

EHA Meeting Notes

April 22, 2021

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Registrants: Marco Mays, Marvellus Prater, Steve Dellinger, Carmarion D. Aderson-Harvey, Brittney Brooks, Jonathan Joseph, Ashley Tarrant, Dr. Ritalinda D'Andrea Lee, Christa Brown, Kendall Maye, Shakina Wheeler-Cox, Julie Hope, Tia Gilbert, Emma Kay, Erin Bortel, Gloria Howard, Shey Thorn, Jacky Snell, Dr. Wesley Willeford, Vanessa Tate Finney, Kim Love, Virginia Bozeman, Morgan Farrington, Joshua Eyer, Ashley Tarrant, Chelsey Holland, Sequoya Eady, James Duke, and Adrinda Carter

ADPH Update

Adrinda introduced Dr. Mary McIntyre, ADPH Chief Medical Officer, who provided an update on COVID-19 in Alabama. According to Dr. McIntyre, Alabama is seeing fewer cases requiring hospitalizations. During a recent meeting with the White House, Dr. McIntyre learned that Alabama ranks #8 in COVID-19 vaccine distribution for reaching people of color and #9 for reaching vulnerable populations in general. The good work that is being done with vaccine distribution means Alabama will receive more doses. We are reaching 70% of people who are age 75 and older and 65% of people who are age 65 and older. To reach 70% of all Alabama residents and achieve "herd immunity", virtually every adult in the state will have to be vaccinated.

Dr. McIntyre encouraged everyone to access COVID-19 educational information from the ADPH and CDC websites, and to encourage people to get vaccinated. ADPH will be targeting churches, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and the general population through social media, yard signs, billboards, television, and radio. ADPH is utilizing surveys and 30-second messages that feature young people explaining why they are getting vaccinated to specifically target Youth.

The National Transgender HIV Testing Day program and panel discussion was a successful collaboration between ADPH Office of HIV Prevention and Care, AIDS Alabama, Five Horizons, Birmingham AIDS Outreach, the Gender Health Clinic of UAB, and Human Rights Campaign. Clients and Providers were able to speak candidly about issues involving medical and behavioral health care for people with transgender experience.

Work Group Reports

Policy and Advocacy- No update

Education- No update

Membership- Seven new members joined since the last meeting.

Marketing- Warren gave the update for the Marketing work-group. The quarterly newsletter will be called the EHA Gazette and the inaugural edition will be ready Jun 30, 2021. Marketing will be reaching out to work group leaders for content. The first edition will contain comprehensive orientation information for current and prospective members. Later editions will focus on priority populations and funded projects. Quarterly content submissions will need to be timely.

Upcoming Awareness Days

- May 19 is National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Awareness Day. Chelsey is planning an event and was offered assistance with identifying community contacts from Carmarion.
- June 27 is National HIV Testing Day
- June is Pride Month and ADPH is planning an event on June 1.

Discussion

- The ADPH webpage can be difficult to navigate, there should be a social media link or webpage that goes directly to EHA information. The EHA Facebook page should be made public for sharing information.
- We need a way to distribute information about events to people who do not use social media. Carmarion suggested using the Slack team communication application.
- We need to do a better job with having work group reports ready for the meetings. The co-chairs will meet and review the current system.
- Morgan inquired about using the EHA platform to discuss racism as a public health emergency. The co-chairs agreed that the EHA community group should avoid addressing issues outside of specific EHE goals and the Ending the HIV Epidemic in Alabama State Plan.

Next month's meeting: May 20, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

LBE