

# VOICES

## THE VOICE OF DELAWARE'S HIV COMMUNITY

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## CONSORTIUM ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The Delaware HIV Consortium's Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, May 15 at the Dover Downs Hotel & Conference Center in Dover. The meeting was attended by more than 120 Consortium Board, staff,

AIDS service organizations statewide, state employees, consumers and other members of the HIV/AIDS service community. The meeting featured presentations of 2013 goals and accomplishments by Consortium staff.

The Annual Meeting also featured guest speaker Adam Taliaferro, Esq., healthcare alliance liaison for Bristol-Myers Squibb and former Penn State football player. Taliaferro was the subject of a book "A Miracle in the Making", and he spoke about his recovery from a spinal column injury. The keynote speech, "A Time to Use Big Words and Big Vision," was presented by Derek Spencer, MS, CRNP of JACQUES Initiative and the University of Maryland Medical Center. The annual meeting was presented by Gilead Sciences.

Here are some highlights of the Consortium's accomplishments for 2013:

- "Examining the Correlation Between Housing Status and Treatment Adherence Among HIV Positive Clients in DE" was presented at the North American Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit held in Montreal.
- Despite funding cuts to the Community Planning function, adjustments were made to staffing and additional activities were completed, including a series of Town Hall-style meetings in each county.
- Approximately \$1 million of Ryan White (RW) Part B monies were awarded and fully-utilized to provide direct client services.
- RW HIV/AIDS Support Services: more clients receiving more (and better) service.
- Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) was brought in-house, allowing raised caps, providing more assistance to more clients with reduced administrative costs.
- Introduction of new best practices for HIV/AIDS medical case management. Introduced Quality Improvement Team.
- Expansion of Delaware's Health Insurance Program in response to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. DHC served 60 unduplicated individuals in 2013, utilizing ADAP funding in the amount of \$123,658. So far this year, the number of clients served by this program has doubled.

- DHC's Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program assisted 131 households (212 persons, 137 PLWHAs). Income level of housing clients: 99% below 50% Area Median Income (AMI), 88% below 30% of AMI. Waiting list: 205 eligible clients, 5 year wait.
- Housing Outcomes: 98% stably housed, 99% connected to medical case management. 63% formerly homeless, 84% at risk of homelessness without the program; 87% paying rent on time, 97% receiving RW services; high rate of client satisfaction (100%).
- In DHC's Permanent Supportive Housing program 12 women and 3 children housed, HOPWA grant renewed for 2014-2016; 100% stably housed, 100% connected to medical care and services, 58% employed or in job training/education programs
- DHC's Medical Case Management more than doubled the number of clients served, going from an average of 40 per month to 96 served by end of year with two medical case managers.
- DHC's fundraising activities raised a gross of \$163,422 in support of Consortium services.
- Increased and diversified DHC fundraising and grant writing efforts, receiving grants from Longwood Foundation, Broadway Cares (Michael Brossette Memorial Fund), Laffey-McHugh Foundation Grant and Enterprise Holdings Foundation Grant. Two DHC programs were approved to participate in the Delaware Housing Authority's Neighborhood Assistance Act tax credit program.
- The Consortium proudly reports that 86% of every dollar spent went into providing direct client services to those infected/affected by HIV/AIDS.

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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Consortium,

I hope this newsletter finds you well – we thank you for your continued support of the Consortium and our mission! I hope you are enjoying your summer and that you are able to take some time to relax and enjoy your friends and family.

For us at the Consortium, the Spring and Summer are busy times: with WOW and our Annual Meeting in the rearview mirror, we are busy with the renewal of our Ryan White and HOPWA service contracts, working with our partners at AIDS Delaware to assure a successful AIDS Walk in September, and reviewing our goals and objectives for the coming year. We are excited by the promising future ahead – with new programs, services and activities to help Delaware “Get to Zero.”

We are grateful to Walgreens and all of our corporate and individual supporters who help the Consortium continue its fight against AIDS. We are excited that Walgreens and Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant will be joining us again to make the 2014 AIDS Walk Delaware – **Save the Date: September 27 in Wilmington and Rehoboth** – a huge success. In August, Walgreens stores throughout Delaware will be selling red ribbons to people as they checkout. Your donation of \$1 or \$5 to the AIDS Walk truly matters – last year’s total was more than \$8,000! So stop into any Walgreens statewide and make a donation at checkout to help us reach the goal of \$15,000 for red ribbon sales!

We are also excited about the newly designed AIDS Walk website – [www.aidswalkdelaware.org](http://www.aidswalkdelaware.org) -- that will make it easier and faster for you to register, plus to invite your friends to donate and/or register to walk through various social media. It’s not too early to sign up now and share your registration with friends – early starters reach their goals! Please take a moment now to go to [www.aidswalkdelaware.org](http://www.aidswalkdelaware.org) and register to walk.

Once again, I’d like to thank you for your interest and support in the Delaware HIV Consortium. I highly recommend watching the HBO special “The Normal Heart.” It will remind you of why we work so hard and also give you hope as you realize how far we’ve come. With everyone’s efforts, the end is in sight. Best wishes for a terrific summer – health and happiness to you and yours!

Sincerely,

Peter Houle, MBA  
Executive Director



## 10TH ANNUAL WOW AWARDS

The 10th Annual WOW Awards Celebration was held on Friday, April 25, 2014, at The Clarion Hotel - The Belle in New Castle. More than 350 people attended the event, honoring excellence in community leadership, volunteerism and philanthropy in the field of HIV/AIDS. The event raised nearly \$70,000 in support of the Consortium’s services to people with HIV/AIDS.

This year’s nautical theme – “Bon Voyage” – had attendees posing for pictures with the Skipper and Gilligan, and roaming the Lido deck in search of just the right Duty Free auction items from more than



200 items that were generously donated to the event. The Clarion’s Grand Ballroom was transformed into the ballroom of an ocean-going liner, complete with portholes, palm trees and sea shells. As always, dining featured an outrageous array of selections donated by Mattes Seafood, Woody’s Crab House, Iron Hill Brewery, Keglers Sports Bar, and Satsuma Asian Kitchen, with the food prepared by chef Bill Korenkiewicz, DHC Board of Trustees member and owner of By Land and By Sea Catering in Elkton, Maryland.

This year at the 10th Annual WOW Awards Celebration the Delaware HIV Consortium honored nine very special Red Ribbon Awardees whose work with the Consortium helps improve the quality of life for people with HIV/AIDS in Delaware: Red Ribbon Leadership Award, **Jim Arcidiacono**, Walgreens; Red Ribbon Community Award, **Bank of America AIDS Walk Team**; Red Ribbon Visionary Award, **Peter Chakonas**, President/Owner of Pride Klean; Red Ribbon Humanitarian Award, **Gary Kirchhof**, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware; **Tyrone Larkin**, Volunteer of the Year; Red Ribbon Impact Award, **Jacques LeClair**, owner, Proud Bookstore, Rehoboth; **Michael N. Marcus, MD**, Christiana Care Behavioral Health; **Joni Miller, BSN, ACRN**, Christiana Care, Smyrna Wellness Center; and **Stanley Waite**, Delaware Division of Public Health.

We would like to thank everyone who supported WOW! It was a great success! The following companies either sponsored the event, donated goods or services, or discounted services to us for this year’s gala. We couldn’t have done it without you: 6abc News, Abbvie, AMTRAK, Bassett, Dawson & Foy Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb, By Land or By Sea Catering, Christiana Care Health System, Clarion Hotel – The Belle, Frontier Airlines, Gilead Sciences, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, Keglers Sports Bar, Mattes Seafood, Matt Macis Entertainment, Moore Brothers Wine Company, OraSure Technologies, PhRMA, Planning Factory Inc., Pride Klean, RoyerComm Printing, Satsuma Asian Kitchen & Bar, United Distributors/Smirnoff Sorbet Lite, ViiV Healthcare, Walgreens, and We Work for Health Delaware.

## DHC MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT GROWING

The Consortium welcomes case managers Brian Bourque, Rose Camps, Kenya Smoke, and Molly Warren! Our medical case management services have expanded from 40 clients per month in 2013 to an agency caseload of 140 thus far! With the addition of Molly Warren to staff, DHC Medical Case Management is also open to clients in Southern Delaware, with Molly working from Christiana Care’s Smyrna and Georgetown HIV Wellness Centers. To schedule an appointment with Medical Case Management call 302-654-5471.





## CDC ISSUES PREP GUIDELINES

In mid-May, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued recommendations and guidelines for pre-exposure prophylaxis, also known as PrEP. The guidelines have been praised by many AIDS service groups nationally as a step in the right direction in battling AIDS. The new PrEP guidelines recommend that physicians consider prescribing PrEP as one prevention option:

- for sexually-active adult MSM (men who have sex with men) at substantial risk of HIV acquisition.
- for adult heterosexually active men and women who are at substantial risk of HIV acquisition.
- for adult injection drug users (IDU) at substantial risk of HIV acquisition.
- to be discussed with heterosexually-active women and men whose partners are known to have HIV infection (i.e., HIV-discordant couples) as one of several options to protect the uninfected partner during conception and pregnancy so that an informed decision can be made in awareness of what is known and unknown about benefits and risks of PrEP for mother and fetus.

PrEP is a term for any class of antiretroviral medications whose purpose is to prevent HIV infection. Currently, the only FDA-approved PrEP for HIV is Gilead Sciences Truvada®, which is a combination of two specific antiretroviral medications. When taken as directed, Truvada is “highly effective” in preventing HIV infection, according to CDC guidelines. The drug has been clinically tested among people at risk through heterosexual and homosexual contact, and through needle sharing.

PrEP has been approved as a provided medication for most commercial health insurance carriers and the Medicaid programs in all 50 states, however, PrEP is not approved for payment by the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) because ADAP benefits can only be used by people who have HIV/AIDS infection, and PrEP is only approved for use in preventing HIV infection among those who are negative and at substantial risk for infection.

The Delaware HIV Consortium believes that PrEP is an important new tool in the prevention toolkit of fighting HIV infection; however, although called “highly effective” by CDC, **PrEP does not reduce the risk of infection to ZERO**, and is best used with currently accepted safer sex practices, including condom use. We are also concerned about access to this medication because of its cost and/or lack of insurance.

You can find the CDC’s guidelines here: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/guidelines/PrEPguidelines2014.pdf>. These guidelines are for clinicians, but – if you are a person at substantial risk for HIV infection using the guidelines above – you may want to discuss PrEP with your clinician, and case managers may wish to share this information with clients.

## PARTNER STUDY SHOWS PROMISE OF ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY

In March, the preliminary – and very promising -- results of a study of HIV discordant couples in England and Denmark was presented at the 21st Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. The study tracked 767 eligible couples, where the HIV positive member was on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and had a suppressed viral load. Over the course of two years, none of the participants in the study experienced transmission of HIV from one partner to the other. **(This is NOT the same thing as saying that the risk of transmission among discordant sexual partners is ZERO.)**

Forty-nine percent of the participants in the study were Gay with the balance heterosexual. All those in the study had condomless, unprotected sex with their sexual partners. During this study, there were actually several negative participants who did become positive; however, genetic testing showed that the virus that caused infection did *not* come from their sexual partner and so came from outside the study group.

While the results are very encouraging about the effectiveness of antiviral therapy, the results of the study do not signal that it’s time to stop using condoms. The results do, however, indicate that the combination of condoms and ART reduce the risk of infection to near zero. This study will continue until 2017 when the final results will be announced. This study has not yet been published in a peer-reviewed publication.

## DelaWEAR ONE

In mid-January, the Consortium launched an innovative new mail order condom distribution program – called DelaWEAR ONE – under contract with the Delaware Division of Public Health. The program offers web-based enrollment or enrollment by phone, then monthly mail delivery of condoms and lube to participants. DelaWEAR ONE is designed to serve HIV positive individuals, their sexual partners, and individuals who are at high risk for HIV infection. To date, over 150 participants have enrolled, with nearly 50 confirmed as being HIV positive.

DelaWEAR ONE, developed and funded by a grant from the Division of Public Health, is designed to help remove barriers to obtaining condoms, increase the use of condoms by those most at risk, and to measure the impact of the project on behavior. DelaWEAR ONE participants must be residents of Delaware and must be 18 years of age or older to sign up.

To sign up for DelaWEAR ONE, go to [www.delawarehiv.org](http://www.delawarehiv.org) and click on the “DelaWEAR ONE” logo. After enrolling, participants will receive their first order of condoms and lube based on the preferences they selected. With the first delivery, they receive an order form which offers a broader selection of 10 different condoms, four lubricants, dental dams, and female condoms. Participants will be required to complete a survey at least once during a three month period in order to continue in the program. Once the survey is completed and mailed back to DHC, participants can expect their next shipment in about a month. Case managers are encouraged to assist their clients in signing up, but agencies are not permitted to participate in receiving supplies – this program is mail order to individuals only.

**DELAWARE HIV CONSORTIUM**  
100 W. 10TH ST., SUITE 415  
WILMINGTON, DE 19801

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## **JUNE 27, 2014**

### **NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY**

The Delaware HIV Consortium is teaming up with Walgreens to offer FREE HIV testing on **June 26-27, 3 -7 p.m.**, and on **June 28** from 10 am – 2 pm, at 839 N. Market Street in Wilmington.

Nationally, Walgreens has partnered with Greater Than AIDS, local health departments and AIDS organizations to provide FREE HIV testing at 248 Walgreens stores in 109 cities and 31 states across the nation in June in support of National HIV Testing Day (June 27). Walgreens Market Street location, an HIV Center of Excellence Store, is the only participating location in Delaware. For more details about this event, go to [www.delawarehiv.org](http://www.delawarehiv.org) or [www.greaterthan.org/partners/walgreens](http://www.greaterthan.org/partners/walgreens).



**Delaware HIV Consortium**  
100 W. 10th St., Ste. 415  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Ph. 302.654.5471 • FAX 302.654.5472  
[www.delawarehiv.org](http://www.delawarehiv.org)

#### **CONSORTIUM STAFF:**

**Peter Houle, MBA**, Executive Director  
**Brian Bourque**, Medical Case Manager  
**Rose Camps**, Medical Case Manager  
**Dianne Casey**, Director of Housing  
**Jackie Coverdale**, A.M. Reception/Program Assistant  
**Andrea Killian**, Financial Assistant  
**Tyrone Larkin**, P.M. Reception/Program Assistant  
**Scott MacKenzie**, Dir. of Communications & Special Events  
**Glen Pruitt**, Dir. of Contract Compliance & Quality Assurance  
**Charmaine Quarles**, Manager of Housing Programs  
**Robert Raup, CPA**, Director of Finance & Administration  
**Kenya Smoke**, Medical Case Manager  
**Joe Scarborough**, Advocacy & Outreach Specialist  
**Molly Warren**, Medical Case Manager

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