

# MAINE AIDS ALLIANCE

283 Water Street, 3rd Floor

Augusta, ME 04330

(207) 621-2924

JUNE 1991

## NEWSLETTER

### Rural Gay Men Targeted for Health Education

by Peaches Bass

For several years, AIDS service organizations in Maine have found it difficult to obtain funding for AIDS prevention programs focusing on gay men. This has led to a serious lack of HIV prevention programs targeting the population that accounts for the largest percentage of HIV infection and AIDS diagnoses in this state.

In a surprisingly positive development, the Maine AIDS Alliance received \$10,300 last fall from the Centers for Disease Control to implement programs providing AIDS/HIV risk reduction education to men who have sex with men.

The Maine AIDS Alliance separated the grant into two components, one urban and the other rural. In summer 1991, the AIDS Project (Portland) will be developing and implementing a project to reach men who go to gay bars. Waldo County AIDS Coalition (Belfast) and Down East AIDS Network (Ellsworth) have already joined forces to initiate a rural project to encourage gay men to communicate with their sex partners about safe sex and condom use and to learn other health promoting behaviors and activities. The first phase of the rural gay men's HIV project was a weekend workshop where participants discussed geographical and demographic influences on gay

men's sexual and social behaviors, conditions that encourage and discourage safe sex, and how to develop a sense of trust and community among gay men in rural Maine.

Men who have sex with men and live in rural areas of Maine are particularly difficult to reach through traditional outreach and education methods. There are no bars or clubs to provide a vehicle for contact or educational presentations. Closeted life is much more common in small towns; gay men often live in the same towns for years without knowing that they have gay neighbors and co-workers. In addition, there is a significant population of married men who have sex with men. These men have sex in furtive and, often risky situations, where condom and spermicide use is infrequent, at best.

Given the challenge of reaching many rural men at risk for HIV infection, the second phase of the Waldo County/Down East program will focus on experimenting with outreach projects. A post-workshop survey indicated that several participants felt better prepared to provide

*(continued on following page)*

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safe sex information to their peers. There has been some interest in hosting safe sex information sessions in private homes, since private social gatherings are considered an easy way to reach rural gay men. Several workshop participants indicated a desire to sponsor these educational sessions, while others will work on developing strategies to educate men who are not involved in gay social life.

The Maine AIDS Alliance will be seeking a commitment from the Centers for Disease Control to continue the rural project. If you have suggestions about reaching rural gay men and closeted men who have sex with men, please contact the Maine AIDS Alliance at 283 Water Street, 3rd Floor, Augusta, ME 04330, or call (207) 621-2924.

## MAINE AIDS ALLIANCE

Newsletter

June 1991

Volume 11, Number 3

283 Water Street, 3rd Fl.

Augusta, ME 04330

(207) 621-2924

**R.J. Peaches Bass, Director**

Vincent Farese, Editor

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Lew McFarland

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The Maine AIDS Alliance Newsletter may report on events that are going on in Maine and elsewhere. This does not mean that we agree or participate in all of these events. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome and may be sent to the Alliance offices.

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## CALENDAR

- June 12-14      Substance Abuse and AIDS: A Faculty Development Program for Primary Care Providers New Haven, Ct. For information call Patrick O'Connor, MD, at (203) 785-3461.
- June 20      T.B. or Not T.B. --- A Question for Maine Physicians Edward Harrow, MD. Mason, Eastern Maine Medical Center. For information phone: Bangor 945-7303.
- June 22      Women and HIV/AIDS 9:30 AM - Noon. This is an ITV Training sponsored by the Maine AIDS Alliance with a grant from the Espoir Foundation. For more information call the Alliance at (207) 621-2924.
- June 25      Oral Candidiasis AIDS Satellite Television. (Program will be videotaped; tapes available for loan. 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. CHEP Classroom B205, VA/Togus. For more information phone Augusta, 623-5773.
- June 26-27      American Red Cross HIV Instructor Training, Mid-Maine Chapter, Waterville. Registration is required. Call 873-6176 for more information.
- July 17-19      AIDS in the Rural Area, LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Contact: Carol Ebert, LaCrosse Lutheran Hospital, Department of Education, 1910 South Avenue, LaCrosse, Wisconsin 54601. Phone: (608) 785-0530.
- July 19      Hairy Leukoplakia, AIDS Satellite Television. Program will be videotaped and tape will be available for loan. CHEP Classroom B205, VA/Togus. Call: Augusta 623-5773 for info.
- July 24-28      13th National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and 9th National AIDS/HIV Forum. New Orleans, LA. Contact: NLGHF Registration Office, Office of CME/GWUMC, 2300 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20037.
- August 16      Esophageal Candidiasis, AIDS Satellite Television. Program will be videotaped and available for loan. 1:00 - 3:00 pm. CHEP Classroom B205, VA/Togus. Call 623-5773 for more information.

## SUPPORT

- DOWN EAST AIDS NETWORK      HIV/AIDS Support Group, Tuesday evenings, Ellsworth. Contact Bobby Poulin, 667-3506.  
HIV/AIDS Supervision and Support, 1:30 pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Ellsworth. Open meeting of area professional and volunteer caregivers. Contact Bobby Poulin, 667-3506 or Doug Kimmel, 422-3686.  
Women's HIV Group, 7:30 pm, Bangor, 1st and 3rd Thursdays. Call Bobby Poulin, 667-3506 or Patty Miles, 947-0700.
- COMMUNITY AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAM, AIDS Support Group, Mondays, 7 - 8:30pm. Mexico, ME. Call 369-0259 for more information.

*Send us your support services schedule for newsletter listing.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Maine Interfaith Council on AIDS has developed a comprehensive handbook on AIDS for clergy and lay leadership in Maine's churches, synagogues, and assemblies. The handbook will include an Introduction, Fear and What to Do About It, Education, Pastoral Care and Support, Prayers and Worship Services, Outreach, and Additional Resources. The handbook will be available by early summer, 1991. For more information, contact the Maine Council of Churches, 15 Pleasant Ave. Portland, ME 04103. Telephone (207) 772-1918.

"Schooner Fare" will perform for a Community AIDS Awareness Program benefit on Friday, September 20, 1991 at 7:00 pm. The location of the benefit is the Mountain Valley High School Auditorium in Rumford. For more information, please call 364-7535, or 369-0259 (answering machine).

"PROJECT PENTAMIDINE" is a non-profit service highly praised by doctors, institutions and patients, that assist in the legal importation of Pentamidine Isethionate, the most effective drug available for treating pneumonia caused by pneumocystis in people with AIDS. It is a life-sustaining drug that is so costly that effective use is out of reach for many who need it most desperately. Low-cost Pentamidine can be obtained with guaranteed weekly delivery. It is completely legal due to the FDA Guidelines for the importation of "...articles for the treatment of serious and life-threatening conditions like AIDS...". The simple requirements are: You may import up to a three month supply per person; a doctor's prescription must accompany the delivery; and it must be for the individual use of patients. Doctors and individuals are urged to take advantage of the service. To contact Project Pentamidine call or write: Jack Erdmann, Project Pentamidine, 60 Lovell Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941, (415) 388-2105.

Thursday Lunch at The AIDS PROJECT. Every Thursday from 11:45 AM to 12:45 pm a delicious hot meal with bread, salad, and desserts. Come relax and chat with friends and staff over one of the tasty and nutritious dishes. Call ahead if transportation is a problem. There is also a freezer full of delicious, individual, pre-cooked meals to take home and enjoy --- all prepared by the folks at the First Congregational Church in South Portland.

U.S. to Keep AIDS-Immigrant Ban (from the Washington Post) The federal government's plan to reverse current immigration policy and allow people infected with HIV into the United States has been shelved, according to congressional and administration sources. The Department of Health and Human Services proposed in January to strike HIV infection from the list of diseases for which a person can be barred from the United States. The four-year old policy had been denounced as discriminatory and medically unjustified by public health groups and AIDS activists. The new regulation was to have been finalized by June 1.

With 40,000 overwhelmingly negative letters and strong opposition from conservatives outside and inside the administration, federal officials said they will probably let the proposal die. According to health officials, it is possible that the government will reintroduce its proposal or that a new, compromise position will be reached, allowing HIV infected people to come to the United States under certain, limited circumstances.

"This is a very distressing case of political cold feet", said Representative Barney Frank, D-MASS., who was one of the leaders in pushing the

administration to drop the HIV restriction. "This is another case where the Bush administration gives the semi-civilized wing of the Republican party a veto over health policy."

The issue of how HIV should be handled by immigration officials arises because of a long-standing federal policy that people carrying dangerous and communicable diseases like tuberculosis should not be allowed in the country. In 1987 Congress approved an amendment sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., that added HIV to that list. Subsequently this amendment came under heavy criticism from the Red Cross.

## STEPS IN ORGANIZING and MANAGING a COMMUNITY-WIDE HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAM

The Minnesota Heart Health Program has identified the following major tasks to organize and manage a community-wide health promotion program.

1. Prepare a mission statement
2. Analyze available resources
3. Prepare an organizational plan
4. Garner community support
5. Gather initial resources
6. Identify the program director
7. Gather other resources
8. Identify other staff
9. Organize community board and task forces
10. Generate an annual plan
11. Announce the program and plan
12. Implement the plan
13. Evaluate the program
14. Prepare the next annual plan and repeat the cycle

National Pediatric AIDS Awareness Day The Mall at the Capitol Building in Washington will be the site of the First National Children with AIDS/HIV Awareness Day. Scheduled for June 11, 1991, the mission of the day is:

1) to raise the level of consciousness about children with HIV/AIDS; 2) to educate the nation about the various modes of pediatric AIDS transmission which cuts across all social barriers, and the increasing numbers of babies, children, and teenagers who have HIV/AIDS. 3) to impress on Congress the need to allocate more funds for AIDS research; 4) to remember the children throughout the nation who have died as a result of AIDS; 5) to encourage community organizations to establish more comprehensive services addressing family financial support, AIDS education, parent networking systems, and bereavement support systems; 6) to empower families living with HIV/AIDS through joining with other families in similar life situations.

Endorsed by the Department of Maternal Child Health and the National Education Association, the day is being planned by the Sunburst National AIDS Project, PO Box 422, Brooklyn, NY 11234. (718) 763-8095.

*The Alliance has a new office...*

*Please note our new phone number and address effective June 15, 1991.*

*Maine AIDS Alliance*

*283 Water Street, 3rd Floor*

*Augusta, ME 04330*

*Phone: (207) 621-2924*

## MEMBER REPORTS

**PEOPLE WITH AIDS COALITION** The Bikeathon in April was well received with support coming from a wide area - from Kennebunk to Friendship. The PWA Newsletter mailing has increased from 1000 to 1200. The NAPWA Region I Conference was designed to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of PWA's. This conference was hosted by the PWA Coalition of Maine in May. The clothing bank is overstocked. The Coalition encourages all PWA's to use this service. There is clothing available for men, women and children.

**WALDO COUNTY AIDS COALITION** - There is a benefit auction planned for this July. A Cut-A-Thon was held in early April.

It was noted that although this is not a great money maker, a good deal of community support occurs around this event. Child and Family Services has awarded WCAC a grant to create a pilot program for a camp for children with/or intimately affected by AIDS and HIV. There is also a great deal of local support around this one week pilot. The camp will take place in June and WCAC coordinators of this project hope to be able to acquire the support and funding to make this an annual event. The Mothers' Support Group is meeting bi-weekly. The generic support group is functioning as the core committee for the HIV Camp, and meets to address support issues as needed at this time. There seems to be a need developing for a support group restricted to people with HIV and/or AIDS. The viability of conducting a group such as this in the Waldo County area at this time is being looked at.

**MERRYMEETING AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES** - There has been recent expansion of MASS's educational activities. All the Buddies trained in the January session have been assigned pods. There was another training the first two weeks in May. MASS is expanding their Board of Directors and rewriting their by-laws. A Board retreat was held recently with a facilitator. This retreat went well and seemed to have brought people together with a sense of clarity and cooperation.

**The NAMES PROJECT** - Quilt panels have been on tour to Machias, Bridgton, Preque Isle, Waterboro, College of the Atlantic, Waldo County, Ogonquit, and Wells. Staffers feel that the best way to present the quilt is as a "traveling" show. The ideal length of each showing should be about a week. Debb is encouraging church groups to host quilt presentations.

**AIDS COALITION FOR LINCOLN COUNTY** There is a lot of school education being done in recent weeks. It was noted that there is a shocking knowledge of sexual behaviors even in the lower elementary school grades. There are plans for ACLC to present a Sex Awareness Day for 6th Graders. Lynn noted the communications between ACLC and Dayspring is has been helpful. ACLC will have a booth at the Oyster Festival in Damariscotta.

**THE AIDS PROJECT** - The agency reorganization is still in progress at TAP. Marjorie is encouraged by the new skills and energies of the current Board. More than half of the Board is new in the last seven months. TAP is creating a volunteer-run volunteer program. There are close to 50 volunteers recently trained, and about 50 waiting training.

Twenty-five volunteers were trained for the Hot Line in The Hot Line is being staffed from 9-5:00 on six days, with staffing until 7:30pm on two evenings. Foundation support is being sought for a new case manager position. There is currently a case load of 150 for the three existing case managers. Cathy Kidman, the TAP community educator has been speaking in schools. A TAP priority is to have a significant presence in the gay community, providing education and prevention information. Cathy is also working at establishing a good relationship with agencies in other areas regarding providing speakers in their areas.

**COMMUNITY TASK FORCE ON AIDS EDUCATION** CTFAE has been hosting well attended community forums, as well as the education in schools and outreach to summer camps. It was noted that there is a great need for support services, and acknowledgement of the presence of HIV in that area.

**ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY AIDS COALITION** AVAC has begun to advertize for a 10 hour per week staff person. There has been a great deal of participation from musicians, performers, etc. who have put on benefits for AVAC. Nearly \$2000. has been distributed to PWA's in that area since December.

**AIDS LODGING HOUSE** Renovations on the house have been completed. Nineteen people have been served to date.. Westbrook Clergy Association did a recent Mardi Gras night benefit for the Lodging House, with over 500 people attending. The enormous community support around this event was noted. The Lodging House has served two women and two heterosexual persons as lodgers. A Board of Directors Retreat will be held on Saturday, June 8th to do long range planning.

DOWN EAST AIDS NETWORK DEAN has had paid staff for one year now. The Buddy Program for that area is being expanded. DEAN has worked with the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center and the Bangor STD Clinic to establish a support group for women with HIV. An educational day-long conference for caregivers was held. DEAN and WCAC joined forces to sponsor a very successful speakers training. This training is being followed up with an expanded speakers workshop. DEAN is developing an AIDS brochure by Maine teens - for Maine teens. The educational programs in the schools has accelerated. Speakers are having to deal more and more with the issue of homophobia. There have been unpleasant situations because of this issue. DEAN and EMAN collaborated on a Casino Night held in April. DEAN and WCAC will join forces again to develop and implement a program of outreach for men who have sex with men in public environments. Gene Grindle has been providing information/education tables at various events, conventions, fairs and trade shows.

EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK Casino Night with DEAN was held in Bangor in early April. EMAN is pleased with the working relationship between their organization and DEAN. There is not a lot of support from the gay and lesbian community in the area. Most of the support is from the Bangor area heterosexual community. There has been quite a bit of media support - PSA's and other radio announcements for EMAN John Silvernail and Laura Neal attended the Women and AIDS conference in Boston. Doug Worster-Jones sits on a committee with Maine Dental Association that addresses issues of attitude and training and access to dental health care.

DAYSPRING Wes Umphrey thanks all who have helped him get started at Dayspring. He notes that the number of cases are growing. Wes is in the process of identifying several PWA's as a solid volunteer base., and there are students from Colby College interested in involvement with Dayspring and it's work. Dayspring is hoping to be a part of MAINE WALK'91 in Waterville or Augusta.

WRITE IT DOWN... a change of address for the Alliance...

283 Water Street, 3rd Floor  
Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: (207) 621-2924



# **Should low income women be refused information that is easily available to others?**

This is what will happen if the present "gag rule" stands.

## **Abortion information**

**CENSORED**

**T**he Supreme Court has recently decided that Family Planning clinics who receive government funding may not answer questions about or discuss the option of abortion when counseling women in crisis pregnancy situations. Any woman who uses Family Planning services will be denied abortion information there. This especially affects low-income women, for whom Family Planning is often the only health care provider. Meanwhile, women with greater economic advantage will be able to easily receive abortion referrals from their private doctors. This is unacceptable and discriminatory.

A bill that would reverse this "gag rule" is now on the floor of the House and Senate. LD 323 and HR 392 would rewrite the Title X regulations and require that Family Planning programs provided non-directive, unbiased counseling on all options for handling an unintended pregnancy. (This is the current Family Planning approach to pregnancy options counseling.)

**If this ruling affects you, call and write the following and ask for their support:**

George Mitchell  
176 Russell Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5344  
(207) 622-8292

George Bush  
The White House  
Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20015  
(202) 456-1111

**Write or call to thank these legislators for co-sponsoring this legislation:**

Olympia Snowe  
2462 Rayburn House Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6306  
(207) 945-0432

Thomas Andrews  
1724 Longworth House Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6116  
1-800-445-4092

William S. Cohen  
322 Hart Senate Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2523  
(207) 622-8414

For more information on other actions you can take to reverse this discriminatory ruling, contact your local Family Planning Office or

**The Family Planning Association of Maine**  
PO Box 587, Augusta, ME 04332-0587.  
(207) 622-7524

**Freedom of choice means knowing what the choices are.**

Paid for and distributed by a concerned citizen.

# IMPORTANT!!!

GENERAL MEETING  
Saturday, June 15, 1991  
10:00 AM - 2:00 pm

HIGH STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
AUBURN  
(Map Below)

Lunch is Pot Luck, Bring something to eat and/or drink.

In addition to our customary member reports, we will be discussing a proposal to restructure the Alliance Board of Directors. You will receive a copy of this proposal before the meeting. Please read it and be ready to discuss it at the general meeting.

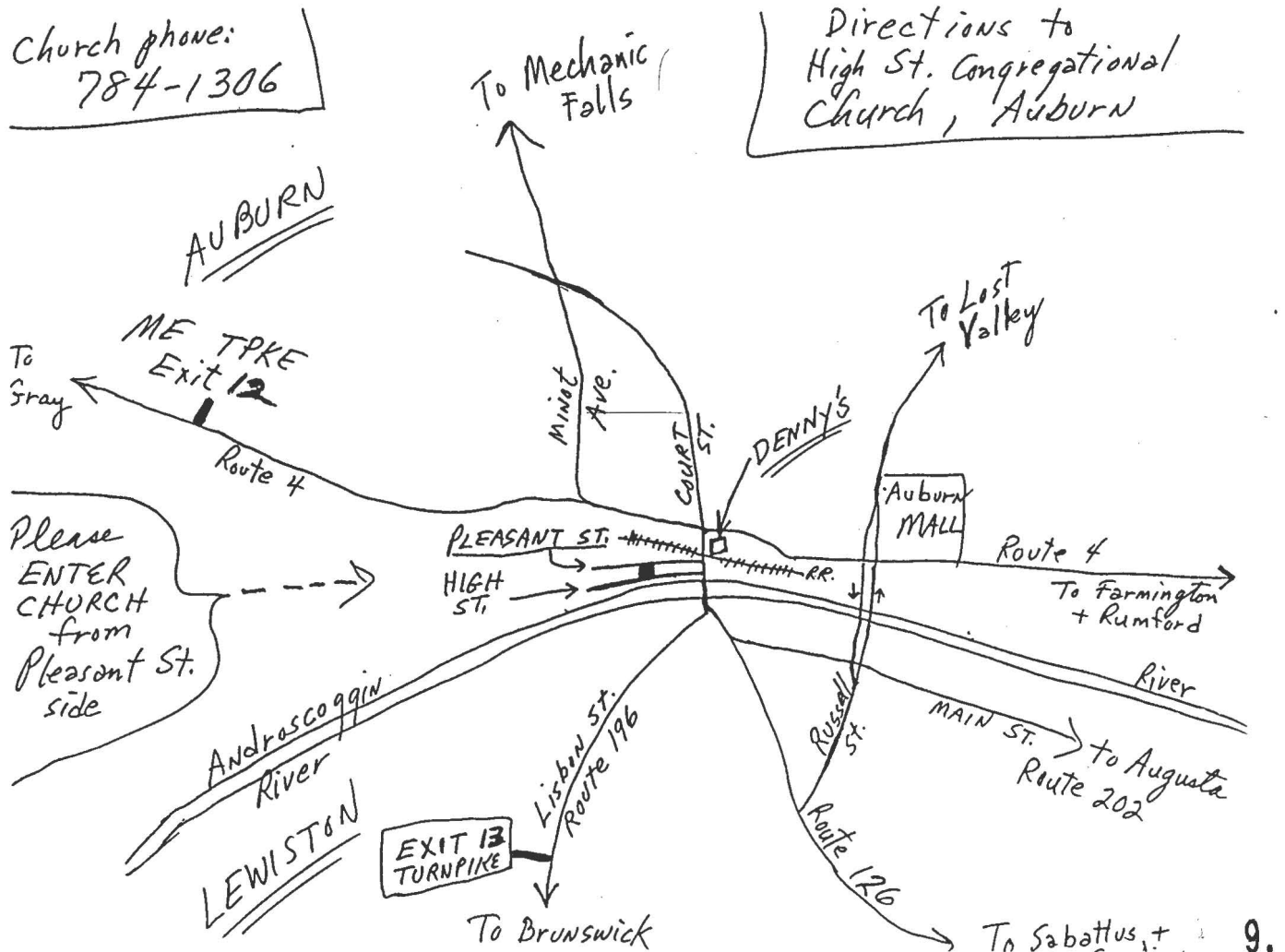
YOUR ATTENDANCE IS VITAL! Please make sure your organization is represented at this meeting.

We will also be discussing another important issue --- State Funding. This meeting should be quite interesting!

PLEASE CALL THE MAA OFFICE IF YOU WILL NOT BE ATTENDING.

Church phone:  
784-1306

Directions to  
High St. Congregational  
Church, Auburn



# HEALTH CARE IN MAINE IN THE YEAR 2001

AUGUST 9-10, 1991

The time has come for major changes in American health care. People are discussing new ways of providing the comprehensive, affordable medical care we need. We also need new visions of quality health care and these should come from all of us. This conference will be an opportunity to voice those concerns.

What kind of health care do we want in Maine? How can we get it for all of us?

COME AND HELP ANSWER THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS

## AGENDA

Friday, August 9	4:30-6:00	DINNER AT THE COLLEGE
	6:00-7:00	REGISTRATION
	7:00-8:00	WELCOME: Liz Park INTRODUCTION TO SHARING EXPERIENCES: Claire Bolduc, Gerrie Brown
Saturday, August 10	7:45-8:30	REGISTRATION
	8:30-9:15	PLENARY SESSION: Envisioning desirable, just health care in your area.
	9:30-11:00	SMALL GROUPS: Sharing visions, identifying differences, conflicts and components of desirable, just health care of health care.
	11:15-12:15	PANEL: Obstacles to quality health care Dale McCormick, Diana Long, Claire Bolduc, provider (works with elderly)
	12:15-1:00	LUNCH
	1:00-2:00	PLENARY: Summary and discussion of morning groups
	2:15-3:30	SMALL GROUPS: What do we want in health care for Maine
	3:30-4:00	BREAK
	4:00-5:00	PLENARY: Setting a health care agenda for Maine, next steps

UNITY COLLEGE, UNITY ME. EXIT 35 OFF I95. 15 Miles to Unity, Maine. Turn Right at the blinking light and proceed 1/3 mile up the hill to the College. Signs will indicate parking. See map on other side. Limited Space. Please return registration (other side) by May 25th. Some Registration at the door. Send application if scholarship needed.

HEALTH CARE IN MAINE IN THE YEAR 2001  
UNITY COLLEGE, UNITY MAINE AUGUST 9-10, 1991

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Registration and lunch	\$25.00 (Scholarships available)	_____
Lodging ( price, double occupancy)	\$12.00	_____
Breakfast	\$3.00	_____
Friday Night Supper	\$5.00	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ I will need display space / to show a video

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like display space or to show a video

Return to Terry Seymour, Women's Studies, 94 Bedford St. Portland 04103 Phone Number 207-780-4430.

## IN SEARCH OF THE MEANINGFUL MEETING

In your opinion, are meetings fun and enjoyable; painful but necessary; or a crashing bore? How do you feel about the following statement: "Meetings are what you make them"?

Your attitude toward meetings directly affects how much you will learn during them! If you think an upcoming meeting will be a waste of time, it will likely turn out that way. But if you approach the same meeting with an upbeat attitude, you will probably gain something of value while you're there.

Have you studied the agenda before the meeting? By taking a few minutes beforehand, your interest is heightened and so are the chances that you'll have something of value to contribute.

Going into a meeting expecting it to be a painful experience increases the chances that it will be painful - ditto if meetings are a bore in your opinion. Check the body language of your fellow meeting-goers. You'll get more out of the meeting if you sit near people who

are generally interested in being there - yes, attitudes are contagious, whether they be good or bad.

If you are an active participant or the leader of the meeting, work hard to make the meeting interesting by sticking to the agenda, and keeping it as short as possible. The productivity of all meetings can be enhanced if the agenda is distributed before the meeting.

Another thing to consider is to avoid using a meeting as an ambush. Dropping major surprises at a meeting often comes back to haunt the ambusher. Chances are that most talking behind backs, in-house discontent, and open rebellion at the workplace have their roots in surprise attacks launched during meetings.

Meetings are for serious work, honest communication, and important discussion - if you approach meetings with these things in mind, you'll get more out of them. Remember, meetings are what you make them.

*(from: Printer's Press)*

*Maine Hospice Council, Inc. presents:*

### **PWA Caregiver Training Program: Portland, Maine**

The AIDS/HIV Caregiver Training Program is a series of three-hour programs primarily designed to train volunteers in methods and needscaring for AIDS/HIV patients. The training is based on the hospice philosophy of care, but one need not be involved directly with a hospice program to participate. Teaching emotional, physical and spiritual support for the patients and their families or loved ones is what this program is all about.

MAY 29 Symptom Management; Pain Management

JUNE 5 Safe Patient Transfer; Personal Care/Universal Precautions and Infection Control; Nutrition and Intervention

JUNE 12 Addiction; Dynamics of Family, Friends and Companions

JUNE 26 Legal Issues and Living Wills; Hospice from a Medical Perspective; Death and Dying

JULY 10 Funeral Ritual; Bereavement; Follow-up and Caring for the Caregiver

**For more information: Maine Hospice Council, Inc., 283 Water St., Room 12, Augusta, ME 04330 (207) 626-0651.**

### **PWA Caregiver Training Program at Augusta, Maine**

The above program is also given at Augusta on the following dates: May 29, June 11, June 25, and July 22. Call Maine Hospice Council, Inc., (above) for more information.



## *Waldo County Children's HIV Respite Camp*

The Waldo County AIDS Coalition's HIV Respite Camp for Children Intimately Affected by AIDS/HIV will take place in late June. Camp coordinators report an enthusiastic response to the initial outreach effort.

The idea of the camp is an exciting one, especially to adults who are HIV+ and family members --- all of whom have a unique capacity to understand and empathize with these children. The mutual benefits from a happy, safe atmosphere where children can be cared for by knowledgeable, empathetic adults seem far-reaching, both as a respite care idea and as direct support services to children.

The project also intends to involve mothers and fathers of children with AIDS or HIV infection by offering both informal discussion groups and workshops during the camp session. The intention is to invite the parents as guests, if they would like to do so, without direct care responsibilities. Siblings of children who are AIDS/HIV infected are also encouraged to participate.

Well children who have had education about, or direct experience with people with AIDS/HIV will also be incorporated as participants and

"helpers" in caring for younger children.

The intention is an open atmosphere which is designed to provide a pleasant camp space where the issues of AIDS and HIV infection are simply a given --- a safe place for all to enjoy total acknowledged acceptance and share their strength, hope, and experiences facing the challenge of this disease.

Numerous activities are planned for young campers aged four to fifteen. A separate schedule of workshops, yoga, meditation and massage, is planned for the parents/adult caregivers. Camp organizers believe that a program of "special events" for the children, ensuring that this be a special and memorable camp week, can be set up using volunteer services which will also serve to educate and sensitize the larger community to the needs of these children and their families.

This method of outreach - unique to Maine - will allow those people doing the caregiving at the camp to also benefit immeasurably from the healing power of reaching out, and the sharing of their experiences.

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## *MAINE WALK '91*

Plans are progressing for MAINE WALK '91, Maine's Second Annual Fundraising Walk-A-Thon. At this time, there may be up to eight WALK locations across the state.

MAINE WALK '91 will be held on October 13. Proceeds from MAINE WALK '91 will benefit the community-based preventive education programs and direct services for people living with AIDS in Maine.

Participants in MAINE WALK '91 will ask friends, family, co-workers and local businesses to sponsor them for as little as \$1 for each of the ten kilometers they will be walking or as much as \$100 or more per kilometer. For more information on MAINE WALK '91, contact the MAA member organization listed on the inside back cover of the newsletter, or call Vincent Farese at 338-3841.

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## Please take a moment.....

Below you will find a sample letter to your legislator regarding support for a comprehensive AIDS policy. On the following page is a People's Petition for Universal Health Care. The Maine AIDS Alliance prints these for your convenience. Please make a copy, or better yet - make a dozen and pass them out! Thanks.

Sample letter:

Dear Senator/Congressperson:

AIDS is a continuing and growing concern to our community. Nationally, the toll of AIDS is unrelenting. Many communities around the country have faced 20 percent increases in cases in the last year alone.

The Ryan White CARE Act passed by Congress last year offered us at the frontlines of this epidemic the hope that finally, the Federal government would take on its share of the responsibility for providing for the care of people with HIV infection and relieve some of the added burden AIDS is placing on an already overstressed health care system.

I am writing to urge your support, through your influence on the appropriations process, for dramatically increased funding for the Ryan White CARE programs. Full funding, at \$881 million, is needed to meet the promise Congress made in passing this legislation last year.

There are literally thousands of people with HIV in our communities waiting to hear that Congress cares about them and is committed to helping the states and localities provide the services they need to stay alive, stay healthy, and stay out of the hospital. Please don't disappoint them. Please show that this Congress still cares.

Thank you very much for your support.

Capitol Addresses:

Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Congress  
Washington, DC 20510

Cong. \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Congress  
Washington, DC 20515

Capitol Switchboard: 202/224-3121

Please send copies of your letters to Jan MacLeod, Director, AIDS Action Network, AIDS Action Council, 2033 M Street, N.W. #802, Washington, DC 20036.

For the name of your representative, call your local League of Women Voters.

*As always, thank you for your help in fighting for a comprehensive federal AIDS policy.*



## Maine AIDS Alliance Members

AIDS Coalition for Lincoln County  
PO Box 421  
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Contact: Lynn Plumb  
563-8953

The Names Project/Maine  
PO Box 4319  
Portland ME 04101

Contact: Debb Freedman  
774-2198

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition  
PO Box 7977  
Lewiston, ME 04243-7977

Contact: 795-4019

Community Task Force on AIDS Education  
PO Box 941  
Naples, ME 04055

Contact: Peter Allen  
787-3266

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Contact: Toni Ervin  
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Eastern Maine AIDS Network Services  
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Contact: John Silvernail  
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Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services  
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Brunswick, ME 04011-0057

Contact: Brian Allen  
725-4955

Community AIDS Awareness Program  
PO Box 431  
Rumford, ME 04276

Contact: Burt deFrees  
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AIDS Lodging House  
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Portland, ME 04101

Contact: Steve Pinkham  
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Down East AIDS Network  
114 State Street  
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Contact: Roberta Poulin  
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People With AIDS (PWA) Coalition of Maine  
377 Cumberland Avenue  
Portland, ME 04101

Contact: Tom Antonik  
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Waldo County AIDS Coalition  
PO Box 956  
Belfast, ME 04915

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The AIDS Project  
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Contact: Marjorie Love  
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PO Box 431  
Fort Kent, ME 04743

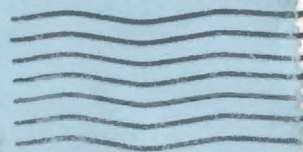
Contact: Joanne Fortin  
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*address correction requested*



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