-ERS!
by **Aanchal Dhar**

I wanted to say “hi” to everyone and convey my excitement for the overwhelming amount of applications we’ve received for our upcoming courses, both upstate and in the city. It’s been wonderful speaking with many of you and experiencing firsthand the momentum and energy that will carry us into the fall and winter trainings!

Just to provide you with a quick update on the registration status of the courses—at this time, all of our upstate trainings are completely full through the end of December 2006. What this means for those of you upstate LTI members who have not had the opportunity to register for a course yet is

that you will automatically be placed on the waiting list once you register. A confirmation letter will be sent to you with this information. In the event that a spot in the training for which you applied opens up, we will contact you immediately to make hotel and transportation arrangements. Unfortunately, given the unpredictable nature of training cancellations, it is difficult for us to specify how far in advance you may expect to be notified of your move from the waitlist into the class. Obviously, the more “last-minute flexibility” you have, the easier it will be to place you into a training on short notice.

In the meantime, I also wanted to announce that all of our New York City courses still have spots available, so remember to sign up soon! These spots fill up fast, so feel free to contact me for more info, and encourage your friends, relatives, co-workers, etc. who have taken the CORE training to do the same.

Finally, one last point I wanted to mention—at times, after an individual is signed up for a course, we may encounter some difficulty contacting them (e.g., disconnected phone or incorrect mailing address) to make their hotel or travel arrangements. This has not happened too often so far, but when it does, we usually need to go to our waiting list and ask someone else to fill that spot, since we cannot send ticket and hotel information to a mailing address where there is no contact person. Therefore, please remember to get in touch with me ASAP whenever your phone number or address changes. This will also allow you to receive our newsletters and sign up for future trainings in a timely manner.

Thanks everyone! And once again, in case you have any questions, feel free to contact me at either 212.594.7741, or toll free at 866/PWA-LEAD, ext. 231, or by email at adhar@cicatelli.org. ●

Now, 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
Email: jfarnham@ccsnys.org

Bedford Stuyvesant/Crown Heights HIV Care Network
EVE AMMONS-JOHNSON
Tel: 718-613-6595
Email: bschhivcare@earthlink.net

Binghamton Tri-County Region HIV Care Network
SANDRA KOSTY
Tel: 607-778-3066
Email: skosty@co.broome.ny.us
Web: gobroomecounty.com

Bronx HIV Care Network
SOCRATES CABA
Tel: 718-231-3296
Email: scaba@montefiore.org

Buffalo Region HIV Care Network
ANDREW KIENER
Tel: 716-882-7840
Email: aidsnet@pce.net
Web: www.aidsnetwork.net

Central Harlem HIV Care Network
LEATRICE WACTOR
Tel: 212-531-0049
Email: lwactor@hdg.org

East Harlem HIV Care Network
JOSE MARTIN GARCIA ORDUNA
Tel: 212-828-6143
Email: jorduna@unionsett.org
Website: www.aidsnyc.org/network

East New York Brownsville HIV Care Network
GWENDOLYN EDWARDS
Tel: 718-462-8654
Email: enybhcn@aol.com

Lower Hudson Region HIV Care Network
TRACY ASHE
Tel: 914-428-6300, ext. 230
Email: lhrccarenetwork@gmail.com

Mid-Hudson Region HIV Care Network
CARLOS RECINOS
Tel: 845-563-8058
Email: carecinos@aol.com
Web: www.mid-hudsonhivcare.org

Nassau Suffolk Region HIV Care Network
DEBRA ROSS
Tel: 631-940-3700, ext. 3736
Email: dross@unitedwayLI.org

Queens HIV Care Network
BRENDAN COLLINS
Tel: 718-389-5100, ext. 188

Rochester Region HIV Care Network
LYNN VARRICCHIO
Tel: 585-461-3520, ext. 106
Email: lynn@flhsa.org

Community Health Action of Staten Island
LILLIAN AGBEYEGBE
Tel: 718-448-8789
Email: lillian.a@sihealthaction.org
Website: www.sihealthaction.org

Syracuse Region HIV Care Network
STEVE WALDRON, Ph.D.
Tel: 315-472-8099, ext. 105
Email: sewaldron@cnysa.com

Williamsburg/Greenpoint/Bushwick HIV Care Network
TROIPLYE SANON
Tel: 718-455-6010, ext. 138
Email: troyanon66@yahoo.com

STEPHEN BAILOUS MOVES FROM NYC DIRECTOR OF PWHA INITIATIVES TO NAPWA DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

by Gregory Huang-Cruz

Although the title of “Director” has not changed, the responsibility and playing field surely have. And while the move from New York to Washington D.C. was a requisite, we surely have not lost an ally and friend, but have gained a broader opportunity for networking and collaborating nationally. Just last month, the Washington, DC-based National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) selected Stephen Bailous to fill the position of Director of Community Affairs, a high profile position vacated recently.

Stephen was the Director of PWHA Initiatives at the New York City Department of Health, Office of AIDS Policy, where he oversaw the New York City HIV Planning Council’s PWA Advisory Group. As the Director, Stephen worked with the PWA LTI program in establishing and developing training to its members and, along with LTI Senior Trainer Gregory Huang-Cruz, delivered several workshops to the PWA Advisory Group over the last year.

Stephen brings to NAPWA his expertise and experience in planning and organizing, along with abilities to coordinate, communicate and evaluate our community’s needs. In New York, however, he will be sorely missed for his commitment and demonstrated critical thinking and problem solving skills.

In his new capacity, Stephen will be responsible for developing, organizing, coordinating and implementing new Community Affairs initiatives, in addition to supervising staff and programs. Along with these duties, he will also have many opportunities for travel and for collaboration with other staff and PWAs, a talent he possesses.

The LTI offers our best wishes for continued success in his new capacity, and we look forward to our continued working relationship. Congratulations, Steve! ●

THE NEW YORK CITY PPG NEEDS YOU

The following is a letter that was sent by one of our colleagues at the New York City HIV Prevention Planning Group. His name is Doneley Meris, and he currently chairs the MSM Workgroup of the NYC HIV Prevention Planning Group (PPG). He has asked that we share this letter with you in hopes that you will contact him to become involved here in New York City. He is especially interested in your participation if you are a man of color.

Dear Colleagues:

For the entire summer of 2006, the MSM (Men who have Sex with other Men) Workgroup of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) has met seven times to coordinate and organize a "Black Men Wellness Fair" as one of its program deliverables for fiscal year 2006.

The last two meetings in August 2006 proved to be a challenge as the majority of the attendees did not fully represent men of color in NYC. I urge you to take time in your new Fall 2006 schedule and make time to attend the next meeting of this significant body that addresses the primary HIV prevention needs of the diverse men of color communities in NYC.

You are the pioneers and leaders of HIV prevention in the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic -we need you to be on the next table to plan and make sure that the diverse voices of men of color - in particular Black men of color for this program, are represented and that your input will be heard and included in the deliberation and execution of whatever the body decides is most appropriate to reach out to men of color—not just gay and bisexual men, but more importantly, those who do not necessarily identify but are engaging in risky sexual behaviors and are at great risk of HIV infection or might not realize and know their HIV status.

The mission of the MSM workgroup for fiscal year 2006 is rooted in reaching out to as many men of color who have been for so long not included in the discussion table of what HIV/AIDS prevention messages and potential interventions work for them. PLEASE let me know what dates and times will be most convenient for you to join forces with us to plan and wholly represent the needs of men of color as we face the difficult challenges of HIV prevention in NYC.

I am currently planning on scheduling the next MSM workgroup meeting that suits your flexible schedules and with as many of you in attendance. The goal is to have as many voices as possible at the next meeting to make this effort worthwhile, enabling us to reach out to the core population(s) that we are trying to give voice to.

PLEASE e-mail me at doneleymeris@hotmail.com or call me at (212) 385-4945.

Sincerely,
 Doneley Meris, MA, CT, MSW
 Fiscal Year 2006 - Chair, MSM Workgroup
 Founder and Executive Director, HIV Arts Network

HOUSE RELEASES REVISED RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT MODERNIZATION ACT BILL—MILLIONS STILL IN JEOPARDY FOR NEW YORK The following article is reprinted from a publication of the New York AIDS Coalition (NYAC).

On Thursday, September 7, 2006 the U.S. House of Representatives announced the release of yet another revision to of the HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act. This bill is part of the official joint bipartisan (Democrat and Republican) bicameral (House and Senate) negotiations over reauthorization. NYAC is still analyzing the 141-page legislative document, but here are a few items that have been observed so far:

- We were informed several weeks ago that the HIV Care Consortia (networks) had been totally removed from the bill, which would have resulted in their termination next year. Care networks have been restored in this bill, but now spending on Care networks is considered part of the state's 10% administrative cap for Title II. Considering all the other pressures and mandates on the state, it is very doubtful that there will be sufficient funds left under a 10% admin cap to spend on HIV Care networks. Their future is still very much in jeopardy.
- Title I and II formulas basically remain unchanged, which is a serious problem for New York. Names-based states will continue to use their CDC-confirmed cases of persons living with HIV and AIDS, and code-based states will use their self-reported cases of persons living with HIV and AIDS with a 5% duplication penalty. Code-based states must be transitioning to names-based HIV reporting in order to include their HIV cases in the Title I and II formulas, otherwise only data on persons living with AIDS will be counted. Code-based states are capped at a maximum increase of 5% per year in formula funds. However, as stated in the August 31st "News from DC", the actual duplication rate for code-based states may be as high as 28%.
- Based on the data runs provided by Congress, the New York and Long Island EMAs are slated to lose significant amounts of funds, and the State of New York (Title II) loses \$8.6 million in FY 2007, rising to \$28 million in FY 2010. For some reason (we hope in error), the Congressional data runs failed to include Dutchess County.
- Hold harmless has been expanded to the entire 5-year authorization period. All Tier I EMAs and states are held harmless at 95% of their previous year's grant. Monies to keep states and EMAs held harmless will be drawn from the supplemental pool. However, should the supplemental pool be totally depleted because of hold harmless, across-the-board reductions will be used to further preserve states and EMAs. This will mean that there will be significantly less monies in the supplemental pools for New York EMAs and the State to compete for.
- Un-obligated balances are to be returned to the Secretary [of HHS] unless approved in a written request. Un-obligated balances will also count negatively towards the following year's grant.

- Title I Tier III cities (500-999 AIDS cases over 5-year period) have been moved back into Title II Emerging Communities. This means that Albany, Buffalo and Rochester do not become a Title I city but remain in the Title II Emerging Community program.
- Title I Tier I (over 2000 AIDS cases over 5 years) and II cities (1000-1999 AIDS cases over 5 years) are still separated. Only Tier I cities have hold harmless and mandates for planning councils. Tier II cities are not held harmless and there is no mandate for planning councils, making their funding much more volatile and the role of community planning very much in doubt.
- 75% of Ryan White funds must be spent on "core medical services". The list of core medical services now includes "medical nutrition therapy". A waiver from the 75% requirement may still be granted if states can demonstrate they do not have an ADAP waiting list and show that core medical services are available to all persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- There are new restrictions on Title I and II programs allocating funds on Early Intervention Services—grantees will have to prove that state and local funds are not sufficient to provide these services in order for Ryan White funds to be used to provide early intervention services.
- The Administration still has the authority to redistribute Title II funds based on a yet to be determined Severity of Need Index (SONI) starting in FY 2010.
- Appropriations for FY 2007-2011 are set in the legislation as follows:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Title I	\$ 604,000,000	\$ 626,300,000	\$ 649,500,000	\$ 673,600,000	\$ 698,500,000
Title II	\$ 1,195,500,000	\$ 1,239,500,000	\$ 1,285,200,000	\$ 1,332,600,000	\$ 1,381,700,000
Title III	*	*	*	*	*
Title IV	\$ 71,800,000	\$ 71,800,000	\$ 71,800,000	\$ 71,800,000	\$ 71,800,000
SPNS	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 25,000,000
AETCs	\$ 34,700,000	\$ 34,700,000	\$ 34,700,000	\$ 34,700,000	\$ 34,700,000
Dental	\$ 13,000,000	\$ 13,000,000	\$ 13,000,000	\$ 13,000,000	\$ 13,000,000
MAI	\$ 131,200,000	\$ 135,100,000	\$ 139,100,000	\$ 143,200,000	\$ 147,500,000

* The legislation did not include appropriations levels for Title III

This is only the initial read of the legislation—more details will be made available at a later time.

In addition, the national HIV/AIDS advocacy community has recently released its own counter proposal for reauthorization. NYAC has not had an opportunity to thoroughly review that proposal and will provide you with an update in a future "News from DC." ●