

HIV FORUM

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ED TEPPORN

{message from the director}

As this issue of *HIV Forum* goes to press, APIAHF is preparing to say farewell to Dr. Ho Luong Tran, who has been our President and CEO for the past 7 years. Dr. Tran has been a trailblazing leader for APIAHF and the broader Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) community, and we wish her the best of luck in the next chapter of her life story.

The HIV Program has also experienced its own set of hopes and transitions over the past year...

- We said goodbye to our former HIV Program Director ManChui Leung who left APIAHF to pursue a PhD at the University of Washington.
- We will also be saying goodbye to HIV Program Coordinator Alan Yee who for the past 2 years has dedicatedly endured daily 2-hour commutes to be part of our team.
- We welcomed Nickie Bazell who joined the team in November 2009 as the new HIV Program Manager. You can read more about Nickie on page 7.
- We are preparing to close out our current CDC capacity building funding at the end of September 2009.
- We recently learned that we were awarded a new CDC cooperative agreement to provide capacity building to community based organizations over the next 4.5 years. Learn more on page 8.

As APIAHF's HIV Program adapts to these new capacity building activities, we also are sadly bidding farewell to the National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Capacity Building Assistance Partnership ("the Partnership"). When CDC announced its latest round of HIV capacity building funding earlier this year, they made it clear that they would not fund any CBA providers who proposed to work with only one racial/ethnic population. They also enacted a new requirement that 51% of activities must be provided in-house (as opposed to by contractors or consultants). These two requirements essentially eliminated the possibility of continuing the Partnership.

Thus, we also wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the Partnership which has included Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center as our co-lead as well as Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS (APICHA), Asian Health Coalition of Illinois (AHCII), Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team (APAIT), Life Foundation, and Massachusetts Asian and Pacific Islanders (MAP) for Health. For a look back at some of the highlights of the Partnership's accomplishments over the past five years, see page 3.

While APIAHF will be expanding our pool of potential CBA recipients, this shift does not minimize APIAHF's commitment to addressing HIV/AIDS in AA and NHPI communities. We must continue to engage in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national level. In particular, we must collectively work to ensure that AA and NHPIs are meaningfully included in the development and implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS). For more information about NHAS, see page 6.

So as you read this issue of *HIV Forum* and reflect on your own hopes and transitions, remember these words from Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Below are some of the trainings and convenings conducted by the National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV CBA Partnership over the past 5 years. Did you attend one of these events? If so, then please send a favorite memory or lesson learned to Nickie Bazell at nbazell@apiahf.org. We'll post some of your favorite memories on our HIV Program website at www.apiahf.org. In addition to events listed below, the Partnership provided one-on-one capacity building assistance (CBA) to community based organizations, health departments, and community planning groups across the US and US affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions.

2004

APIAHF and AHCI conducted a workshop at the HIV Prevention Leadership Summit (on Increasing Parity, Inclusion and Representation (PIR) for Asians and Pacific Islanders)

Over 65 participants attended the API Institute at the US Conference on AIDS (Philadelphia, PA)

2005

APIAHF conducted "Flourishing as Leaders During a Time of Change" Training for Executive Directors and Program Directors in Washington, DC

APIAHF, APAIT, AHCI, APICHA, and Life Foundation conducted Basic-level FACES trainings for API CPG members in Garden Grove, CA; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; Honolulu, HI; and Seattle, WA

APIAHF conducted the first Intermediate-level FACES training in San Francisco, CA

APIWC, APIAHF, APAIT, AHCI, APICHA, MAP for Health, and Life Foundation convened events across the US in recognition of the first National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Awareness Day

AHCI and APICHA collaborated to conduct the "Message Mechanics: An HIV Media Skills Building" training in New York, NY

2006

Life Foundation and APIAHF facilitated a face-to-face PIJAAG meeting to develop a new model for community planning in the Pacific

APIAHF convened the 2nd National API HIV Leadership Summit in Washington, DC

APAIT conducted a Program Manager's Training in West Hollywood, CA

APIAHF, AHCI, APICHA, and Life Foundation conducted Basic-level FACES trainings in Philadelphia, PA; Boston, MA; and Honolulu, HI

APIAHF conducted the first Advanced-level FACES training for API CPG leaders in San Francisco, CA

APIAHF, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, National AIDS Education and Services for Minorities, and US-Mexico Border Health Association co-presented Building Bridges Across Communities of Color at the HIV Prevention Leadership Summit (Dallas, TX)

2007

APIAHF convened the 3rd National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Leadership Summit

Life Foundation conducted the "Situational Leadership" training in Honolulu, HI

APIAHF, APAIT, and Life Foundation conducted the 3rd Intermediate-level FACES training in Orange County, CA

APIAHF conducted the 2nd Advanced-level FACES training for API CPG leaders in San Francisco, CA

Life Foundation, APIAHF, and APIWC in partnership with PIJAAG convened the 2nd PIJAAG Pacific Regional Summit on HIV/AIDS in the Federated States of Micronesia

APIAHF's ManChui Leung served as plenary speaker at the National HIV Prevention Conference

APIAHF released the "Breaking Through the Silence" report in partnership with NASTAD

2008

APIAHF convened the 4th National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Leadership Summit

AHCI conducted "Enriching Community Resources" training in Chicago, IL

MAP for Health conducted "Managing in Times of Change and Transition" in Boston, MA

APIAHF conducted the 4th Intermediate-level FACES training in San Francisco, CA

APIAHF and the US-Mexico Border Health Association co-facilitated a CPG Institute at the HIV Prevention Leadership Summit (Detroit, MI)

APIAHF's Ed Tepporn served as plenary speaker at the HIV Prevention Leadership Summit (Detroit, MI)

APIAHF, APAIT, and AHCI conducted a Basic-level FACES Training in San Diego, CA and Chicago, IL

2009

MAP for Health conducted the "Enriching Community Resources" trainings in Boston, MA

APIAHF convened the 4th National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Leadership Summit and Skills Building Training

APIAHF convened the final Advanced-level FACES training for API CPG leaders in San Francisco, CA

ENSURING ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE & SUSTAINABILITY

In September, APIAHF and the National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Prevention Partnership (“the Partnership”) will be closing out the final year of its 5-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide capacity building assistance (CBA) to strengthen the organizational infrastructure of community-based organizations (CBOs).

SUPPORT THROUGH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

Over the past 5 years, the Partnership has provided over 50 trainings and workshops on CBA topics such as strategic planning, fiscal management, fund development, media relations, board development, supervision and coaching. This includes APIAHF’s annual National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Leadership Summits in Washington, D.C. These Summits brought together executive directors and board members from CBOs that were over 8,000 miles apart (the distance between Boston, MA and Guam).

These Summits served as the one opportunity each year when executive leaders of CBOs serving AA and NHPI communities could come together to network with one another, develop and/or strengthen their leadership and management skills, and foster community-wide collaborations. For example, the most recent Summit (May 2009) focused on the impact of the economy on organizational sustainability. One might think that a room full of executive directors of potentially-competing CBOs would lie, cheat, and backstab one another (like on the TV show “Survivor”) to ensure that their organization was the last one standing.

But instead, what transpired was a genuine sensitivity and concern for each other’s organizations. Each participant shared tips and strategies from their own experiences in the hopes that others could learn and benefit from their successes and challenges.

“My leadership, skills and expertise grow year by year because of the CBA I received.” — Summit participant

This spirit of camaraderie and mutual learning echoed across all of the regional

“My leadership, skills and expertise grow year by year because of the CBA I received.”

— Summit participant

trainings sponsored by APIAHF and its partner agencies. Whether the training focused on situational leadership or media relations, participants walked away with not only new tools to bring back to their respective organizations, but also a network of peer support.

SUPPORT THROUGH ONE-ON-ONE CAPACITY BUILDING ASSISTANCE

The trainings and workshops complemented the one-on-one capacity building assistance that APIAHF and its partners provided to CBOs. During trainings, participants often requested CBA to support the tailoring and adaptation of lessons learned.

“I appreciated the level of sincerity and inclusiveness in APIAHF’s CBA support that has helped us mature into the solid organization it has become today.”- CBA recipient

Over the past 15 years, APIAHF has developed long-standing relationships with many CBOs across the U.S. and has been there to provide support at each stage of organizational development. With the opportunities of health care reform and the challenges of the economy, the future for many CBOs is indeed one of hope and transition.

To those of you who have either attended an APIAHF training and/or received APIAHF capacity building assistance, we thank you for the opportunity to have worked with you, and we hope that we can be of service in the future.



APIAHF staff and participants from the 2009 National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Leadership Summit”

STRENGTHENING & SUSTAINING HIV PREVENTION COMMUNITY PLANNING

In September, APIAHF and the National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Prevention Partnership (“the Partnership”) will also be closing out the final year of its 5-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide capacity building assistance to strengthen community planning.

SUPPORTING HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND CPGs

As part of the CDC cooperative agreement, the Partnership has been charged with supporting an inclusive community planning process as well as the overall capacities of community planning groups (CPGs) and health departments. In response, the Partnership has successfully provided CBA to health departments and CPGs on topics as wide ranging as the prioritization of target populations, the creation of epidemiologic profiles and community service assessments, and improving parliamentary procedures.

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL CPG MEMBERS

A major component of the Partnership’s role as national CBA providers has been to increase the capacity of CPGs and health departments to increase the parity, inclusion, and representation of racial/ethnic minorities in the CPG process. Through the 21 regional and national Fostering Advocacy and Community Empowerment (FACES) trainings implemented throughout the country, the Partnership has been able to identify and strengthen the skills of AA and NHPI community planning leaders.

The FACES trainings comprise of separate multi-day trainings designed to give AA and NHPI participant’s hands-on experience in strengthening analytical, presentation, facilitation, leadership, and advocacy skills necessary to be effective CPG members.

The FACES trainings has encouraged new AA and NHPI’s to join CPGs, and has trained existing members to take on leadership roles on their CPGs.

“It gave me a much more clear understanding of the CPG process, compared to my colleagues who have never been in the process before. It gave me an advantage: just knowing what the components of a CPG [are], the purpose of community planning, and the roles of a CPG. Proactive? Yeah, I’m using that information in a leadership role right now!”

— FACES participant

The trainings were also helpful in providing a context for the importance of AA and NHPIs in the community planning process.

“The Basic FACES training certainly helped me to understand my role as an Asian and Pacific Islander on the CPG. Going through the FACES training made me realize that I have a responsibility and opportunity to represent API communities.” — FACES participant

The positive impact of the FACES trainings is evidenced in the numerous FACES participants who were elected and/or appointed as co-chairs of their CPGs and CPG subcommittees. The FACES trainings were also successful in connecting participants to a broader peer network during the trainings and beyond.

SUPPORTING THE U.S. PACIFIC ISLAND JURISDICTIONS

While the Partnership has supported the Continental U.S. extensively, the Partnership has also made a significant impact by supporting health departments, health ministries, CBOs and CPGs from the 6 U.S. affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions. Outside of direct CBA, the Partnership has also facilitated consultations with CDC and the Pacific Island jurisdictions since 2001 on the assessment of the Community Planning Guidance, the creation of a new community planning model, and the upcoming rollout of the new community planning model, entitled PIHACAN.

Although CDC will no longer be funding APIAHF to provide CBA related to community planning, APIAHF hopes to continue the many partnerships and collaborations with health departments, CPGs, and CPG members across the country.

APIAHF HIV Program staff and participants from the Advanced-Level Fostering Advocacy and Community Empowerment (FACES) training in San Francisco (March 2009)



AN UPDATE ON HIV/AIDS POLICY AND ADVOCACY



From left to right:
APIAHF HIV Program Director Ed Tepporn, Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center Executive Director Lance Toma, Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, APIAHF Advocacy Program Specialist Mona Bormet, and APIAHF HIV Program Manager Nickie Bazell

There are several pressing policy and advocacy issues that have the potential to greatly impact Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities. These include:

- 1) health care reform,
- 2) the sunset of the Ryan White Care Act, and
- 3) the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

First, it's hard to pick up a newspaper or turn on the television without seeing a story about health care reform. Health care reform has the potential to significantly impact access to culturally and linguistically competent health programs for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs).

Currently, as many as 500,000 PLWHAs do not have access to health care. Health care reform also has the potential to positively impact the AA and NHPI community, where one out of five individuals is uninsured. Significant variation is found across AA and NHPI ethnic subgroups, but most subgroups have uninsured rates of 20% or higher.

As Congress continues to debate the details, many advocates are pushing for:

- An end to "pre-existing conditions" clauses by health insurance companies.
- Extension of Medicaid to cover all low-income people, regardless of their family composition or disability.
- Deletion of any language that may cause legal immigrants to wait up to 5 years before they can access public benefits.

APIAHF continues to actively engage in the dialog on health care reform. APIAHF President and CEO Dr. Ho Luong Tran participated in two of President Obama's health care reform summits. Be sure to visit APIAHF's updated website at www.apiahf.org where you can download copies of APIAHF's "A Blueprint for the Health

of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders" and our health care reform advocacy toolkit.

Second, as many of you know, the Ryan White Care Act is the legislation that funds HIV-related health services at the state and local level. This Act is set to sunset at the end of September 2009. As this date draws near, advocates will be increasing their activity and communication to ensure that this all-important legislation is extended.

Earlier this year, APIAHF's HIV Program Director Ed Tepporn was elected to the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership's (FAPP) Convening Group. APIAHF staff continue to be involved in FAPP's Ryan White Working Group which is actively engaging in efforts to extend the Ryan White Care Act. Key points are outlined in the Ryan White Working Group Consensus document (available at www.aidsaction.org).

Third, the White House Office of National AIDS Policy is beginning its process of holding community discussions across the US to develop a National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS). The NHAS is one of President Obama's top HIV/AIDS policy priorities. The primary goals of the NHAS are to reduce HIV incidence, ensure access to care for people living with HIV/AIDS, and reduce HIV-related health disparities.

In May 2009, APIAHF hosted the annual National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Leadership Summit in Washington, DC. During this Summit, the executive directors and board members who were present decided that influencing the National AIDS Strategy should be one of the priorities for our communities. In August 2009, APIAHF drafted a community sign-on letter to Jeff Crowley, the Director of the White House Office of National HIV/AIDS Policy, asking him to hold separate meetings with members from the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities. APIAHF will continue to follow up on this request and also help to prepare community members to provide testimonies and actively engage in the community discussions.

This is an exciting time for HIV/AIDS policy, yet we also have some difficult discussions and battles ahead of us. APIAHF will continue to work on the above issues as well as to help increase the advocacy skills of AA and NHPIs who are living with HIV/AIDS.



OUR NEWEST MEMBER NICKIEBAZELL

Meet Nickie!

Hello! I am very excited to have found a new home at APIAHF. Committed to eradicating health inequities and the spread of HIV, I feel fortunate to be the newest addition to the HIV Program and to the broader APIAHF family.

I bring with me a renewed sense of purpose to working in the HIV sector. My roots in HIV prevention stem from my days as a community health outreach worker (CHOW) at an AIDS Services Organization (ASO) in Santa Cruz, CA. Extending my bounds and moving abroad to North Africa, I gained a unique and true community health perspective as a health volunteer for Peace Corps Morocco. Wanting to gain a national HIV perspective, I moved to Washington, D.C. to work for the Academy for Educational Development, a non-profit development agency working to support the HIV prevention efforts of CBOs, health departments, and communities across racial and ethnic groups. There I worked on several initiatives focusing on evidence-based interventions, and HIV prevention community planning and injection drug user technical assistance.

When I graduated last year with a Masters of Public Health (MPH) from the University of California, Berkeley, I found myself back in the Bay Area. Recharged and prepared to tackle a multitude of health issues, it was a simple decision to come to APIAHF.

In my role as APIAHF's HIV Program Manager, I will manage the new CDC Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) program and will continue to be directly involved in the delivery of CBA. For organizations who are interested in accessing our CBA services, I will be your primary point of contact.

If you would like to hear more about APIAHF's HIV CBA activities, please contact me directly by phone at (415) 568-3307 or by email at nbazell@apiahf.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for two dynamic people to join HIV Program team!

HIV Program Assistant – (Part time) Will be responsible for performing administrative and support duties including: management of electronic program telecommunications, databases, and websites, conference and meeting coordination, coordinating complex travel arrangements, assisting in program documentation, program support, program evaluation and providing administrative support to the overall HIV Program team.

HIV EBI-ME Specialist – (Full time) Will be responsible for coordinating and delivering CBA related to strengthening community-based organization's (CBOs) capacity around evidence-based interventions (EBIs) and public health strategies (PHS), and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Activities for each area include developing and facilitating workshops, presentations, and trainings; convening and attending in-person meetings; participating in project specific coalitions; developing curricula and materials; and data collection and documentation. Previous experience providing technical assistance or CBA to CBOs in the previously mentioned areas is preferred.

If you are interested in either of these job opportunities or for a full job description, please send an email to HR@apiahf.org

NEW CONTRACT NEWS!

APIAHF has been awarded a new CDC cooperative agreement (PS09-906) to provide capacity building assistance to community based organizations (CBOs) over the next 4.5 years. With a special emphasis in supporting HIV prevention efforts for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, APIAHF is excited to continue its longstanding work with both communities. As part of the new contract, APIAHF will provide support to CBOs in the areas of:

- 1) organizational infrastructure and program sustainability,
- 2) evidence-based interventions (EBIs) and public health strategies (PHS), and
- 3) monitoring and evaluation.

As an established CBA provider for the CDC for the past 15 years, APIAHF is pleased to continue its support of organizations and communities around the country.

RECENT APIAHF PUBLICATIONS

Below are some of the documents that APIAHF has recently released.

They can be accessed on APIAHF's recently revamped website at www.apiahf.org.

If you prefer a hard-copy, then please email Nickie Bazell at nbazell@apiahf.org

- An annotated bibliography of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander HIV Research
- An issue brief on the current state of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in HIV prevention community planning
- An issue brief on the level of community investment in organizations and programs that provide HIV-related services that focus on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

JOIN APIAHF's HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK

Find valuable information and communicate with advocates, community leaders and other important stakeholders around Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders health issues. The Health Information Network also provides up-to-date, language appropriate information on public health emergencies and national disasters.

Join now by signing up at:

<http://www.apiahf.org>

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