



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE AIDS TASK FORCE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

1493 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
(617) 498-1663

MELVIN H. CHALFEN, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

August 11, 1989

JENNIFER WOLFRUM, M.Ed.
COMMUNITY HEALTH COORDINATOR

Councilor Francis Duehay
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Ma. 02139

Dear Councilor Duehay,

At long last I have the recommendations you requested from the Cambridge AIDS Task Force. As you can see from the enclosed report, many people had input into these recommendations. The process took longer than I anticipated, however I think that the diversity of review and input was worth waiting for.

We are all proud of the accomplishments that we have achieved over the past year. The Multidisciplinary AIDS Program at the hospital has begun and we have piloted many, innovative community education events. As we build momentum, the logo "Cambridge Cares About AIDS" will take on greater significance. I say this because the one factor that studies and evaluations have clearly identified as significant in effecting personal behaviors that prevent further HIV infection, is a "community awareness that promotes safe behaviors". Thus, I think we have laid an important foundation upon which to build a comprehensive, city-wide approach to the AIDS epidemic.

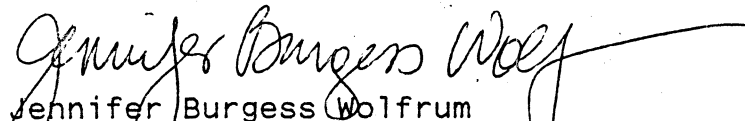
And none too soon, either. Physicians at the Cambridge Hospital have commented that the numbers of people with AIDS is steadily increasing from a few cases a month to seven to eight a week. And everyone keeps pointing out that we are just beginning to deal with the numbers of people infected. Statisticians predict that the numbers will continue to increase geometrically through 1992. Predictions after that are difficult because we have no solid data on how many people are HIV infected or how many people are becoming infected daily. Dr. Max Essex of the Harvard AIDS Institute estimates that 1,000 Americans are becoming HIV infected every day. Using current estimates and numbers, I would estimate that there are from 1,000 to 3,000 Cambridge residents living with the virus; most of whom do not realize that they are infected.

Clearly we are facing a dilemma: as the number of people with AIDS increases, the need for services and treatment will also continue to increase. These pressing increases stand in the face of severe State and City funding cutbacks. I am working hard to

raise funds for our AIDS activities (this fiscal year I will have attached over \$300,000 of grants and funds) however these monies will seem like pennies in the face of the epidemic. We will all need to think creatively, work harder and struggle to come up with answers.

I particularly appreciate your support and concern about the AIDS epidemic. If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to call me. I will look forward to working with you and the City Council to address this most pressing problem.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Burgess Wolf
Jennifer Burgess Wolf
Community Health Coordinator

CAMBRIDGE AIDS TASK FORCE/CAMBRIDGE CARES ABOUT AIDS, INC.

INTRODUCTION

The Cambridge AIDS Task Force (CATF) was appointed by the City Manager in March 1987 at the request of the City Council. The Task Force was charged with evaluating the impact of the AIDS epidemic on the city and citizens of Cambridge. Since its inception, the Task Force has evolved a working structure that has both reviewed Cambridge's resources and capabilities and begun to develop programs and strategies to address the AIDS epidemic. Cambridge Cares About AIDS, Inc. (CCAA) was incorporated in December of 1988 as the program and development arm of the CATF.

The CATF/CCAA has developed a structure to maximize the input and participation of all CATF members. Five subcommittees have been developed to carry on the bulk of the work of the CATF/CCAA.

- * Housing and Related Services
- * Education and Outreach
- * Public Policy
- * IV Drug Issues
- * Fundraising

A Steering Committee was created as a smaller working group to put in extra time considering the issues facing Cambridge and to make recommendations to the CATF/CCAA for consideration. The Steering Committee is composed of the Commissioner of Health and Hospitals, the Chair of the Task Force, the Chair of each subcommittee, a person with HIV/AIDS, a gay activist and representatives from the Haitian, Portuguese-speaking, Latino and African American communities. The members of the Steering Committee also make up the Board of Directors of Cambridge Cares About AIDS, Inc. The Community Health Coordinator serves as staff/director for both the Task Force and the non-profit corporation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The CATF/CCAA has already achieved some significant accomplishments:

- * Community Health Coordinator position created and filled;
- * 10 units of Section 8 Set Aside Housing for people with terminal illnesses available through the Cambridge Housing Authority;
- * Mandatory AIDS education for all Cambridge hospital employees (over 600 attended 1 and 1/2 hour workshops);
- * Development of a Multidisciplinary AIDS Program model to be integrated into the Cambridge Hospital system of care that includes

funding for one full time Clinical Coordinator and three physician sessions due to start August 1, 1989;

- * AIDS Awareness Week provided for all students at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School on an annual basis;
- * AIDS Peer Leadership Program at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School that trained fourteen students as AIDS educators in the first year;
- * Safety Net Parties (modeled on the concept of Tupperware parties these parties provide a safe space to discuss the possibilities of HIV transmission and realistic ways to protect one's self) offered to community residents.

PROGRAMS

The CATF/CCAA is in the process of developing a number of programs that will address the AIDS epidemic from both the service perspective as well as the education perspective. These programs are in various stages of development and implementation.

PREVENTION/EDUCATION:

Parents as Sex Educators

Teens as Peer Educators

Bilingual Classes

Safety Net Parties

Community Outreach and Education

Speakers Bureau

SERVICES:

Multidisciplinary AIDS Program

Acupuncture Detoxification Program

Condom Distribution

Housing Development

Alternative Therapy Support Group

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

As of July 1989 Cambridge had reported a close to 100 cases of AIDS. This represents an increase of 10 cases over a 6 month period. Most scientists estimate that the total number of people infected with HIV in any given locale is 10 times the number of reported AIDS cases. If this estimate is correct, Cambridge can predict that approximately 640 people have HIV infection and can potentially develop AIDS over the coming years.

As treatments are developed both for AIDS and HIV infection, people will be living longer with AIDS. They will also be living longer with HIV infection as opposed to moving into the AIDS syndrome itself. This translates into a growing need for social services including housing, counseling and psycho-social supports. The need for hospital beds will increase, however the potential for treating most people on an outpatient basis is excellent.

Scientists are quite clear when they say that there will be no cure or vaccine for AIDS/HIV in the near future, if at all. Thus, prevention is our only hope in impacting the growing numbers of people with HIV infection. Aggressive and innovative outreach programs are called for. Programs that are personal, caring and culturally appropriate need to be developed and implemented without delay.

REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

As Chairperson of the City Council Health Subcommittee, Councillor Francis Duehay requested that the Task Force make some preliminary recommendations to the City Council. The following recommendations have been reviewed by Dr. Melvin Chalfen, Commissioner of Health and Hospitals, John O'Brien, Chief Administrator of the Cambridge Hospital (TCH), the Governing Board of TCH, the Steering Committee of the CATF/CCAA, members of the CATF/CCAA Committees and, last but not never least, the full body of the CATF.

The Task Force takes note and recognizes that several of the following recommendations are more appropriately within the domain of the City Manager. We make the recommendations as a whole to the City Council with the understanding that the Council and the City Manager will determine the most efficient method for addressing these recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Structure of the Cambridge AIDS Task Force

- * Request that the City Manager appoint all people presently and actively involved in the CATF for a two year term with reappointments encouraged.
- * Allow for additional appointments to the CATF as other members of the community become interested in active involvement in the CATF.

City of Cambridge AIDS Policy

- * Adopt the city-wide AIDS policy developed and recommended by the Public Policy Committee.
- * Require all city employees to attend an AIDS training that would include an orientation to the new city-wide AIDS policy.
- * Designate funding for implementing the city-wide employee training.

Medical and Social Services for People with AIDS/HIV

- * Designate city monies to enable the Cambridge Hospital to develop the Multidisciplinary AIDS Program (MAP).

- * Work with the CATF to investigate all opportunities, traditional and nontraditional, for developing and establishing drug intervention and treatment programs.
- * Recommend that the City Council encourage the Cambridge Hospital to evaluate the possibility of adding an inpatient drug detoxification program to the already existing alcohol detoxification program.
- * Support the need for coordinated and comprehensive drug treatment programs for Cambridge residents.
- * Designate city monies to provide start up funds for innovative drug intervention and treatment programs identified by the CATF.
- * Work with the CATF to develop a rent subsidy fund for terminally ill Cambridge residents.
- * Develop housing units for people who are displaced by HIV/AIDS. These units can include nursing homes and lodging houses along with transitional housing such as group homes and congregate housing.
- * Recognize that Neville Manor will need to take on some of the obligation for taking care of people with AIDS/HIV and begin discussion as to how that can best be facilitated.

Education and Outreach to Cantabrigians

- * Include periodic descriptions of the CATF and its activities in city-wide mailings.
- * Participate in an annual city-wide Memorial Service developed by the Education Committee to recognize people who have died from AIDS and to celebrate the courage of people living and working with AIDS.
- * Work with the CATF to identify city departments such as the Department of Human Services that can be encouraged to work jointly with the Task Force in developing and implementing city-wide educational interventions.
- * Encourage the School Committee to adopt the recommendations submitted by the CATF at the end of 1988:
 1. Designate AIDS education as a priority within the school system.
 2. Identify specific resources such as funding for staff education and staff development that will enable the schools to make AIDS education a priority.
 3. Integrate AIDS education into all appropriate subject areas such as health, science, history and English as well as all bilingual courses.
 4. Develop funding for the AIDS Peer Leadership program.

- * Explore avenues for working with city-based businesses and corporations to develop worksite AIDS education programs.

Outside of Cambridge

- * Evaluate the advantages of coordinating AIDS efforts with surrounding communities.
- * Lobby State and Federal officials to demand a Federal and State AIDS strategy that encompasses the service and education needs of all citizens and that provides adequate funding to implement programs.

SUMMARY

These recommendations represent the best thoughts of the Task Force members at this present time in history. As the AIDS epidemic develops, it is likely that other needs and considerations will emerge. The CATF will work closely with the City Council to keep abreast of developments and to make timely and appropriate recommendations.

Comm. from Jennifer Burgess Wolfrum,
Community Health Coordinator, AIDS Task
Force, transmitting the recommendations of
the AIDS Task Force, for the consideration
of the City Council.

*Referred to the Health
& Hospital Committee*

In City Council,

September 11, 1989

*Copy sent to Health &
Hospital Comm. 9/12/89 cee*