Forward

Who are we and what do we do?

Coloradans Working Together: Preventing HIV/AIDS (CWT)

Prior to 1994 local communities were only indirectly involved in decisions regarding funding and priorities for HIV Prevention. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) first mandated community planning for HIV Prevention in 1993 and took effect in 1994. Colorado's community planning group was also formed in 1994 taking the name "Coloradans Working Together." The CDC's commitment to strengthen community-specific HIV prevention interventions was behind the CPG mandate. The CDC considers HIV community planning an "essential component of a comprehensive HIV prevention program" that must be conducted as a condition for federal funding. *The process must actively and meaningfully involve people from communities most heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS.* Community planning groups adhere to the CDC's "HIV Prevention Community Planning Guidance," that is the blueprint of the roles, responsibilities, and activities for community planning.

The three major goals for HIV Prevention Community Planning are:

- ***Goal One — Community planning supports broad-based community participation in HIV prevention planning.***

- ***Goal Two — Community planning identifies priority HIV prevention needs (a set of priority target populations and interventions for each identified target population) in each jurisdiction.***

- ***Goal Three — Community planning ensures that HIV prevention resources target priority populations and interventions set forth in the comprehensive HIV prevention plan.***

Coloradans Working Together: Preventing HIV/AIDS (CWT) is the official HIV community planning group for the state of Colorado, as mandated by the CDC. CWT is a collaborative effort between the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), HIV-infected and affected communities, state and local HIV prevention providers, and other concerned parties, to improve HIV prevention in Colorado. CWT members and participants include AIDS activists, staff of the CDPHE, local health department representatives and service providers, staff and volunteers from statewide community-based organizations, and other concerned and committed citizens.

*"I participate in Coloradans Working Together because we have the opportunity to guide the path of HIV prevention for the State of Colorado's future. Our process is outstanding, despite the fact that it isn't perfect. How boring it would be if it were!"**

CWT was established in 1994 with the goal of strengthening and improving the existing HIV prevention efforts and identifying priority populations and activities through a participatory process that incorporates the views and perspectives of affected persons and providers of services. Participants inform, shape, and assisted in the development of the current 2007 – 2009 *Colorado Comprehensive Plan for HIV*

Prevention. The state health department (CDPHE) than takes the information from the plan and the priority setting process and "operationalizes" it in its annual application for CDC funding, that in turn becomes HIV prevention services and programs in Colorado.

Members participate in CWT via its nine standing committees. The primary responsibility of the Core Planning Group's (CPG) standing committees is to keep community planning on track. Each standing committee drafts proposals concerning community planning and submits these proposals for consensus at meetings of the CPG. Participation in CPG standing committees is open to all CPG members and others who wish to participate.

The following is a list of the current CWT standing committees:

- Steering Committee
- Urban Planning Committee
- Rural Planning Committee
- Communities of Color Committee
- Cultural Competence Committee

A description of the standing committee roles and responsibilities can be found in the *CWT Charter*, attached at the end of the Comprehensive Plan.

*"CWT is a process to stay updated on trends, issues, barriers, public policy, interventions, etc."**

CWT received the 1998 Core Values Award from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), for excellence and innovation in the application of IAP2 Core Values for Public Participation.

What is the Comprehensive Plan?

The primary task of the CPG is to develop a comprehensive HIV prevention plan that includes prioritized target populations and prevention activities/interventions. CWT prioritizes target populations and prevention activities/interventions based on their potential ability to impact the greatest number of new HIV infections. The Comprehensive Plan is widely used to inform policy-makers, health care professionals, community-based organizations, and service providers at the state, county, and local level about effective HIV prevention programs, and about the populations in our community that are most at risk for becoming HIV infected.

*"I believe it is my responsibility to give back to my community."**

Our Mission

To improve the availability, accessibility, cultural appropriateness, and effectiveness of HIV prevention interventions through an open, candid, and participatory process where differences in background, perspective, and experience are valued and essential.

To prevent the spread of HIV, strategies are needed that are appropriate and acceptable to diverse communities. Therefore, CWT actively seeks the participation of every community affected by HIV: rural residents and urban residents, men who have sex with men, women at risk, Latinos, people living with HIV, African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, incarcerated

people, injection drug users, people with disabilities, children and pregnant women, substance abusers, people who are deaf or hearing impaired, migrant/seasonal workers, and youth.

*"I came to CWT because of the unique opportunity it presented. For the first time in history, members of populations most affected by HIV had a chance to officially participate in the decision process of how HIV prevention efforts were targeted and implemented in Colorado… This process helps me stay better informed about what is happening with HIV prevention in our state and what the current needs are for service. I also believe, more than any other disease, HIV prevention provides the chance to work with the most talented and passionate people."**

How Do I Get Involved?

You can get on our mailing list to receive further information about CWT and to receive a calendar of upcoming meetings that are all open to the public. We meet four to five times a year as a full group, and we have several committees that meet at varying times throughout the year. Some committee's meet monthly, others only meet a couple times a year. However, all the committees contribute in invaluable ways to the community planning process in Colorado. We are dedicated to providing equal access and participation resources to anyone interested in participating. Just let us know what we can do to make it easier for you to get involved. Anyone is welcome to attend and speak during any of the meetings in order to express concerns or ask questions.

If you're interested in learning more about CWT or attending a meeting, contact us at:

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http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/HIVandSTD/cwt/

Important Contact Information

2008 Co-Chairs		
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*"I participate in CWT to be a voice for Latino rural women who otherwise wouldn't be heard."**

*"I participate to bring more effective interventions to drug users in Colorado."**

*"I participate to bring a voice and representativeness from groups and individual on the Western Slope."**

**The above quotes were comments from CWT planning members in 2002.*

Acknowledgements

The development of this plan was a coordinated effort requiring the gifts of many talented individuals. We would like to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of all the current (2006) CWT members and CDPHE staff that actively contributed to this Comprehensive Plan. There dedication to HIV prevention community planning and contribution to the field of work will be felt for many years, well beyond the 2007 – 2009 timeline proposed by this plan.

Countless other individuals contributed to the development this Comprehensive Plan, especially past members of CWT from 1994 through 2005. We greatly acknowledge the contributions of all former contributors to CWT and appreciate their contributions. We feel privileged to use their work as the basis of the new *2007 – 2009 Colorado Comprehensive Plan for HIV Prevention*.

Coloradans Working Together: Preventing HIV/AIDS

2006 Co-Chairs
Craig Chapin, Rural
Michael McLeod, Urban
Jean Finn, Health Department
Ross Barnhart, Rural Elect
Roseann Prieto, Urban Elect
Dan Garcia, Sergeant-at-Arms

2006 Participating Core Planning Group Members
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Gerald Borden
Sondra Chessare
Ken Eielson
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CDPHE Staff who Contributed to CWT in 2006
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Lois Switzer
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Common Abbreviations Used in Community Planning

AED	Academy for Education Development (agency that provides technical assistance to Community Planning Groups
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASO	AIDS Service Agency
CBO	Community-Based Agency
CBP	Client Based Prevention
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Federal agency responsible for HIV prevention in the U.S.)
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Health & Environment
CIP	Community Identification Process
CLI	Community Level Intervention
CPG	Community Planning Group (Develops and adopts the Comprehensive Plan); a.k.a., Core Planning Group (the main body of CWT members who meet four to five times a year to develop the Comprehensive Plan and other planning activities
CTR	Counseling, Testing, and Referral
CTS	Counseling and Testing Site
CWT	Coloradans Working Together: Preventing HIV/AIDS (Colorado's Community Planning Group)
DCEED	Disease Control & Environmental Epidemiology Division
DIS	Disease Intervention Specialist (formerly know as partner notification/surveillance field worker)
EIA	Enzyme Immunoassay (HIV screening test)
ELISA	Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (HIV screening test)
Epi	Abbreviation for epidemiology
Epi Profile	A description of the current status, distribution, and impact of an infectious disease or other health related condition in a specific geographic area
GLI	Group Level Intervention
HAART	Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy
HCV	Hepatitis C Virus (HAV=Hepatitis A Virus, HBV=Hepatitis B Virus)
HC/PI	Health Communication/Public Information
HE/RR	Health Education/Risk Reduction
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDU/IVDU	Injecting Drug Users/Intravenous Drug User
ILHE	Individual Level Health Education
ILI	Individual Level Intervention
MSM	Men Who Have Sex With Men
NEP	Needle Exchange Programs
NGI	Non-Gay Identifying
NIR	No Reported or Identified Risk
PCM	Prevention Case Management
PCRS	Partner Counseling and Referral Services
PI	Public Information
PIR	Parity, Inclusion, and Representation
PLI	Population Level Intervention
PLWH	Persons Living With HIV (PLWA = People Living with AIDS)
POC	Persons of Color
POS	Partner of Opposite Sex (at risk through heterosexual contact)
RFP	Request for Proposal
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TA	Technical Assistance: Direct or indirect support to build the capacity of CPG members to adequately complete the work of community planning
TATP	Technical Assistance & Training Program