

# Ken's Korner Newsletter

Committed to HIV/AIDS Advocacy

February 2005



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## Contact

Desiree Sanders  
FIA: HIV/AIDS Advocacy Services Intern  
(313) 456-1679  
sandersd2@michigan.gov



## Agency Announcements

**Family Independence Agency:** Effective March 15, 2005 the Family Independence Agency will be known as the Department of Human Services.

**AIDS Partnership Michigan (APM):** "Knowledge is Power" bracelets can now be purchased for a suggested donation of \$2.00 each. All proceeds will benefit the programs of APM. Please visit [www.aidspartnership.org](http://www.aidspartnership.org) for ordering information.

### *Do you have announcements?*

E-mail them to Desiree Sanders at [sandersd2@michigan.gov](mailto:sandersd2@michigan.gov) by the first Monday of the month.

## Double the Intern!

Ben Hayes has joined Ken Pape's HIV/AIDS Advocacy team, and will accompany Desiree Sanders, the already seasoned intern. Ben is in his first year of graduate studies at the University of Michigan's schools of Social Work and Public Health, and is extremely excited about working in Detroit.

This summer Ben plans on studying abroad in Ghana, Africa. He will be working with medical students and social workers in methods of HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and counseling. He hopes to come away from the summer with a better understanding of how to implement effective interventions in different continents. Don't worry, he will return in September to share his knowledge and continue his work with FIA.

Anticipating a career in HIV/AIDS, both internships offer Ben a great chance to be involved with people and programs that are deeply concerned with, and extremely passionate about, advocating for the opportunities and rights of people infected with HIV.



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### *Free Tax Preparation Assistance*

As the April 15, 2005 deadline for filing city, state and federal tax forms approaches, you may have clients who are concerned about paying fees to have their taxes prepared. Free tax preparation is available to low-income individuals and families through **Volunteer Accounting Service Team of Michigan (VAST MI)**. From now until April 9 individuals earning less than \$20,000 and couples earning less than \$38,00 can take advantage of this service at various locations throughout Southeastern Michigan.

For more information please contact VAST MI at (313) 647-9620.



### *HAART and HIV Prevention*

On January 20, 2005 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new guidelines for the use of antiretroviral drugs to prevent HIV infection. Since 1996 antiretroviral drug combinations have been used to prevent HIV infection in healthcare workers who may have been exposed to HIV through needle sticks or other contact. Now HIV exposure as a result of sexual intercourse, sexual assault, injection drug use, or accidents qualifies a person to receive non-occupational Postexposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) within 72 hours of exposure. Experts agree this is not a cure-all, but agree nPEP has the potential to reduce HIV infection in some instances (CDC, 2005).

The CDC guidelines call for patients to seek treatment within 72 hours of high-risk exposure (i.e. unprotected sex or needle-sharing) to a person known to be HIV-positive and remain on HAART for 28 days. If the exposure was to a person whose status is unknown, clinicians are asked to evaluate the exposure based on risk and determine if nPEP is appropriate. Non-occupational Postexposure Prophylaxis is not recommended for people who have recurrent exposures to HIV, however, intensive risk reduction interventions related to condom use and needle –sharing are encouraged (CDC, 2005).

According the Associated Press (2005), the guidelines set forth by the CDC comes at a substantial price for consumers as Medicaid and Medicare does not pay for nPEP. In addition, federal money has not been allocated to local health departments or clinics to carry out the guidelines.



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### ***Ryan White CARE Act Title IV Program Community Action Group (CAG) Meetings***

The mission of CAG is to understand, promote, and advocate for the medical, social, educational and economic needs of women and families, regardless of their HIV, emotional or economic status. The intent is to administer to the unique medical and emotional needs of women, educate them to better attend to those needs, support all HIV/AIDS education efforts and to strive to reach those who are in need.

**Friday, February 25**

Research opportunities discussion

**April 1**

TBA

**April 29**

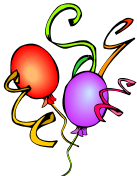
TBA

**All meetings are from 12 pm – 2 pm**

**All women infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are invited to attend.**

**Lunch and transportation provided.**

**Please call Holly Malamud-Price @ (313) 456-4365 no later than  
February 23 if you are interested.**



### ***Community Health Awareness Group (C-HAG) Open House!***

C-HAG recently held an open house, introducing their exciting new center at 1300 W. Fort St. in Detroit. The new center has more space, better equipping C-HAG to provide the comprehensive services that best address the needs of their clients. Two of the highlights are the comfortable and spacious Victoria's Room, perfect for the many valuable support groups C-HAG hosts, and the accessible and private testing and counseling area on the first floor.

C-HAG offers a wide range of culturally appropriate and ethnically sensitive services, addressing the health concerns of African-American residents in Detroit, with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS. Services include HIV prevention counseling, in-house and outreach HIV testing and counseling, outreach needle exchange and treatment referrals, case management for HIV positive clients, a wide range of support groups, psychosocial and medical transportation, and outreach worker training.

If you would like more information about the C-HAG services, call Lydia Meyers @ (313) 963-3434.