



# OAA News

March 2010

**Stopping the Spread in East Oakland**

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## Fighting to Stop the Spread of HIV/AIDS Amongst East Oakland's Women of Color & Youth

By Kabir Hypolite, Director  
Office of AIDS Administration

More than 305 women and girls accessed Ryan White funded care & treatment services in Oakland from March 2008 through February 2009. 275 were African American and 30 were Latinas. 21 were under the age of 25. Obviously, preventing the spread of HIV transmission amongst African American women, Latinas, and youth is a top priority of the Office of AIDS and the Ryan White Collaborative Community Planning Council. The Alameda County Public Health Department "needs to provide HIV education to women because HIV/AIDS still represents the leading cause of death among African American women ages 25-34," says Gloria Cox-Crowell of the Allen Temple Baptist Church AIDS Ministry. "Given those statistics as we look around East Oakland we want to ensure that younger women are provided the necessary information to help prevent new [HIV] infections."

In 2007, the AIDS Ministry, Brighter Beginnings, and Cal-Pep submitted a collaborative proposal known as the East Oakland HIV/STD Prevention Project. The mission is clear: reduce and prevent HIV and STD infection among high-risk women (18-44) and youth (12-24). Congresswoman Barbara Lee strongly supported the effort by successfully securing over \$280,000 in federal funding. The project spearheads the Office of AIDS Administration HIV prevention effort in East Oakland.

The AIDS Ministry identified

agencies and community outreach strategies, and selected sites in East Oakland zip codes: 94601, 94603, 94605 and 94621. AIDS Ministry staff attended trainings on group level interventions and Comprehensive Risk Counseling Service. Collaborative partner Cal-P brought its 25 years of street outreach expertise and famous mobile HIV testing and counseling operations and treatment and prevention services. Brighter Beginnings contributes its healthy births and successful childhood development expertise.

The HIV/STD Prevention Project's core intervention is an evidence-tested, theory driven approach targeting attitudes and behaviors that clearly predict high



risk behaviors among African American women, Latinas and youth. Individuals who exhibit such behaviors receive HIV/STD education and HIV testing & counseling services at small group interventions over time, during scheduled town hall forums, and during Cal-PEP's street outreach. Women also receive tailored HIV updates quarterly.

Operations picked up steam in 2008. "We surpassed our testing requirement for an overall total of 257 test completed, which is 106% of our contract goal. [Our] staff effectively applied our work plan and there were no significant challenges to HIV rapid testing and recruitment". The project completed 19 testing activities in its first funding cycle. Of those tested 57% were female and 41%

were male. 89% were African American, 7% were Latino(a), 1% Native American, 1% Asian, 1% White and 1% multicultural. 69% were between the ages of 12-19. 25% between the age of 20-29 and 6% were aged 30-45.

"In a short time period this Collaboration was able to penetrate the East Oakland community far surpassing our goals for reaching youth, creating vibrant and relevant messages, and opening up lines of communication with existing agencies about the need see risk reduction as a major part of the community's health."

During phase one the project staff produced three media releases - "BREAKING THE SILENCE", "THIS COULD BE ME" and "RECLAIMING OUR FUTURE" - to speak to high risk women and youth. The releases raise awareness of HIV transmission risks, promote the value of knowing one's HIV status and inform individuals where to go for local HIV testing. Brochures, posters, and palm cards were created and disseminated to residents along with a community asset map.

Local businesses were surveyed to determine if residents and agency clients heard the broadcast messages, particularly those seeking employment assistance, are homeless, use substances, or have mental health issues. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the project enables staff to realign and refine messages and literature. Ms. Cox-Crowell estimates that since inception some 3,000 - 5,000 East Oakland African American women, Latina's and youth have received the message of the importance knowing one's HIV status and are aware of where to get HIV tested.

The work in East Oakland continues. In 2009, Congresswoman Barbara Lee secured a second earmark which brought another \$300,000 to support the project.

Featured Guest Contributor

## Maeven McGovern

Community Health Education Manager  
Youth Radio

I was sitting at my desk at work one afternoon, when one of my high-school interns approached me and asked to speak with me. As this has been a common occurrence throughout the year and a half since I have been at Youth Radio, I asked her to sit down without thinking much of it. She was concerned about a conversation she and some other interns had the day before. When the subject of sex and condoms came up, many interns expressed alarmingly fatalistic attitudes about protecting themselves, saying "if I got one I use it and if I don't, I don't because if it's my time to go then it's just my time." I wished I was shocked, but I encounter this mentality in many of the young people I am privileged to work with. Given that Oakland has experienced 600+ murders in 5 years, it's hardly surprising.



Young people have developed fatalistic outlooks on life as a means of coping with extreme and consistent trauma in their lives. Without the support and intervention of caring professionals, this philosophy of acceptance can be detrimental when combined with teenagers' developmentally appropriate sense of invincibility. It's not that this generation doesn't care about HIV/AIDS or protecting themselves, but overwhelming trauma coupled with an extreme lack of education and resources have devolved AIDS into a monster in our collective closet, rather than a preventable disease, becoming a less pressing issue to this generation than the violence that continues to take so many loved ones before their time.



## "HIV Is Right Here at Home"



**Join us for an Evening of "need to know" Facts, Myth-Busters, Interactive Activities and Dialogue about HIV in our Community**

March 10, 2010

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Abyssinian Missionary Baptist Church  
528 33rd Street (at Telegraph Avenue)  
Oakland Ca

*Not a women  
only event!*

*All are  
encouraged to  
attend!*

- 👉 Every 35 minutes, a woman tests positive for HIV in the United States
- 👉 Most women are infected with HIV through heterosexual contact and injection drug use.
- 👉 Women of color are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 👉 AIDS is now the leading cause of death for black women ages 25 to 34.
- 👉 Today, more than 1 in 4 Americans living with HIV are women.

For more information, please call (510) 986-0340 or email [rhanna-ware@womenhiv.org](mailto:rhanna-ware@womenhiv.org)



## PrEP Awareness

by Felicia Bridges

Pre-treatment for HIV/AIDS is an idea that is quickly picking up momentum. Known as PrEP, pre-exposure prophylaxis, providing HIV negative people (with a particular focus on high-risk groups) with a daily dose pill called Truvada for HIV prevention is getting serious looks from the CDC. Though the approach is entirely preemptive, it may put one more weapon in the arsenal against reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS. The discovery was purely coincidental; nevertheless researchers found that HIV negative people who were treated prior to exposure were not becoming HIV positive. One example, babies whose mothers were positive when treated in vitro with zidovudine (ZDT or "AZT") were born HIV negative. This discovery led to research studies centered on pre-treatment with mice and simians and the results have been immensely encouraging.

Now pre-treatment for HIV is quickly becoming a reality. Thus far San Francisco County is the first to test the waters in the Bay Area. Beginning in 2005 moderate-risk HIV negative MSMs from all over the Bay Area were recruited

to participate in a PrEP program administered by San Francisco County. This study concluded this past December 2009 and results are currently being evaluated. Now the Office of AIDS Administration (OAA) is looking into how PrEP can work within its own unique framework and are determining the critical steps necessary to make PrEP a feasible HIV/AIDS prevention strategy. While an OAA lead PrEP program is still in the preliminary stages, with the help of the CDC, OAA is hopeful that with successful partnerships with its service providers PrEP will soon take hold in Alameda County.

CAN A PILL A DAY  
PREVENT  
HIV?



### Got Data, Now What?

The HIV Provider Conference on quality improvement was held in January for both Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Both sessions were well attended by nurses, mental health and substance abuse counselors, case managers and other clinicians.

HIV specialist, Dr Kathleen Clanon and co-facilitator, Nancy Halloran conducted the session with a focus

on collecting relevant data and learning to use it to make improvements in the care delivery system. "Data is a guide, not a grade". "It tells a story about what is going on at your site", says Dr. Clanon. Breakout sessions allowed participants to look at real data, how to prioritize areas to work on, and then determine who to communicate with in the agency to see that the work gets done.

Other topics discussed were panel management and the four quadrant clinical integration model. Anna Jackson of WORLD did a fantastic job of sharing her real life experience on how she learned to become more involved as a team member in her own HIV care and treatment.

Participants are looking forward to learning more about quality improvement in the future and more opportunities to network. We hope to have an even bigger turnout at the next quality improvement workshop.

## Memories of Arthur Johnson

by Jesse Brooks

On a sunny day around Thanksgiving last year, I arrived at the Magic Johnson Clinic early, and there he was smiling that beautiful smile. I always loved to see him, and he always expressed the same when seeing me. We talked for 30 minutes until the clinic staff came back from lunch. We walked to my car, both lighting up a cigarette.

Our conversation boomeranged us both to the days of our youth in Oakland. We reminisced about the clubs, the dancing, and how we arrived not prepared for the dark years to come.

Our conversation took a solemn tone as we both offered our sorrows, individual pains, remembering how we had both lived through the early days as HIV/AIDS ravished the dance floors of Oakland, claiming brothers and sisters we had sweated and grooved with.

As we continued to talk, the music faded, the lights dimmed, and we moved on to another time when we had lost touch and would only bypass each other in churches, on the streets, laughing, that even then, we were always excited to see each other. We filled each other up on the missing times, talking about our battles, and then how we both overcame, changing the idea of dying with HIV, flipping it around, deciding to live. We touched on our similarities of addictions, depression and low self esteem. We marveled over the positive similarities as well, having the support of our families. Having their love played a big part in our wanting to live, they made us want to make a difference in their lives and our community.

Time was up, and we prepared to leave. We hugged, testifying how grateful we both were, just to be still alive, when at one time, we weren't sure if we would make it. We were grateful to still be here, and glad that we were once again side by side, but doing a different dance. Today we were boogying to the tunes of "once we were part of the problem, and now we are part of the solution". We had been part of the

same groups: the HIV/AIDS Advocacy Council; Bay Area Regional African American State of Emergency Coalition and the Alameda County Planning Council. We had even made plans to attend the Board of Supervisors meetings together after hearing HIV/AIDS was not a priority on their agendas. With this plan, we went onto our appointments, planning to communicate soon.

I saw Arthur for the last time at Dr. Scott's memorial in December of 2009. Then I heard of his death, being shocked at first, and then being sad. I thought about that day, where we took the time to connect, and then I smiled. That's what Arthur Lee Johnson was all about, connecting with people. His smile was infectious, his hope was contagious. His passion inspired others to do more. He was a light in our community. He will be missed.



# SAVE THE DATE

## NATIONAL NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

# MARCH 20TH

### An Annual Celebration of Life



## Real Talk

by Rhonda White-Warner

East Oakland HIV/STD Collaborative Project

For the second year, The East Oakland HIV/STD Collaborative Project (Allen Temple AIDS Ministry, Brighter Beginnings and CAL-PEP) will join with numerous organizations, churches, schools and concerned individuals to mount expansive youth and young adults' education and prevention events throughout the East Oakland community. The program offerings include educational forums, workshop series and intimate gatherings to explore youth-focused preventive measures and risk-reduction strategies for better sexual health.

While this year's schedule is constructed, plans are underway for an exciting event to commemorate Balm in Gilead's National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. Allen Temple AIDS Ministry under the direction of Gloria Crowell has convened numerous congregations, individuals and organizations to present, REAL TALK, Part I, Friday, March 12, 5:30 PM which is an urban gathering for twenty, thirty and forty-somethings. The event will take place at the Allen Temple Church/Family Life Center campus, 8501 International Blvd., Oakland. The event which is crafted to create an urban and sophisticated atmosphere will include a happy hour (5:30-7:00) featuring rapid testing (CAL-PEP mobile van) information tables, book signings, comedy and light refreshments. This will precede a worship service, ceremonial drumming, liturgical praise dancing, music and featured speaker/radio personality Bishop Keith Clark, Pastor of Word Assemblies, one of the fastest growing congregations in the bay area for

this demographic population.

REAL TALK, Part II takes place on Saturday, March 13, 9:30 am at the same location and will expand the concept initiated by the recently deceased Dr. Robert C. Scott. His vision to create a place for clergy, church leaders and community members to engage in dialogues concerning the black church's response to the disproportionate numbers of African Americans being infected with HIV, STD's and STI's centers around the question, "Are You Serving?" Inherent in the question is not only a continued 'call to action,' but an opportunity to authentically explore the black church and topics of human sexuality. A stellar and diverse panel will be assembled to represent varying points of view including women, youth and LGBT.

Both events while targeted to specific populations are opened to the general public. Organizations wishing to host an information table are encouraged to respond immediately and will be included on a first-come-first-served basis. Additionally, organizations and groups who are interested in any of the youth/young adult programs of the East Oakland Collaborative can contact the office at (510) 544-3442 or email Rhonda White-Warner, Program Manager at [rwwarner@allen-temple.org](mailto:rwwarner@allen-temple.org).



## OAA Staff Spotlight

### Lorenzo Hinojosa

Lorenzo has been working in the field of HIV/AIDS for almost 30 years. He started off working for the California State STD Control Branch. He currently is the Testing Coordinator for the Office of AIDS Admin, where he has been for the past nine years. One of his roles is to disperse HIV testing kits and supplies and to ensure that testing sites are in compliance with State regulations. A highlight of his experience has been the implementation of rapid-testing, a technique that allows test results in 20 minutes. The most gratifying part of his job is knowing that he is helping to decrease the spread of HIV disease.

He has been a member of the Planning Council for several years and is currently



a member of the Prevention Committee.

Lorenzo's passion is photography and he has many photos of his travels to South East Asia, including India, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Malaysia. While on a snorkeling excursion in Thailand last year, the boat he was traveling in capsized. He, along with 60-70 others waited 30 minutes in the shark-infested waters of the Adaman Sea before they were all rescued. Lorenzo was interviewed on Thailand's national news about the incident.

We are happy to announce that Lorenzo was married this past Valentine's Day.



## Family Support Services of the Bay Area

### Respite/Child-Care Program

[www.fssba-oak.org](http://www.fssba-oak.org)

**F**amily Support Services of the Bay Area (FSSBA) is a private, non-profit organization that provides support to parents and other caregivers of vulnerable children. The agency's mission is to support children, youth, families and communities by providing services that make them stronger. FSSBA's programs include: Family Preservation Program, Kinship Program, OreMi Mentoring Program and The Respite/Child Care Program.

The Respite/Child Care Program gives parents and other caregivers a break from the daily demands of caring for their children. This intermittent break gives caregivers the chance to keep medical and other appointments, spend time with friends, attend classes or just to rest and relax. Last year, this program provided over 77,000 hours of care to over 1,500 children and more than 560 families in Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties. FSSBA provides a continuum of child care options including the following: A) In-Home Child Care: child care in the home of the family by a screened and trained FSSBA provider. This includes short periods

of time (typically 4-8 hours) or overnight stays if needed. B) Out-of-Home Child Care: child care in the home of a certified FSSBA home. FSSBA is a licensed foster family agency and, as such, has the authority to certify homes for our exclusive use of overnight or multiple day stays. C) Day Care respite: child care in the home of a licensed day care provider. D) Site-Based Child Care: child care provided at a community site such as a medical clinic or a support group meeting e.g. Highland Hospital, Children's Hospital, WORLD, Kaiser, and East Bay AIDS Center.

If you or your family are HIV infected/affected and want more information about child care services, call Yeci or Marcia at (510) 834-4766.



## TransVision and Tri-City Health Center Present The 1st Annual Alameda County Transgender Health and Resource Conference

A one-day event of transgender healthcare services/resources, as well as employers and workshops for the transgender community

Friday May 14, 2010  
Nile Hall, Preservation Hall  
Park Way  
Oakland, Ca. 94606

For more information, contact Tiffany Woods  
(510) 713-6690 ext 621 or [twoods@tri-cityhealth.org](mailto:twoods@tri-cityhealth.org)

## African American AIDS Awareness Day

**O**n February 6, 2010, OAA, Get Screened Oakland, and Volunteers of American Bay Area sponsored a Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Event at the Bench and Bar on 17th Street in Downtown Oakland.



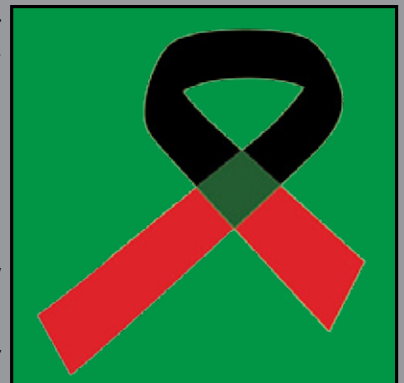
BET Comic View comedian SHANG hosted the extremely hot Oakland Ink Tattoo Competition. Categories included Sexiest, Most Original, Most Intricate, and Best Overall. Competitors had a chance to win \$100. SHANG, stressed, in his unique, fun and

interactive way, the importance of getting tested for HIV.

The Get Screened Oakland staff provided \$5 cash incentives to clubbers for completing an HIV mini-survey and Volunteers of America Bay Area provided FREE HIV Rapid tests in their mobile clinic.

Our other community partners WORLD and AHF were also present providing condoms and vital information about HIV/AIDS resources available in our community.

Thanks to all involved, especially Joe Hawkins and his staff at the Bench and Bar, for making this a successful event.



## Article or Announcement Submissions

The Office of AIDS Administration encourages community members to submit articles relevant to HIV/AIDS in Alameda County

- Approximately 250 words (one double spaced page)
- Include contact information
- Submitted by email only
- Submit as word document or in the body of email
- Due to space constraints, not all submitted articles will be published.
- For more specific guidelines, contact Daniela Torres at [Daniela.Torres@acgov.org](mailto:Daniela.Torres@acgov.org)

**For a subscription to the OAA Quarterly Newsletter,  
please send email to [Daniela.Torres@acgov.org](mailto:Daniela.Torres@acgov.org)**



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