

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

REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATION UPDATE

As Chairperson of the City Council Health Subcommittee, Councilor Francis Duehay requested that the Task Force make some preliminary recommendations to the City Council. The following recommendations, which were 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 least, the full body of the CATF, were submitted to Councilor Duehay in the Spring of 1989.

The following restates the original recommendations and adds a status report for each.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL WITH STATUS UPDATE 11/89

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.

Status: City Manager agreed to reappointments, list of appointees submitted to City Manager with draft of appointment letter, official appointments pending.

- * Allow for additional appointments to the CATF as other members of the community become interested in active involvement in the CATF.

Status: City manager agreed to open appointments.

City of Cambridge AIDS Policy

- * Adopt the city-wide AIDS policy developed and recommended by the Public Policy Committee.

Status: Policy accepted by City Manager.

- * Require all city employees to attend an AIDS training that would include an orientation to the new city-wide AIDS policy.

Status: Preliminary meetings with Director of Personnel (Mike Gardner) and Assistant Director (Duane Brown); need to follow up and develop time table.

- * Designate funding for implementing the city-wide employee training.

Status: No funds yet identified.

Medical and Social Services for People with AIDS/HIV

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

Status: City Manager approved \$18,000 through the Commissioner's budget (Department of Health and Hospitals) to cover physician sessions; the Cambridge Hospital designated \$50,000 to hire a Clinical Coordinator to establish the MAP. \$30,000 from All Walks of Life (AIDS Action Committee) was awarded to Cambridge Cares About AIDS, Inc. (the non-profit development arm of the Cambridge AIDS Task Force) to fund a Client Advocate. Fundraising activities have begun to enable the MAP to purchase necessary supplies and equipment. Further funding is needed for nursing and social work staff.

- * Work with the CATF to investigate all opportunities, traditional and nontraditional, for developing and establishing drug intervention and treatment programs.

Status: Little headway has been made in this area and special assistance is necessary. Dr. Paul Epstein is seeking funds for a pilot acupuncture detoxification program at the Cambridge Hospital.

- * 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.

Status: No one has pursued this to date.

- * Support the need for coordinated and comprehensive drug treatment programs for Cambridge residents.

Status: Mechanism needed for accomplishing.

- * Designate city monies to provide start up funds for innovative drug intervention and treatment programs identified by the CATF.

Status: No movement due to the fact that the Task Force has not put much effort yet into identifying innovative intervention and treatment programs that need funding.

- * Work with the CATF to develop a rent subsidy fund for terminally ill Cambridge residents.

Status: No movement to date due to a lack of people power for researching and planning.

- * 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.

Status: Ten units of Section 8 Set Aside were established through the

Cambridge Housing Authority. Hospice of Cambridge is developing a residential hospice.

- * 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.

Status: No discussion to date.

Education and Outreach to Cantabrigians

- * Include periodic descriptions of the CATF and its activities in city-wide mailings.

Status: Agreed to by City Manager; Task Force has not had any materials to mail to date; a brochure and newsletter are being developed and would be appropriate for such a mailing.

- * 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.

Status: No Service has been held since the recommendations were made.

- * 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.

Status: Work has gone on informally with certain city departments.

- * 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.

Status: No formal dialogue has been established with the School Committee to date; the Education Committee has discussed placing these issues on the agenda of the new School Committee.

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

Status: Discussions with the Commissioner of Health and Hospitals have

been ongoing about this issue. A cooperative effort was conducted with the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce to present an AIDS symposium to Chamber members.

Outside of Cambridge

- * Evaluate the advantages of coordinating AIDS efforts with surrounding communities.

Status: Discussions between the Commissioner and the Community Health Coordinator have resulted in working relationships with the Boston AIDS Consortium and the Somerville AIDS Task Force.

- * 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.

Status: Limited activity has been conducted on this level.

Prepared by Jennifer Burgess Wolfrum, Community Health Coordinator

CAMBRIDGE AIDS TASK FORCE

PROGRESS OVERVIEW 11/89

Year 1 (7/88 - 6/89)

Administrative Accomplishments:

- * Cambridge Cares About AIDS was incorporated as the non-profit development arm of the Task Force
- * AIDS policy for city employees was approved by the City Manager and Director of Personnel
- * The African American Advisory Group was formed

Service Accomplishments:

- * 10 units of Section 8 Set Aside were created for people with terminal illnesses

Educational Accomplishments:

- * Mandatory training for all employees at the Cambridge Hospital (over 600 attended)
- * Pilot training for key Support Staff at all Cambridge Hospitals (Cambridge Hospital, Mt. Auburn Hospital and Youville Hospital)
- * AIDS Awareness Week conducted at Cambridge Rindge and Latin for all students
- * A kite contest for all 5th through 8th graders was conducted in an attempt to introduce the topic of AIDS to elementary students in a personl and non-threatening manner
- * Citywide, nondenominational service held to remember people who have died from AIDS and to celebrate people living and working with AIDS

Year 2 (7/89 - 6/90)

Administrative Accomplishments:

- * Brochure and newsletter developed
- * Fundraising committee formulated

Service Accomplishments:

- * Client Advocate position funded by the AIDS Action Committee to work with all people in Cambridge infected with HIV
- * Multidisciplinary AIDS Program (MAP) established with funding for a Clinical Coordinator (Cambridge Hospital funds) and physician sessions (Department of Health and Hospital funds)

Educational Accomplishments:

- * Outreach and education project specifically to the African American, Haitian and Portuguese-speaking communities funded by the Centers for Disease Control for three years
- * Health Fair focusing on AIDS held at Newtown Courts
- * Workshops offered for parents on "How to talk with Your Children about AIDS"
- * AIDS Peer Leadership Program developed at Cambridge Rindge and Latin (CRLS)
- * Meetings with Mary Lou McGrath (Superintendent of Schools) and Elsa Wasserman (Principal, CRLS) resulting in plans to "reorient" all school employees regarding AIDS and Cambridge school policy

- 3 -

A memorandum, copy attached, was distributed to the Committee by Ms. Burgess-Wolfrum providing a detailed outline of the task force's work to date.

The hearing was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

For the Committee,

Councillor Francis H. Duehay,

Chairman.

Ms. Kathy Hoffman, a member of the task force, stated she has been working with students at the North Cambridge Catholic High School.

Councillor Duehay stated that every effort should be made to develop a comprehensive approach to all children of Cambridge wherever they attend school.

Ms. Burgess-Wolfrum also stated she has sent out two city-wide mailings to Cambridge churches but only a few churches have responded.

At this time Vice-Mayor Alice Wolf questioned whether or not the task force was developing any response for drug treatment within the Cambridge community.

Ms. Lee Swisslow, a member of the task force, responded by stating that Cambridge has just received a grant from the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA) which will provide the utilization of four regional drug treatment centers which will help address this issue.

At this time Mr. John O'Brien, Hospital Administrator, stated that the drug treatment for methadone patients will soon be transferred from the Macht Center to the Cambridge Hospital. This was necessitated due to increased useage of the center and to address the concern of the City Council over neighborhood complaints. Both Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Burgess-Wolfrum stated they are doing the best they can with outreach and education with limited financial resources.

Councillor Duehay stated the City should consider the creation of a local lottery to develop a revenue source which would be dedicated to this effort.

City of Cambridge

In City Council November 20, 1989

The Committee on Health and Hospitals, comprised of the entire membership of the City Council, held a public meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 1989 beginning at 8:00 a. m. in the James F. Mahan Trustee Room of the Cambridge Hospital. The purpose of the meeting was to receive an update from the Aids Coordinator at the Cambridge Hospital.

At this time Councillor Francis H. Duehay, Chairman of the Committee, opened the meeting by stating he was gratified by the work to date of the Aids Task Force led by Coordinator Jennifer Burgess-Wolfrum and that he thought it would be appropriate to receive a status report at this time.

Dr. Melvin Chalfen, Commissioner of Health and Hospitals, provided a brief historical overview to the committee relative to the need for the task force and the work it has done to date. Furthermore he stated that the outreach done by the task force on this issue has provided an opportunity to address other public health concerns, specifically, sexually transmitting diseases (STD).

Ms. Jennifer Burgess-Wolfrum, Aids Coordinator, outlined the recent success the task force has had in obtaining several large grants to provide continued outreach and educational programs as well as Section 8 rental housing subsidies for aids patients. Ms. Burgess-Wolfrum stated that this particular grant was in excess of \$224,000; the second largest grant awarded on a national level. Furthermore, she stated that a non-profit development mechanism entitled "Cambridge Cares About Aids" is now firmly in place.

Responding to a question by Councillor Duehay, Ms. Burgess-Wolfrum stated that although the task force has done a great deal of outreach within the Cambridge Public Schools, not much has been done with private and parochial schools, although efforts continue to be made.

1.

8-494

Comm. from Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk,
transmitting a report from the Health and Hospital
Committee regarding an update from the Aids
Coordinator at the Cambridge Hospital.

In City Council,

November 20, 1989

Placed on file