



When one is infected, all are affected.



June 2008

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Reports on Sessions at the 2008 NASTAD Annual Meeting

Because sessions that took place at the [2008 NASTAD Annual Meeting](#) were so informative, this month's *Prevention Bulletin* takes a break from its year-long series on the principles in the *HIV Prevention Blueprint* and *Policy Agenda* in order to share reports from the meeting. The *Bulletin* will resume its series on the *Blueprint* next month with a focus on the impact of power and privilege on disparities in the epidemic based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and economic status.

NASTAD's annual membership meeting is an opportunity each year for state health department HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis program directors and staff to talk with each other, federal agencies and other funders and partners, about the critical issues impacting the provision of HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis prevention, care and treatment services, both in the U.S., and internationally through NASTAD's Global Program. Among the sessions NASTAD featured this year were several prevention-focused sessions that built upon key concepts from the *Blueprint*, including sessions focused on African Americans and Latinos and important research and vaccine updates. The following stories summarize the main points made during each of these sessions and include links to speaker presentations on [NASTAD's website](#).

Working Together to Scale up the HIV Prevention Portfolio

Participants had the chance to hear from the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about updates in CDC leadership and ways to improve our prevention partnership during the first plenary, "Working to Scale Up the HIV Prevention Portfolio," facilitated by Heather Hauck, Director of the Maryland AIDS Administration.

NASTAD's Director of Prevention, Dave Kern, lead off with a [review of the key](#)

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[points from the Blueprint and Policy Agenda](#). To get to where we need to go,” Kern said, “we need adequate funding, investment in programs that are working on the local level, expansion of the reach of core prevention, and a national, multisectoral commitment to ending the epidemic.” “Our commitment,” he said, is that “state and local health departments will lead the nation’s HIV prevention efforts to ensure effective and appropriate approaches are being implemented.”

Participants then heard overarching comments on CDC priorities from Rich Wolitski, Acting Director of CDC DHAP; Janet Cleveland, Deputy Director for Prevention Programs at DHAP; and Craig Studer, Deputy Director for Public Health Operations at DHAP. [Prevention Programs Branch \(PPB\) Chief Wendy Lyon](#) and [Acting Capacity Building Branch \(CBB\) Chief Rashad Burgess](#) reviewed the strategic direction and key avenues for ongoing partnership with health departments in their respective presentations. Specifically, Lyon noted that PPB has secured a one year extension to the current health department cooperative agreement (PA 04-012), is considering requesting an additional year extension and that PPB continues to work towards more standardized and uniform reporting requirements for PA 04012. She also noted that PPB continues to work with PS07-768 ([Expanded and Integrated Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\) Testing for Populations Disproportionately Affected by HIV, Primarily African Americans](#)) grantees to ensure successful implementation of this initiative. Burgess said that priorities for CBB include the development and release of the next Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) program announcement, ongoing review and improvement of the CBA request portal system (CRIS), and continuing to work on diffusion of effective interventions.

Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention - A Conversation to Support Program Collaboration and Service Integration (PCSI)

Chris Taylor, Viral Hepatitis Program Manager at NASTAD, facilitated “Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention - A Conversation to Support Program Collaboration and Service Integration (PCSI).” NASTAD heard an [update on PCSI](#) from Susan DeLisle, Acting Associate Director for Program Integration, at the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), as well as division priorities from [John Ward](#), Director of the Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH), and [John Douglas](#), Director of the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP).

DeLisle noted that NCHHSTP continues to make Program Collaboration and Service Integration (PCSI) a priority and has developed an internal action plan to support diffusion of the PCSI principles. She also noted that NCHHSTP is finalizing development of a white paper on PCSI and will continue engagement with health department and community partners as this process unfolds. Priorities for DVH include hopes to build a chronic hepatitis surveillance system to help guide prevention efforts as well as continuing to strengthen viral hepatitis prevention program capacity. DVH is also working with the Institute of

Medicine (IOM) on a report on chronic viral hepatitis in the U.S. Priorities for DSTDP include expanded Chlamydia and gonorrhea control activities, including expedited partner therapy (EPT); addressing the syphilis epidemic among gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM); addressing racial and ethnic health disparities related to STD; and continuing to support opportunities for PCSI.

Addressing African American Communities: Tackling Power and Privilege with Solution Focused Initiatives

Robert Fullilove, Associate Dean in the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, spoke during NASTAD's plenary session entitled "Addressing African American Communities: Tackling Power and Privilege with Solution-Focused Initiatives." Talking extemporaneously, Fullilove said our work on HIV/AIDS is a matter of social justice. He commented on how much our data drives us to show HIV/AIDS and the other challenges that disproportionately impact communities of color as someone else's problem. He challenged participants to disaggregate our ability to address this problem from the funding necessary to do it. Furthermore, Fullilove said we need to collectively develop a social consciousness to create true community to respond to these challenges. One solution is to look at ways, other than financial, to compensate new volunteers in the fight against HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and STD. In order to be sustainable, Fullilove concluded, we must focus on "firing up people for a cause."

Fullilove was followed by presentations from [Michelle Batchelor](#), Evaluation Specialist in the Chicago Department of Public Health Division of STD/HIV/AIDS, [Peter Carr](#), Manager of the Minnesota STD and HIV Section, and [Kip Castner](#), Deputy Chief of the Prevention Center in the Maryland AIDS Administration, who each provided practical examples of strategies to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS in African American communities. NASTAD Senior Manager [Kellye McKenzie](#), shared information about the challenges and lessons learned from the successful strategies that NASTAD has implemented through its ongoing *Regional Forum Series to Address Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, specifically targeting African American women and Black gay men and other MSM. Collectively, these presentations dovetailed with Fullilove's entreaties by showing that there are ways to do this work, even in an environment of shrinking resources, and that it is important to think creatively, challenge assumptions about communities, and support and make space for change and action to take place through perseverance and follow-up.

The Time IS Now: The Latino HIV/AIDS Epidemic

In the session entitled, "The Time is Now - The Latino HIV/AIDS Epidemic," [Edwin Espinel](#), Contract Manager in the Utah Department of Health, and [Alberto Santana](#), Deputy Director of the Miami-Dade County Health Department Office of AIDS, described health department initiatives that have been successful in fighting the Latino HIV/AIDS epidemic in their communities. From two very different states with different sized epidemics and different characteristics of

their Latino communities, Espinel and Santana, like their predecessors in the African American plenary, showed that knowing the specifics about their communities, enlisting them to participate in developing solutions, and considering new ways to get the work done (e.g., through non-traditional funders, in Florida's case), can be very effective in reaching communities where they are.

Also in this session, [Lorena Espinoza](#) from the HIV Incidence and Case Surveillance Branch in CDC DHAP, reviewed the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS among Latinos in the U.S. NASTAD Manager [Francisco Ruiz](#) reviewed concrete examples on how state and local health departments and community-based organizations can become involved with the National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAN) and offered strategies for health departments to ensure that Latino perspectives are included in their overall work, including strengthening partnerships with key local Latino stakeholders, actively recruiting Latino staff in health departments, focusing on professional development of existing Latino staff, and supporting national awareness and information sharing on strategies for reaching Latino communities.

Getting It Done: New Perspectives on Partner Services

Sam Dooley, Medical Officer, and Cindy Getty, Senior Advisor for Partner Services, CDC DHAP, participated with Alaska HIV/STD Program Coordinator, [Wendy Craytor](#), in a session discussing HIV/STD partner services (PS) and CDC's soon-to-be-released revised [Partner Services Guidelines](#). The key points raised during the session were the potential impact the revised guidelines may have on existing programs, questions regarding reporting and indicators, and the relative yield of different approaches for partner services.

HIV Prevention/Vaccine Research, Clinical Trials and Education

A closing session on HIV Prevention/Vaccine Research, Clinical Trials and Education was both informative and inspirational. NASTAD Manager Joy Mbajah, provided an [overview of NASTAD's new HIV Vaccine Education Initiative](#), after which we heard from [Carl W. Dieffenbach](#), Director, Division of AIDS in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, on the latest developments in prevention and vaccine research. His presentation provided an excellent review of where we are in the entire prevention research pipeline. [Victoria A. Cargill](#), Director of Minority Research and Clinical Studies in the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, completed this session with a review of the historically justified reasons for poor participation by minority communities in research and clinical trials. Cargill provided several suggestions for ways to expand access to racial and ethnic populations in research and said it will take "rethinking and reexamining staffing to better reflect the target population, examining recruitment venues through the lens of the target community, and acknowledging concerns and creating novel strategies." In order to make it "worth the time," we must

balance need and reality, reduce structural barriers, while respecting cultural contexts and being open to different points of view.

Conclusion

Another highlight of NASTAD's meeting was the presentation of the [Nicholas A. Rango Leadership Award](#) to Dr. Steve Jenison, Medical Director of the Infectious Disease Bureau in the New Mexico Department of Health. Jenison and a team of epidemiologists conducted a street-based seroprevalence study of HIV and hepatitis infection among 1003 active injection drug users statewide. The results of the study provided a clear and cogent rationale for the Harm Reduction Legislation that was passed in the state in 1997 which established a statewide syringe exchange program. Dr. Jenison also led efforts to pass and implement laws that expanded pharmacy access to syringes for injection drug users, expanded availability of NARCAN for the treatment of opiate overdoses, and, most recently, provided protection under state law for the possession of marijuana for medical purposes. Jenison retired at the end of May and in his acceptance of the award, urged us to cultivate new leaders who will work for all communities at risk, including injection drug users, gay men and other MSM and communities of color.

Cumulatively, these presentations demonstrate how important it is for us to challenge our assumptions, think outside the box, and remain committed to prevention and care for all those at risk for HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis. One other important take-home message from NASTAD's meeting was the imperative to train and prepare new leaders to take over as many in the ranks face retirement in the next 10-15 years. We were fortunate to have West Virginia ADAP Manager Jay Adams participate in our meeting and bring with him several panels of the [AIDS Memorial Quilt](#). It was the first time that several people in the room had seen any piece of the Quilt, underscoring that new leaders can certainly benefit from the wisdom and experience of those who experienced the early days of the epidemic.

Meeting and Planning Calendar

Capacity Building Opportunities: For a searchable database of CDC-supported capacity building trainings and events, visit the Capacity Building Branch's [Group Events Management System site](#).

June 11-14, 2008

HIV Prevention Leadership Summit (HPLS), Detroit, MI. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

June 20, 2008

2008 Viral Hepatitis Health Leadership Summit, Baltimore, Maryland. For more information, visit the [website](#).

June 27, 2008

National HIV Testing Day. For more information, visit: www.NAPWA.org.

July 28-29, 2008

2008 National Conference on Latinos and HIV/AIDS, Miami, FL. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

August 3-8, 2008

XVIII International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, Mexico. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

August 25-28, 2008

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Training and Technical Assistance Grantees Meeting and 11th Annual Clinical Update, Washington, D.C. Convened by HRSA.

September 18-21, 2008

United States Conference on AIDS (USCA), Miami Beach, FL. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

September 29-October 1, 2008

National Hepatitis Technical Assistance Meeting, Washington, DC. For more information, contact [Chris Taylor](#).

Credits, Feedback, and Input

The *NASTAD Prevention Bulletin* is edited by NASTAD staff and is written by staff and prevention experts from around the country. NASTAD's production of the *Bulletin* is made possible through funding provided by CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) in the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention.

If you have an idea or program that you would like to include in the *Bulletin*, please contact [Dave Kern](#) or [Lynne Greabell](#) (202) 434-8090. NASTAD welcomes feedback to issues presented in *Bulletin*. To submit commentary, please e-mail us at NASTAD@NASTAD.org.

Electronic versions of the *Bulletin* are available on our [webpage](#).

National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors

444 North Capitol Street, NW Suite 339 Washington D.C. 20001

(202) 434 - 8090

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444 N. Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001