

AIDS ACTION NOW!
Steering Committee Minutes
(November 12, 1991)

Present:

Ric Hatt	Sebina Mosella
Jeanne Wood	James Thatcher
Bill Leeming	Glen Brown
Brian Farlinger	Gerry Heddema
Susan Kasurak	John Mountain
Brent Patterson	Kalpesh Oza
Roger Spalding	Darien Taylor
Mark Freamo	Vanessa Payne
Doug Wilson	Charles Roy
Judy McGuire	Tim McCaskell
Harry Collie	Pei Lim
Chris Nisser	Welcome Zenjile
David MacKay	Boysey Montang

1. Announcement

Visitors to the Steering Committee included Charles Roy from CAS, Judy McGuire from PWA Society, and four AIDS activists from South Africa: Chris Nisser, Welcome Zenjile, David MacKay, Boysey Montang.

2. Minutes of October 22, 1991

The minutes of October 8, 1991 were reviewed and accepted.

3. Provincial Issues:

- Drug Funding**
- a. DDI update.
 - b. New provincial drug formulary update.

DDI -- Francis Lankin has made no announcement about whether the provisional government will pay drug costs of DDI.

Re: ministry of health promises concerning the new drug formulary under the Ontario Drug Benefits Plan to make drugs accessible through pharmacy listings of those individuals entitled to receive drugs under the ODB -- AAN! has made formal complaints about (1) the over-bureaucratization of the overall program, (2) the lack of confidentiality for individuals listed, and (3) physicians and pharmacies are ill-informed about the program and, as a result, people are not having access to it or are being charged for prescriptions. AAN! has met with the minister's policy advisor demanding a comprehensive drug policy. The policy advisor was reluctant to make any policy announcement. AAN! plans to meet with the new coordinator for the ministry and there are plans to initiate the organizing of a community workshop on the matter, possibly with ACT and PWA Foundation. Ric Hatt announced that the OAN would be writing to the ministry to complain about these issues as well.

OAAC (OACHA) report:

OAAC has been renamed the Ontario Advisory Committee on HIV and AIDS and will be responding to an AAN! call for a strategic plan. The new committee is composed of 1/3 HIV+ individuals, 1/3 community based organizations, and 1/3 professionals (approximately). James Thatcher and Tim McCaskell will sit on the new committee. Glen Brown sat as an alternative for the October meeting.

New priorities for OACHA include a comprehensive AIDS strategy including previous AAN! demands for examinations of home care, anonymous testing, increased HIV public education, and access to drugs and treatments. The December meeting will move on clinic evaluations and examine present gaps in services.

Consultations: a. Activist

b. Treatment/Wellness

c. City of Toronto Public Health Dept.

Activist -- James Thatcher to report.

Treatment/Wellness -- James Thatcher to report.

City of Toronto Public Health Dept. -- Bill Leeming represented AAN! at a community consultation on the issuing of Section 22 orders to "noncompliant positives" (HPPA). The City of Toronto Public Health Dept. was represented by David McEwen, Jane Speakman (City lawyer), Carol Debonne and Joanne Ackree (Heads of Public Health Nurses). AAN! has taken a position of refusing to comment on or break confidentiality of individual cases. While MOH David McEwen has stated he believes in the use of only non-coercive measures with "noncompliant positives", AAN! is looking for consistency in policy for all MOHs in Ontario, and accountability to the ministry of health and to the community. David McEwen has been asked to furnish AAN! with written policies and protocol for community review.

4. TAAR/Federal Issues

Bouchard, National AIDS Strategy -- Benoit Bouchard addressed the Commons Standing Committee on National Health and Welfare on October 30 about developments in AIDS policy. Prison issues were highlighted by Bouchard, as well as a commitment to implement the National Treatment Registry. Charles Roy pointed out that Bouchard said there should be at least as much AIDS funding in 1993 as there exists now.

Clinical Trials Booklet -- Brian Farlinger reported that the booklet still requires responses from CTN and from Darien Taylor. It was noted that the booklet was highly praised by the Pharmaceutical Assn. Publication could be as early as December 1. Ric Hatt motioned the AAN! finance an early publication of 500 copies of the booklet. Tim McCaskell seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

EDRP Public Meeting -- Scheduled December 7. Roger Philip has prepared information on treatments ready to go through the EDRP. Tim McCaskell reported that there is a considerable lack of information regarding what

treatments are available; lack of compassionate release by pharmaceutical companies, and physician ignorance. AAN! is looking for a strategy whereby patients could apply for experimental treatments through their physicians. Tim felt there should be an advocacy person to monitor EDRP and find out where problems in access lie and if individual companies are responsible in failures to release particular drugs.

3TC Trial -- Glen Brown reported that pharmaceutical consultants are looking for more community consultation via AAN! GLAXO pharmaceuticals has asked for a response to a draft clinical trial design. AAN! will attend a November 28 meeting.

GP160 -- Tim McCaskell reported that the GP160 trial will be expanded to Toronto. However, only a few people will be allowed to participate and it is rumoured that those people must have T-cell counts of 500 or more. Brent Patterson reported that names were being taken in July and that a trial protocol has not been made public. Brent will investigate.

5. **PRISON ISSUES**

Ric Hatt reported that AAN! has issued a press release to applaud the new federal program to distribute condoms in the prison system. Mark Freamo reported numerous cases of HIV+ prisoners being released with no treatment counselling and that an HIV+ female detainee has said prisoners are refusing to be tested for fear of discriminatory treatment in correctional facilities. Ric noted that all medical services in prison are currently under the control of prison services and not the various public health departments. This should be investigated by AAN!.

6. **AAN! GENERAL MEETING**

This will be held on November 19. A nominating committee for the new steering committee has drawn a list of candidates for steering committee.

7. **COMMITTEES**

Finances -- \$1,800. remains in the coffers with outstanding revenue from benefits still to come. \$300. was raised by AAN! running a coat-check at a Jack Layton fundraiser (and an AAN! button was discretely presented to Francis Lankin).

Membership & Recruitment -- Gerry Heddema reported a highly successful recruitment meeting attended by 25 people. Gerry reported that the phone tree is now 30 persons and attributed the success of the last recruitment drive, in part, to phoning the entire Toronto mailing list for AAN! and a weekend campaign involving AAN! members distributing information leaflets at Church + Wellesley.

Media -- Karin Donnan to report.

8. **Coalitions & Networks**

CNOPLWAHIV -- Doug Porter reported on 4 days of meetings: discussions achieved good communications with CAS and solicited a commitment by CAS to be more accountable to the community. Regarding the Names Project;

CAS will pursue seeing that the organization of the project becomes better governed and more accountable to the community. CNOPLWAHIV is also about to pole the 40 members of the National AIDS Network regarding its proposed new name.

Pei Lim reported that proceeds from the Red,Hot+Blue video release would be monitored by CAS.

CAS -- Charles Roy announced a new CAS board structure: each of the 5 regions is to have an HIV director. For the first time CAS has a good representation of HIV+ members. Charles reported that there would be greater emphasis on treatments, advocacy and support issues in the upcoming year. He was optimistic about working with the National AIDS Network.

Ontario Coalition Against Poverty -- OCAP is cosponsoring a "Treasure Hunt Through Rosedale" march on December 7 with the Coalition of Unemployed Workers to demonstrate that the "cupboards are not bare". Susan Kasurak will organize an AAN! contingent. Glen Brown motioned for \$50. to be donated by AAN! Ric Hatt moved and John Mountain seconded. The motion was carried.

9. **Other Business**

South African Activist Visit -- 15 people from the Sisomke Project of South Africa have been funded by the South Africa Trust Fund to compare AIDS work in South Africa and Canada. An information meeting will be held at 600 Jarvis St. on November 21 at 7pm.

December 1: Worlds AIDS Day -- Ric Hatt and Susan Kasurak discussion proposals for an AAN! letter-writing campaign and "report card" mailing.

Positively Well -- AAN! is cosponsoring a talk by Lark Landings with ACT, PWA, Hassle Free, and Voices of Positive Women

Rites Benefit -- Performance of "Steel Kiss" produced by Buddies in Bad Times.

** The meeting was concluded with a warm round of applause for Glen Brown who will be leaving the position of Co-Chair of AAN!