



VOICES 2011 Conference Annual Newsletter Mapping Our Way



The VOICES 2011 conference, held May 21 through May 24 in Arlington, VA was a great success. Nearly 300 attendees joined together to discuss several critical changes in the HIV Community that impact the landscape of our work and mapped plans

for the future. Since 1994, VOICES has united consumers and care providers to exchange ideas, collaborate and learn the latest in HIV prevention, care and treatment. VOICES was designed specifically to meet the needs of women, children and youth living and affected by HIV/AIDS and their providers. For many, this conference is the only place to turn for “family-centered” education, support and information. The conference consists of three full days of workshops, institutes and dynamic plenary sessions presented and led by women, youth and their providers. **According to final evaluation data, 97% of attendees rated the conference as good to excellent and over 88% shared that they will return next year.** To view the full program please visit <http://www.aids-alliance.org/education/voices/>.

2011 VOICES Award Recipients

Foley & Lardner LLP

The Charles Evans Community Activism Award was presented to Foley & Lardner LLP. The attorneys have performed a wide range of pro bono services for AIDS Alliance over the past four years. The law firm has donated hundreds of hours in assistance in negotiating contracts and advising on various legal matter. In 2010 the attorneys played a major role in securing a new office space for AIDS Alliance, in addition to the usual pro bono services offered. The resources saved were able to be used to better serve the Part D community. The award is named in honor of the late Mr. Charles Evans, founder of Evan-Picone, who fought tirelessly to improve the health and well-being of families.

Peter McLloyd

GiGi Nicks Award was presented to Peter McLloyd. He is the Consumer Development and Advocacy Coordinator at the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center in Chicago, IL. Since testing HIV Positive and being diagnosed with AIDS in 1997 he has played an active role in enhancing access to prevention, care-treatment and research opportunities. Peter’s commitment to others sets him apart as a HIV leader and advocate. He has served on the Board of Directors for AIDS Alliance for the past six years. The award is named in honor of the late Gigi Nicks and is presented to a HIV+ person who successfully advocates for the RWCA Part D community, and who has demonstrated effective leadership in their community.

VOICES Heard—
This year’s
conference

featured an unprecedented plenary on heterosexual men’s health. This plenary served as a peek inside the often overlooked world of what it’s like to live with HIV as a heterosexual man. *Positive Health, Dignity, and Prevention “Silent No More”* addressed the unique needs of heterosexual men in HIV prevention, care and treatment for themselves, their female partners and their families. There has been limited action and communication among health workers regarding risk reduction and prevention activities targeting this population. Representatives from the Heterosexual Men of Color Coalition shared experiences, needs and suggestions on how community outreach can be better targeted to reach this population. The discussions from the plenary will help to further engage heterosexual men more visibly and at a greater capacity in developing HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in their local community.



2011 Policy Award

Tammy Baldwin, (D-WI) received the 2011 Policy Award for her dedication and leadership on health care and equal rights issues. As an openly gay woman in Congress, she gives hope to all those whose voices are traditionally not heard and those whose hopes and dreams are often ridiculed. Congressman Baldwin has said "To all those people who hear 'You can't, you shouldn't, you won't.' I say, 'You can, you should, you will.'"

Board of Director Awards

- Peter McLloyd
Chicago, IL 6 Years
- Deane Taylor
Chicago, IL 6 Years
- Lucia Bustamante
San Antonio, Texas 5 Years
- Sherilyn Adams
San Francisco, CA 3 Years
- Reggie Davis
Washington, DC 3 Years
- Cynthia Rodgers
Birmingham, AL 3 Years
- Margaret Janes-Lucas
New York, New York 1 Year

2011 Noted Speakers

(see website for full list of speakers)

- Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Congresswoman
Democrat, Wisconsin
- Victoria A. Cargill, MD, MSCE
Director of Minority Research
Office of AIDS Research, National
Institutes of Health
- Frances E. Ashe - Goins, RN,MPH
Office of Women's Health
- Deborah Parham-Hobson, PhD, RN
Associate Administrator HIV/AIDS
Bureau Health Resources & Services
Administration
- Terrence Young
Manager of Testing and Field Operations
Community Education Group
- Nathaniel Scruggs
Intake/patient coordinator
Total Health Care Inc.
- Dwyane Morrow,
Prevention Services Program Manager
AIDS Foundation Houston
- Peter McLloyd
Consumer Development and Advocacy
Coordinator
Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center

Advocacy Day 2011

"... we got the word out, we are doing our job...we will do it again every year until ...the end of time."

–Advocacy Day Participant

Each year, AIDS Alliance galvanizes hundreds of consumers, providers and activists as part of VOICES to head to Capitol Hill.



On Advocacy Day, these advocates educate their U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives about the impact of HIV/AIDS in their hometown as well as voice their concerns about policy decisions that impact people living with HIV/AIDS, help others affected by HIV/AIDS, and prevent new infections.

On Tuesday, May 24, 2011, **164 advocates** registered to take part in the legislative process by conducting Capitol Hill visits with 67 House and Senate members or their health staff. Advocacy Day 2011 participants urged members of Congress to:

- increase appropriations for Ryan White Part D programs,
- support funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), and
- continue advancement of federal legislation and programs that are critical to the HIV/AIDS community.

In Your Words

What constituents are sharing about VOICES 2011!

"We had an inspiring and wonderful time this weekend at VOICES 2011, thanks to the hard work of AIDS Alliance. Looking forward to next year."

"Blessed to have been apart of such a heartfelt experience."

"I can't thank AIDS Alliance enough for the great experiences and opportunities at VOICES 2011."

"Every year it gets better"

"I'm very glad that I came back, definitely remembered why I love it"

"So much educational insight, new fresh ideas it bring back to my work/life. It was fun, inspirational and educational at the same time!"

It Gets Better Youth Plenary

“... it realllly does get better!”

–Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

The 2011 Youth and Advocacy Plenary, *It Gets Better!*, was a major highlight of this year’s conference. The Plenary addressed the recent LGBT youth suicides prompted by bullying rooted in stigma, ignorance and intolerance. The plenary combined the energy and creativity of youth and the experience and accomplishments of leaders in policy and government who could attest to the It Gets Better theme. For the first time in VOICES history, attendees received the opportunity to speak out and share their It Gets Better story. Constituents from diverse backgrounds shared how they overcame abuse, addiction, suicidal thoughts, homelessness and abandonment. There were tears and hugs, laughter and applause and even standing ovations for those who bravely shared. Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) heard a few of the stories and shared her personal testimony of how “it realllly got better”. In addition a video was created by youth for the *It Gets Better* website. To view this video go to www.aids-alliance.org.



2010 Board Presidents Award

The AIDS Alliance Board of Directors President Award was awarded to the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) team, who under the direction of Jeff Crowley authored the United States’ first ever National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS). The NHAS provides a roadmap to a world where new HIV infections are rare and those with HIV have easy access to high quality care free from stigma and discrimination. Authors and team members from ONAP are:

- Jeffrey Crowley Director
- James Albino, Senior Program Manager
- Chantelle Britton, Policy Advisor
- Greg Millett, formerly Senior Policy Advisor
- Natalie Pojman, Policy Assistant
- Adelle Simmons, formerly Policy Advisor
- Gannet Tsegai, Communications Advisor

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Mapping Our Way by Lenny Rabb, 2011

So many years of seeking, so many years of peeking to
Find that one reality that lets us know that we must stay on the
Course for our own success and in the process we'll
Know that they'll be no more acting as if we're on a quest because
Now is the time for us to put forth our best
Acknowledging that our purpose is to advocate for all groups—all
Races, all genders regardless of whom or what, for
We possess the gift to succeed knowing that there are still those
With stigmas who try to impede—and yet, we continue
To network, we continue to speak-up, speak-out about heterosexual
Fathers who are raising children—about prevention and
How its true intentions must reach out to young people and women
How mental health services must become a serious force
Of today as we construct this new reality,
while MAPPING OUR WAY
Because we can no longer hold on to the concept
of the individual me—in this day,
in this time it's about the greater body
Known as we—so our attitudes and our fortitude
gives us a chance to strive
with new intentions around change,
allowing us to see that just for today
our destiny comes down to
MAPPING OUR WAY

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