

**Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA)**  
**Conference Call Summary**  
**August 2, 2011**

**PACHA Members Present**

A. Cornelius Baker  
Praveen Basaviah  
Douglas Brooks, M.S.W.  
Rev. Dr. Calvin Otis Butts III, D. Min., M. Div.  
Humberto Cruz, M.S.  
Patricia Garcia, M.D., M.P.H.  
Robert Greenwald, J.D.  
Kathie Hiers  
David Holtgrave, Ph.D.  
Michael Horberg, M.D., M.A.S., FACP, AAHIVS  
Ejay L. Jack, M.S.W.  
Jack Jackson, Jr., J.D.  
Naina Khanna  
Douglas A. Michels, M.B.A.  
Mario J. Perez  
Sandra Torres Rivera  
Phill Wilson

**Staff Present**

Christopher Bates, M.P.A., Executive Director, PACHA  
Melvin Joppy, Committee Manager

**Other Participants**

Carl Schmidt, Deputy Executive Director, AIDS Institute  
Andrea Weddle, Executive Director, HIV Medicine Association

**Announcement of New PACHA Member**

Christopher Bates announced that the Reverend Vanessa Sharp is the newest PACHA member and will be joining PACHA at the next meeting September 29–30. Rev. Sharp is on sabbatical leave as pastor of Worldwide Outreach for Higher Hope Christian Ministries in Southwest Atlanta, Georgia. She will soon begin studies toward a Ph.D. in Ministry at the Africa International University in Nairobi, Kenya. Rev. Sharp was diagnosed with HIV in 1990.

## **Purpose of Call: Letter to the President and Secretary Sebelius**

David Holtgrave was facilitator for the discussion on the letter to President Obama and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius that provides recommendations for advancing implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. He reminded participants that at the full PACHA meeting in May, there was agreement that the Council would try to develop and send a letter to the President and the Secretary each year highlighting successes of the previous year, as well as areas that need urgent attention over the coming year. The goal is to have a draft of the letter to the President and the Secretary for discussion at each May PACHA meeting. There also was discussion about PACHA delivering a statement related to implementation of the Strategy aimed at the public around the date of World AIDS Day each year.

## **Agenda**

The first item on the agenda for this conference call was a discussion by PACHA members about the letter, followed by comments from individuals who had registered to provide public comments. The agenda continued with additional discussion by PACHA members. The final item was a motion to approve the letter and any amendments.

## **Discussion by PACHA Members**

Humberto Cruz suggested that the letter include a recommendation that congressional action on the debt ceiling not cause further erosion on resources needed for HIV and AIDS. He also is concerned about the recommended expansion of the 12-Cities Project, which may cause some entities to lose funding.

Naina Khanna mentioned that she will introduce an amendment concerning HIV-related criminalization, based on a letter on that topic signed by a number of organizations. Dr. Holtgrave reviewed what parts of the letter would be amended relative to HIV-related criminalization and what the amendment would say in each part.

Kathie Hiers stated that she is in favor of expansion of the 12-Cities Project because she believes it is important for there to be demonstration projects in rural areas of the country rather than confining them to extremely urban areas. Ms. Hiers supports the amendment language for the HIV criminalization issue.

Robert Greenwald supports the language in the letter in favor of expanding the 12-Cities initiative and also supports the suggested HIV criminalization amendment.

Cornelius Baker expressed the hope that in the future, PACHA can consider sending letters to the Secretaries of Labor and Education to review the correlation of poverty to HIV.

## **Public Comment**

Carl Schmidt, Deputy Executive Director of the AIDS Institute (whose Program Office is in Florida), expressed his gratitude that the letter to the President and the Secretary addresses the immediate need for increased Federal resources for the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP). He cited the fact that the doubling of emergency ADAP funding will not make a dent in reducing Florida's waiting list. He is requesting that the Administration reconsider its decision and provide Florida the ADAP emergency funding that reflects the State's share of the need.

Andrea Weddle, Executive Director of the HIV Medicine Association, asked that PACHA amend the letter to urge that HIV/AIDS research prevention and treatment be protected and also that the President stand by the Federal commitment to the Medicaid program. She stated that the Administration has its own proposal that would reduce Federal support for Medicaid by \$100 million. In addition, she asked that the letter emphasize HPTN 052 findings.

## **Continuation of PACHA Discussion**

A motion to approve the letter was made and seconded, followed by discussion of amendments. Mr. Greenwald proposed that language be added urging the President and the Secretary to protect the Medicaid program from deficit reduction base cuts. Dr. Holtgrave asked that Mr. Greenwald e-mail him the exact language of the amendment.

Naina Khanna then proposed an amendment on HIV-related criminalization, with language as read earlier by Dr. Holtgrave.

Michael Horberg suggested that reference be made to HPTN 052 on the first page of the letter. A discussion pro and con followed; the conclusion was that the reference to HPTN 052 will remain on the second page of the letter and will be in bold type.

## **Summary of Amendments**

There will be two amendments to the letter, one related to the Medicaid program and the other to HIV-related criminalization.

It was decided to vote on the letter and the amendments as a package, and the aye vote was unanimous.

**Disposition of Letter**

The letter will be posted on the Internet when it becomes final and will be sent to the HHS Executive Secretary. A separate package will be sent to the White House Office of National AIDS Policy.