

# OAA News

September 2009

*Click on box to go to article*

From the Director's Desk

## Budget News from Sacramento

OAA Director Kabir Hypolite's analysis of the recent State budget cuts.



## HIV Late Testing in Alameda County

A growing number of Alameda County residents are being diagnosed with AIDS at the time of their first HIV positive test.

Agency Highlight



## Ark of Refuge Medical Case Management Program



## I Chose to Disclose and HIV Stops with Us

OAA's Social Marketing Campaigns



Community Spotlight

## Fredricka Robinson

Community Member and Former Planning Council Co-Chair





## Budget News from Sacramento

By Kabir Hypolite

**G**overnor Schwarzenegger shocked the HIV community this summer when he eliminated \$85 million for California's AIDS programs, including all \$24.6 million in general funding for HIV Education and Prevention activities, \$8.2 million for Counseling and Testing, \$7.4 million in Early Intervention Program, and \$8 million for Therapeutic Monitoring. Funding for HIV Surveillance monitoring and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program remained intact. In Alameda County, the Governor's cuts threaten to wipe out five HIV program services.

Until now the question of whether or not the State Office of AIDS (OA) would distribute the 20 per cent of their remaining budget remained unclear. OA's contingency planning for the funds derived from federal and grant dollars began immediately following the Governor's May Revision proposal and included internal and external input, including surveys that were sent to nearly 850 stakeholders.

On August 18, 2009, the State Office of AIDS (OA) released its much anticipated programmatic and operational budget plan for FY2009-2010. The OA's budget preserves \$7.65 million in general fund for HIV/AIDS surveillance activities. It

eliminates general fund for all HIV testing, education and prevention, care and support programs and reduces ADAP general fund by \$25.5 million and backfills with Special (rebate) Fund to sustain the current ADAP program.

The changes are sweeping and profound. The OA's remaining dollars will be allocated according to a formula that applies to counties a hold harmless protection of 35% and a cap of 70%. According to Dr. Michelle Roland, Director of the State Office of AIDS, the formula is intended to mitigate the programmatic instability caused by the Governor's cuts. Only a few counties with 'very few' cases will receive less than the 35% protection.

Benefits counseling trainings, HOPWA, CARE HIPP, and MediCal Waiver will continue to be supported by the State Office of AIDS, but the Ralph Housing program has been eliminated.

### Alameda County Impact

#### Care Programs

Alameda County suffered severe cuts. Overall, Alameda County will receive \$1,190,123 or only 43.3% of its State funded Care program dollars. The four state care funded programs (Early Intervention, Therapeutic Monitoring, Case Services, and Case Management) will be collapsed into one program of HRSA approved services with a focus on ambulatory care and case management services. In most instances these funds will be allocated through county public health departments.

#### Prevention and Testing

Alameda County will receive \$661,426 for testing and prevention, down about 50%. Statewide, prevention and testing funds were

reduced 80%, but 7% was restored through severe staff reductions and other restructuring within the State Office of AIDS. State prevention services will be continued in house and will consist of condoms and education materials available to all local health jurisdictions as well as the State's telephone hotline service. Only \$7 million is left for HIV testing in the entire state. The money will be allocated to 17 local health jurisdictions (including San Francisco and Los Angeles albeit at half of what they previously received). These selected health jurisdictions will receive rapid test kits because they are home to 93% of California's residents who live with HIV/AIDS. Local health jurisdictions with lower seroprevalence rates but that perform more than 100 tests annually and have a 1% sero-positive rate will also receive rapid test kits. The State will also continue to support partner services in collaboration with the STD Control Branch in higher burdened jurisdictions.

### Surveillance

Alameda County will receive \$343,066. There is no change from the previous year allocation, but funding for special projects and epidemiological studies was eliminated.

### State Office of AIDS Layoffs

Layoff notices went out to the  
*Continues on next page*



State Office of AIDS staff recently. Of the remaining staff, OA Care managers will call local health jurisdictions to assist in the implementation of the new plan.

State Senate Leader Darryl Steinberg sued Governor Schwarzenegger in state court on Monday, August 11, 2009, to restore HIV programs and other devastating budget cuts totaling \$489 million. Mr. Steinberg argues that the governor has no power to cut spending that the Legislature has already reduced. It is unclear how soon the litigation will be resolved and what impact it will have on the State Office of AIDS.

Meanwhile, Alameda County Public Health Department is reviewing its budget options in light of cuts. Regardless of the outcome of the budget battle, local AIDS agencies are being forced to suspend programs designed to curb the spread of HIV and to reduce staff hours and services to people living with HIV disease. And those are the hardest cut of all.

The numbers below show the budget impact on Alameda County PHD – Office of AIDS programs.

Surveillance      \$343,066  
No change from previous year allocation.

Prevention      \$661,426  
For services previously administered by the Education and Prevention Program and HIV Counseling and Testing Program.

Care      \$1,190,123  
Includes funding for services previously administered by the Early Intervention Program, AIDS Case Management Program, Therapeutic Monitoring Program, and Care Services Program.



**COME TO:**  
Heterosexual  
Support Group  
1st and 3rd  
Thurs  
Of Each Month  
2009

Next Meetings:

September 17th, 2009

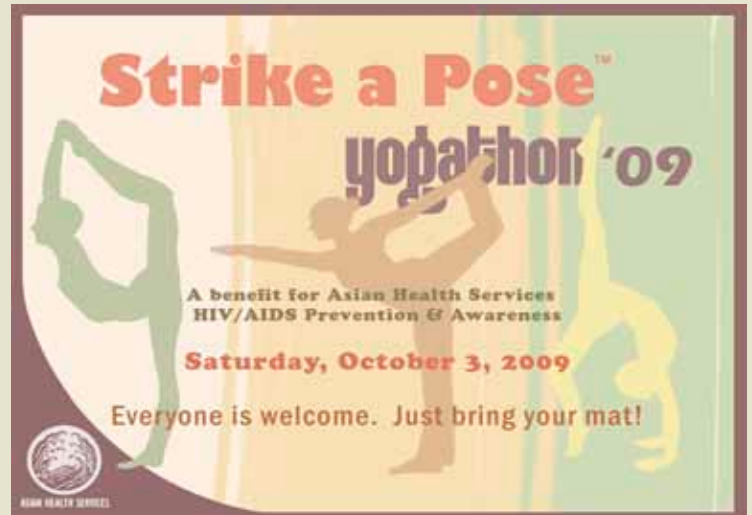
October 1, 2009

TIME: 6:00PM WITH DINNER

LOCATION: EBAC

3100 Summit Street 2nd floor Oakland, Ca 94609

510-869-8485



**Strike a Pose™**  
**yogathon '09**

A benefit for Asian Health Services  
HIV/AIDS Prevention & Awareness

**Saturday, October 3, 2009**

Everyone is welcome. Just bring your mat!



ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES



ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES

A benefit for Asian Health Services  
HIV/AIDS Prevention & Awareness

**Saturday, October 3, 2009**

Madison Square Park  
545 Madison Street Oakland, CA 94607

Check-in begins at 8am

Yogathon begins at 9:45am, ends at 12:30pm

**You can make a difference!**

This event will raise funds for AHS' HIV program and also raise awareness of HIV in the API community in Alameda County. The Strike a Pose Yogathon invites all participants—from novices to seasoned yogis!

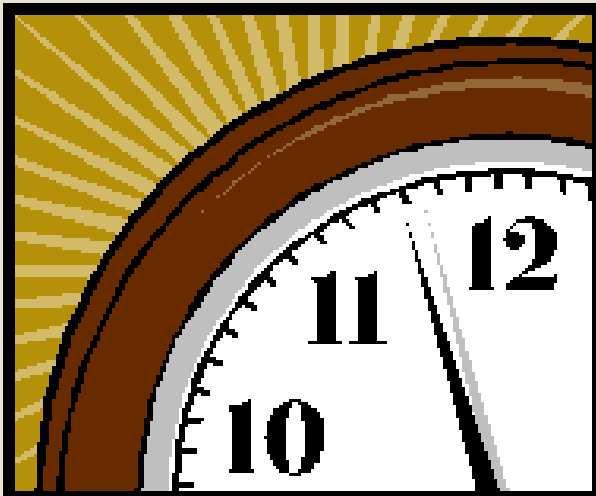
To register, fundraise and volunteer, please go to [www.firstgiving.com/stacpo](http://www.firstgiving.com/stacpo)  
Questions? [teering@ahs.org](mailto:teering@ahs.org) or 510-869-8485 x171

Strike A Pose, Take A Stand  
Support AHS' HIV/AIDS Program

**Strike a Pose™**  
**yogathon**

Our event aims to raise awareness around the current risk of HIV in the API community of Alameda County by supporting education and other prevention programming. The Strike a Pose Yogathon will invite participants, ranging from beginning to seasoned yogis, to practice 108 yoga poses\* in the park with professional instruction. Participants of varying yoga skill will be sponsored by their family members, friends, and co-workers, and will be able to exercise both their body and voice as they raise awareness for the importance of HIV Programming in the API community while raising funds for this programming.

Card design by keaton - e-mail: keaton.keaton@gmail.com



# Late Testing in Alameda County

**L**ate Testers are defined as cases in which a person is diagnosed with AIDS within one year of having a positive HIV test.

In Alameda County, over 60% of all AIDS cases reported in the past five years (2004 to 2008) have been late testers. This compares with the estimated national average of 38% late testers (CDC data from 1996 to 2005).

Alameda County surveillance data shows that of those clients who test late in Alameda County, 68% are diagnosed HIV and AIDS at the same time.

These data are even more distressing when looking at specific population segments. Among youth cases (age 12 to 24), the percentage of late testers has been as high as 90% in 2004 and 85% in 2008. African American Men who have Sex with Men (MSMs) who test late, have been as high as 70% in 2005 and 66% in 2008. The Latino MSM rate of late testing has doubled from 40% in 2005 to 88% in 2009. Latino MSMs have the highest percentage of cases simultaneously diagnosed HIV and AIDS at 73%.

These facts point to problems accessing services and information. The diversity of populations

affected point to a wide range of reasons people are not testing for HIV sooner. These reasons can vary from stigma, denial of risk factors, to fear of immigration, lack of trust with providers and ineffectively targeted programs.

The consequence of testing late is the loss of opportunity to maintain the health of many of these clients, many who are diagnosed when they present at their doctor or emergency room with symptoms of HIV disease. These clients are unable to take advantage of the progress made in HIV medications and treatment strategies. In addition, the likelihood of transmitting the virus to others may be increased, due to a person not being aware of their HIV status.

Encouraging HIV testing as a routine part of any doctor visit can go a long way to reducing much of the stigma around testing. However, it is a fact that many of those at highest risk do not have a doctor and/or routine medical visits. Along with educating the medical community who may not be aware of rapid testing and routine testing at medical visits, testing at correctional facilities, emergency rooms and schools can reduce the numbers of those who are not accessing testing on a timely basis.

For more information on Late Testing, go to

**Alameda County HIV/AIDS Data Presentation – June 2009**

<http://sn.im/rfvqi>

**Infectious Diseases: Late diagnosis of HIV infection: major consequences and missed opportunities**

<http://sn.im/rfv47>

**CDC MMRW: Late HIV Testing --- 34 States, 1996—2005**

<http://sn.im/rfv6x>

# Ark of Refuge

## Medical Case Management Program

The Ark of Refuge Case Management Program, located at the Allen Temple Family Life Center, 8501 International Blvd in Oakland, provides case management and housing subsidy services for persons living with HIV in Alameda County. The program has been serving the area for the past several years and is designed to evaluate housing needs, current and future financial resources, benefits advocacy, education and vocational training. The Ark of Refuge also provides psychosocial, mental health and spiritual counseling.

Senior Case Manager Kenny Hall has been a mainstay in the community for 20 years and offers a long list of resources for his clients. In addition to responding to clients' immediate needs, he has gone as far as linking the children of clients to mentoring programs and has even made arrangements for college tours.

Unique to the Ark of Refuge is their alumni program. This is a group of clients who have successfully completed their care plan and are asked to speak to others about becoming

healthier, more productive members of the community.

The Ark of Refuge continually improves the quality of their program. Franzetta Houston is the Chief Operating Officer responsible for Quality Assurance. Some of the changes put in place as a result of the client satisfaction data include program modifications, change in service hours and new collaborative relationships to meet unmet client needs.

The Ark of Refuge does a great job in helping people become physically, financially, emotionally and spiritually fit.



### East Bay Regional Case Managers Meeting

**First Thursday of each month.**

Next meetings:

October 1, 2009  
November 5, 2009  
December 3, 2009

Special Meeting Room (in Kitchen area)  
Cafeteria on the Fairmont Campus  
Alameda County Medical Center  
15400 Foothill Blvd.  
San Leandro, CA

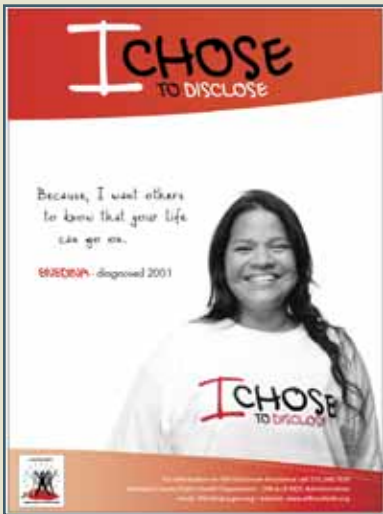
*For more information, please contact Denise  
Ross (510) 537-2600 or Ken Hall at  
(510) 382-9166.*



### Men of Color Having Hope & Advocacy

Support group & Behavioral Intervention for  
men at risk of becoming infected with, or  
transmitting, HIV

For location and meeting times, please call  
Cseneca Greenwood, Volunteers of America  
Bay Area (510) 533-5253 ext. 14



# OAA's Prevention Media Campaigns

## I Chose to Disclose

For those of us working within HIV services, we know the difficulty that many clients face when disclosing their HIV status to their partners. The lack of information, fear and stigma play an key role in keeping many HIV positive individuals silent about their HIV positive status. The *I Chose to Disclose* campaign provides direct support to HIV positive individuals seeking to disclose their status to their partners, by providing information, and support so that clients are empowered to make an informed decision on disclosing their HIV status after weighing all the pros and cons with a counselor who has been trained to provide HV Disclosure Assistance.

Each of the four models represented in the *I Chose* campaign are HIV positive and they have shared their stories, struggles, and support in helping to develop a message that they felt would resonate with others who may be struggling with their own issue around disclosure.

For more information on the *I Chose* campaign, posters, or brochures please contact Duran Rutledge

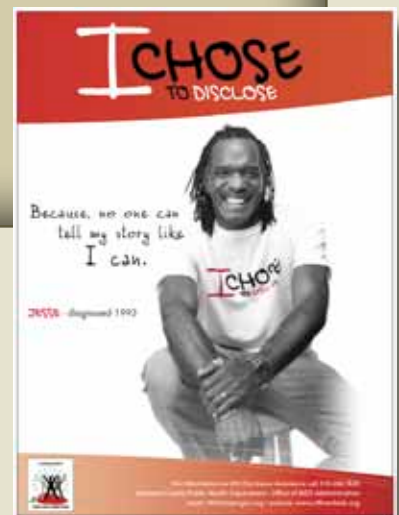
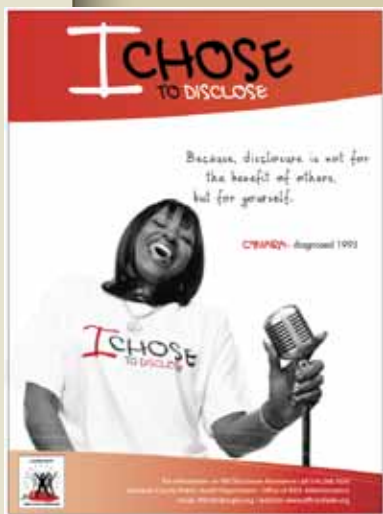
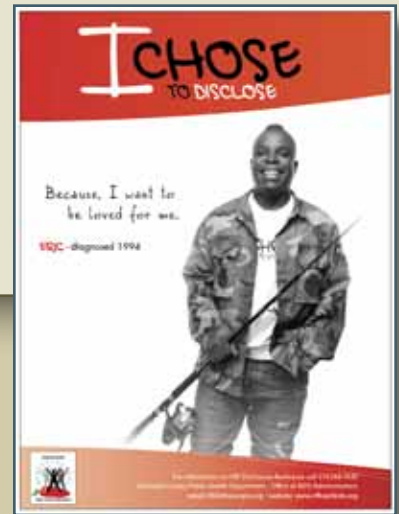
## HIV Stops With Us



The OAA is proud to introduce Linda Brown, the newest member of Alameda County's *HIV Stops With Us* spokes model family. Linda shares her personal story of life struggles, and coming to terms with living with HIV. Please check out Linda's amazing story on the HSWU website at <http://hivstopswithus.org/en/LindaB#new>. For HSWU campaign materials featuring Linda or any other the OAA spoke models or to invite one of the HSWU spokes model to your

upcoming HIV-related event, please contact Duran Rutledge.

Duran can be reached at: (510) 268-7649 or [Duran.Rutledge@acgov.org](mailto:Duran.Rutledge@acgov.org)





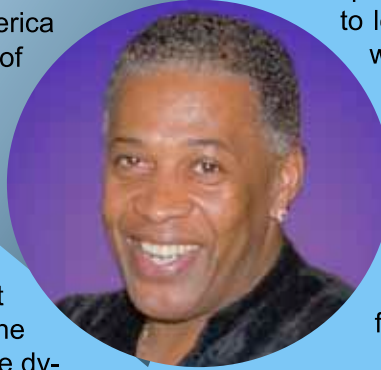
## Community Spotlight

### Fredrika Robinson

**F**redrika Robinson is a 46-year old Person Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) who loves dancing, cooking and sewing. Fredrika sees herself as a living testament of someone not only living, but thriving with HIV.

In 1994, she was diagnosed as HIV positive while being incarcerated. Fredrika remembers being devastated upon hearing the news. "I felt like it was a death sentence". All she knew at the time was that people were dying from the disease. She received encouragement and support from other HIV positive inmates and peer leaders who had been living with HIV for 10-15 years. This helped her become more hopeful. She finally told her mother who ensured her that things would be okay.

Fredrika learned to manage her health by finding out as much about the illness as possible,



attending trainings, support groups and staying on top of her medical care. She felt compelled to look outside of herself and to help others who were also living with the virus. That's when she began to participate in HIV/AIDS research and development programs through Stanford University. She thought that if she didn't make it, at least she could make it possible for someone else to live. Not only has she survived, she has been living successfully for over 15 years.

We appreciate Fredrika's four years of active service as a member of the Community Collaborative Planning Council. Future plans include working as a disabled rights advocate and becoming a college professor. She offers this advice to others living with the disease, "Learn all you can about your illness, have a strong support system of family and friends and find a doctor who you can openly communicate with."



**La Clínica**

### Casa Del Sol

**Spanish Peer Support Group  
for HIV+ Latinos & Latinas**

Tuesdays 5:00pm-6:30pm

1501 Fruitvale Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94706

Contact Information:

Gerardo Vidal-Castañeda (510) 535-6200  
or Alicia Diaz (510) 535-6200

Bay Area National Latino AIDS Awareness Day  
(BANLAAAD)

Presents

## Trans Latinas of the Bay Area

*Building community and increasing our  
awareness of their unique experience*

Thursday October 15th, 2009

5:30 PM to 8 PM

San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
2nd Floor Conference Room  
995 Market Street  
San Francisco, California  
(Powell Street BART Station)

## Article or Announcement Submissions

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

Basic Article/announcement Submission Guidelines.

- Approximately 250 words (one double spaced page)
- Include contact information
- Only email submissions
- Submit as word document or in the body of email
- Some articles may need to be published in the following issue.
- For more specific guidelines, contact Daniela Torres at Daniela.Torres@acgov.org



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Oakland, California 94607  
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Kabir Hypolite, Director



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