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Douglas Morgan

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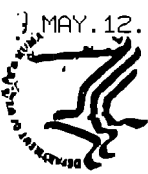
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HIV/AIDS Bureau

Public Health Service

Health Resources and
Services Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NOV 27 1998

TO: Director, White House Office of National AIDS Policy
FROM: Director, Division of Service Systems, HAB
THROUGH: Associate Administrator Jo
SUBJECT: Briefing Report on HIV/AIDS Services in Puerto Rico

- In accordance with my discussion with you I am forwarding a report entitled "Profile of HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico" which will help familiarize you with the Health Resources and Services Administration's Ryan White CARE Act funded programs in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

We hope this background information prepared for your upcoming visit to Puerto Rico will provide you with a contextual framework and a historical perspective on key issues facing the Commonwealth that have impacted HIV/AIDS care. Included with the document is a listing of HRSA funded service providers, as well as a HRSA staff assessment of accomplishments and challenges facing these particular grantees.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance and whether a face-to-face meeting with you is needed. You can reach me on 301 443-6745.

Douglas H. Morgan
Douglas H. Morgan, M.P.A.

Attachment

OFFICE	SURNAME	DATE	OFFICE	SURNAME	DATE	OFFICE	SURNAME	DATE
advis.	<i>Morgan</i>	11/25/98						
11/25/98	<i>[Signature]</i>	11/25/98						

FILE
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Profile of HIV/AIDS in **Puerto Rico**

Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act Services

- AIDS Profile
- Economic and Social Indices
- Health Indices
- Overarching Issues



Prepared by:
Health Resources and Services Administration
HIV/AIDS Bureau (Jerry Meier, Consultant)

I. Island Overview

The 3.6 million people that inhabit the island of Puerto Rico make it one of the most densely populated islands in the world. There are about 1,000 people per square mile, a ratio higher than any area within the 50 states in the United States. Puerto Rico is one of the larger islands of the West Indies, and the Commonwealth also includes several small islands, such as Culebra, La Mona, and Vieques.

Puerto Rico has experienced a political, economic, social and health transformation in the last 100 years that has brought with it significant changes in both the quality of life and health status of its residents. Historical events that have assisted Puerto Rico's passage from a rural agricultural society to an urban industrial one are highlighted below.

The current Commonwealth status of Puerto Rico has not halted sentiment for other forms of island governance, including statehood and independence. Whether Puerto Rico becomes a state, remains a territory or seeks independence as a sovereign nation is yet to be determined.

SNAPSHOT OF PUERTO RICO HISTORY

- Puerto Rico is surrendered to the United States military authority in 1900 and Puerto Rico became U.S. first unincorporated territory.
- In 1917 Puerto Ricans gain U.S. citizenship and a bill of rights.
- Puerto Rico became a U.S. commonwealth on July 25, 1952.
- The first Health Center is founded in Adjuntas in 1950 and the first Social Security cards were issued.
- In 1997 the U.S. Congress introduced Project Young, to provide a process leading to full self-government for Puerto Rico.
- Hurricane George with 120 mph winds strikes the island in September, 1998, leaving more than 24,000 in shelters. The entire island was left without electricity (99.5%), most without water service (77%). President Clinton declared Puerto Rico a disaster area, authorizing immediate release of federal recovery aid. Damage estimated at \$2 billion.

PUERTO RICO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES

- Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens and can vote in general elections.
- Puerto Rico is represented by a nonvoting resident delegate in the Congress of the United States. The delegate is elected by Puerto Ricans to a four-year term.
- All federal agencies are represented in Puerto Rico as they are in the U.S.
- Residents of Puerto Rico contribute to local income taxes but pay no federal income taxes. However they must pay into Social Security and Medicare.
- Puerto Rico and other United States territories do not receive Medicaid but they do receive a form of federal assistance called the year HCFA program a cap on expenditures.

II. Puerto Rico's Economy, Social Structure and Health Care System

A. Economy

Economic development in Puerto Rico has historically lagged well behind that of most mainland states of the United States. Significant improvements have been made in economic conditions since the late 1940s. Growth has occurred largely through stimulation of the manufacturing sector. While the United States has experienced a surge in economic growth, Puerto Rico's economy has seen sustained growth, but at a lower rate compared to the past three years. The economy depends heavily on the tax incentives (known as Section 936) given to US mainland companies and on federal transfers. Puerto Rico is also used to channel loans to other Caribbean and Central American countries under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). Apparel making is Puerto Rico's leading manufacturing industry in terms of employment, followed by production of electronic goods, processed foods, and chemicals.

B. Social Structure

Puerto Ricans consider themselves American but are fiercely proud of their island and their culture. The great majority of Puerto Rico's inhabitants are of Hispanic background; Spanish is the official language of the Commonwealth. About 80 percent of the people are Roman Catholic. The people of Puerto Rico represent a cultural and racial mix including Taino Indian, Spanish and African ancestry. The most significant new immigrant population arrived in the 1960s, when thousands of Cubans fled from Fidel Castro's Communist state. The latest arrivals to Puerto Rico have come from the economically depressed Dominican Republic.

C. Health Care System

Health care is provided through territorial and municipal primary health clinics, private non-profit hospitals and community based health care centers and private medical practices. Puerto Rico received a total of \$167 million of federal medical assistance in Fiscal Year 1998. U.S. Territories do not receive Medicaid and HCFA places a new annual cap on assistance. Unlike Medicaid, the P.R. federal medical assistance program funding level does not change when expenditures increase. A number of problems arise as a result of the federal assistance cap and Puerto Rico's inability to foot the bill for annual health care expenses. In 1993 the government decided to transition to a managed care system called *Puerto Rico Health Reform* where the public sector contracted with private insurance carriers to provide health insurance to those previously served by the Puerto Rico Department of Health. The ultimate goal of the Puerto Rico Health Reform initiative is to get government out of the health care business--with the expectation that the entire island will transition into managed care shortly after the year 2000.

KEY ECONOMIC FACTS

- Per Capita Income (1993)-\$6,760
- Unemployment Rate (1997) : 13.5% (US average: 4.9%).
- Migration/economic safety valve: many Puerto Ricans migrate to and from the island depending on economic conditions.
- Principal industries: manufacturing.
- Tourism is growth industry contributing about 6.5% to the GDP.
- Some 30% of all expenditures are supported with dollars originating from Washington DC.

KEY SOCIAL FACTS

- College education rate: 6th in the world
- Literacy Rate: 89.7%
- Percent of the Island's Inhabitants living in urban areas: 71%.
- More than one-half of population lives below poverty level.

KEY HEALTH CARE FACTS

- Health Reform Goal: 73 of the 78 municipalities participating in the Health Reform by mid 1999.
- Health Reform has placed a \$25,000 per person annual expenditure cap.
- Employees working in all the hospital institutions (1993): 15,994.
- 72 hospitals in operation: 59 general, 7 psychiatric, 5 specialized, and 1 federal hospital (1990)

III. Health Status of Puerto Rico's Residents

Puerto Rico's transformation into the Caribbean's economic leader has brought with it changes in morbidity and mortality patterns. Within the new epidemiologic profile, acute infectious tropical diseases coexist alongside chronic degenerative diseases, and the prevalence of cardiovascular diseases and cancer is high. Alcohol abuse and smoking are common and drug consumption is on the increase. Key mortality statistics from 1995 include:

- Heart Disease and malignant neoplasms were the two leading causes of death accounting for 37.8% of all mortality.
- Diabetes mellitus was the third leading cause of death (7.6%).
- Cerebrovascular disease was the fourth leading cause of death (6.0%).
- In fifth place was mortality from HIV infection accounting for 5.1% of deaths.

Tuberculosis, STDs and drug use have been further impacted by HIV infection. These comorbidities, socioeconomic status, a deteriorating health services infrastructure, and availability of health resources are interrelated and present challenges to health care in Puerto Rico.

IV. AIDS Epidemic Overview

According to the Puerto Rico HIV/AIDS reporting system (HARS) 22,635 cases of AIDS were reported as of October 1, 1998. HARS also reported 14,268 deaths due to AIDS, ranking Puerto Rico 4th in the U.S. Some distinctive differences in the epidemic pattern of HIV transmission in Puerto Rico are evident when compared to the United States. While the majority of reported AIDS cases in adult males in the U.S. are homosexual/bisexual men, in Puerto Rico the highest incidence occurs in male injection drug users, accounting for 59% of all confirmed cases, versus 25% for the US. In the last three years the total number of AIDS cases has declined from 2,095 in 1995 to 1,566 in 1997. As of October 30, 1998, 636 cases have been reported.

AIDS prevalence data is useful in better understanding the general impact in large communities. The most useful information, however is data from the past two years which captures emerging trends in those communities and groups most recently affected.

Puerto Rico Health Facts (1997)

	<u>Puerto Rico</u>	<u>US</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population):	16.6	14.6
% of Births to Teenagers:	20.8	12.8
% of Births to Unmarried Mothers:	45.7	32.4
% Low Birth weight:	10.7	7.5
Infant mortality rate (per/1,000 births) :	12.7	9.8

AIDS Epidemic Profile

- AIDS cases reported in 1997: 2,040
- AIDS cases by gender: 78% male; 22% female
- Cumulative incidence rate: 53.3/100,000 (4th in U.S. and Territories)
- AIDS cases due to heterosexual transmission increased fifty-fold (1987-97).
- Women age 25 to 39: HIV/AIDS is leading cause of death (1997).
- Men age 30-49: HIV/AIDS leading cause of death (1997).
- Male AIDS cases attributed to IDU: 55% (1997)
- Male AIDS cases attributed to homosexual contact: 21.1% (1997).
- Female cases attributed to heterosexual contact: 55.5% (1997)
- Cumulative adolescent AIDS cases: 132 (1997)
- Cumulative AIDS cases by fetal transmission: 387 (1997)

V. Profile of AIDS in Puerto Rico's Three Most Impacted Metropolitan Areas

In Puerto Rico the municipalities of San Juan, Caguas and Ponce have been impacted the greatest by HIV/AIDS. All three receive HRSA Title I funding as Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs). A profile of these municipalities, their location, history and AIDS profile is provided below.

AIDS Profile



- AIDS cases reported in 1997: 1,323 (78% male, 22% female).
- Heterosexual contact: 29% increase as transmission mode in past 2 years.
- Adolescent infections: 28% increase in past 2 years.
- Female AIDS cases: 23% of all female cases have been reported in the past two years.

In San Juan, the population is just under one million, or a third of the entire island. It is a major port and tourist resort of the West Indies and is the country's financial capital. Many U.S. banks and corporations maintain offices or distributing centers there. San Juan has yet to be included in Puerto Rico's Health Care Reform initiative.

As of March, 1998, San Juan has a total of 13,401 reported cases of AIDS, comprising 64.8% of all cases reported in Puerto Rico. In San Juan, 49.7% of AIDS cases reported in the past two years were IDU and 31.7% were heterosexual contact. A total of 75 AIDS cases among adolescents have been reported to date, with 36% of adolescent cases in females. Pediatric cases total 244 cases through March, 1998 with 28% of these cases reported since April of 1996.

AIDS Profile

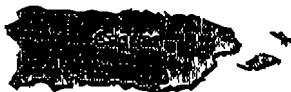


- AIDS cases reported in 1997: 402 (72% male, 28% female).
- Heterosexual contact: 32.2% increase as transmission mode in past 2 years.
- Adult (>45 years) infections: 24.3% increase in past 2 years.
- Female AIDS cases: 14.5% increase as transmission mode in past 2 years.

Ponce, with a population of 300,000, is Puerto Rico's second largest city. Called La Perla del Sur, Ponce is an important trading and distribution center, and has a port of entry, Playa de Ponce Port, Puerto Rico's principal shipping port and one of the busiest in the Caribbean area.

As of March, 1998 Ponce has a total of 2603 reported cases of AIDS. Of the three EMAs in Puerto Rico, Ponce reports the highest incidence rate of AIDS (209.7 cases per 100,000 as of June 30, 1996). 59.5% of Ponce's AIDS cases in the last two years can be traced to injection drug use. Pediatric AIDS cases total 64 through March, 1998.

AIDS Profile

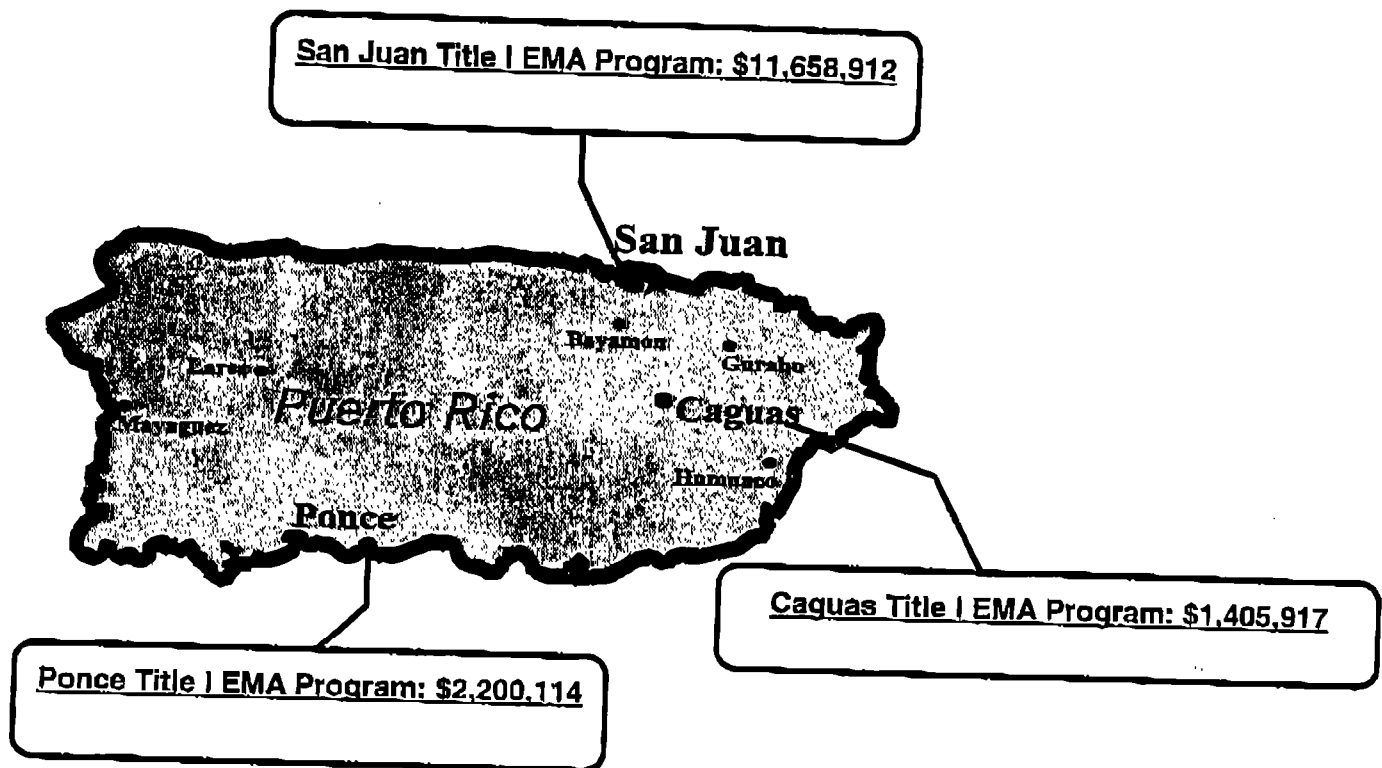


- AIDS cases reported in 1997: 274 (75% male, 25% female).
- Heterosexual contact: 77% increase as transmission mode in past 2 years.
- Adult (>45 years) infections: 38% increase in past 2 years.
- Female AIDS cases: 18% of all cases have been reported in the past two years.

Caguas was founded in January 1, 1775 and has a population of 133,447. The town's economic activities include: diamond cutting, tobacco processing, and the manufacture of leather goods, glass and plastic products, electronic equipment, clothing and bedding.

As of March, 1998 Caguas has a total of 1,636 reported cases of AIDS. The principle mode of HIV transmission is IDU, accounting for 60% of AIDS cases in the past two years. Heterosexual contact is the second leading mode of transmission accounting for 23% of AIDS cases in the past two years. Pediatric AIDS cases totaled 20 through March, 1998.

VI. HRSA/Ryan White CARE Act Program in Puerto Rico (1998 Funding: \$36,702,171)



Puerto Rico Title III Programs

- Centro de Salud de Lares (Lares): \$567,225
- Migrant Health Center (Mayaguez): \$611,850
- Gurabo Community Health Center (Gurabo): \$250,750
- Bayamon Epidemiology Center (Bayamon): \$500,000
- Puerto Rico Condra (Rio Piedra): \$533,209
- Ryder Memorial Hospital (Humacao): \$458,076
- Consejo Salud de La Comunidad (Ponce): \$659,955

Territory Wide Ryan White Programs

- Title II: \$16,793,353 (of which \$9,264,908 is ADAP earmarked).
- Title IV, Puerto Rico Pediatric AIDS Project (through PRDOH): \$533,209
- AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC), University of P.R.: \$529,601

VII. HRSA Funded Ryan White Initiatives: Funding Levels, Services & Clients Served

Ryan White Title I Funds provide additional support to Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs) of San Juan (15 towns), Caguas (5 towns) and Ponce (six towns) that are disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic. In FY 1998, a total of \$15,264,912 in Title I funding was awarded to the three Puerto Rico EMAs including:

• HIV/AIDS Therapeutic Medications:	\$6,357,860 (42%)
• Ambulatory/Outpatient Medical Care:	\$3,808,767 (25%)
• Support Services (e.g., day/respite care and food bank):	\$1,078,019 (7%)
• Care/Case Management:	\$1,202,365 (8%)
• Substance Treatment & Mental Health:	\$1,133,532 (7%)
• Rehabilitative Care, Hospice, and Home Care	\$ 731,604 (5%)
• Other (administration, planning council, etc.)	\$ 952,765 (6%)

Client utilization levels vary by service. Those services with the highest demand are primary care, HIV/AIDS therapies, nursing services, case management, drug treatment and supportive services, and transportation. Average number of clients utilizing services in 1998:

• San Juan:	3,500
• Caguas:	325
• Ponce:	480

Ryan White Title II provides funding on a formula basis to Puerto Rico as an eligible U.S. territory. Ryan White Title II funding is awarded to the State/Territory entity designated by the governor to administer these funds. In the case of Puerto Rico, funds are administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Public Health. Of the eligible services under Title II funding, the grantee provides funding to ADAP, six consortia and statewide direct services.

The ADAP Program is centrally administered and operates through seven Regional Immunology Clinics (RIC) and 7 community health centers (Title III). In FY 1998, a total of \$16,793,353 in Title II funding was awarded to Puerto Rico with \$9,264,908 earmarked for AIDS drug therapies. Puerto Rico utilizes an additional \$3,437,230 of the Ryan White funds for medications. Of the total award, 76% is budgeted for HIV/AIDS medications. As of October, 1998, a total of 1,335 individuals are enrolled in the ADAP program. Of the remaining award, Consortia services account for \$2,974,096 in budget allocations or an estimated 18% of 1998 budget. Consortia services include primary care, dental care, case management, mental health services, rehabilitative care, hospice care and supportive services including direct assistance with financial needs, transportation, housing and food.

Ryan White Title III funds support comprehensive primary care service delivery that is community based. Title III funds are provided to seven public and private non-profit entities for outpatient early intervention services. Four of the centers are federally qualified community health centers and migrant health centers; of the remaining three, one is a health department, one is a community primary care center specializing in HIV/AIDS care, and one is a private not for profit hospital.

Title III services include provision of HIV risk reduction counseling, outreach services, HIV antibody testing, medical evaluation and clinical care. Funding is also provided for antiretroviral therapy and case management. Currently \$3,581,065 is provided to the seven community health centers to serve an estimated 3,000 persons annually. Of these funds, \$100,000 is targeted to fund the Airbridge Network, a program that coordinates medical assistance and social services for persons with HIV/AIDS that travel frequently between New York City and Puerto Rico.

Ryan White Title IV funds comprehensive family centered care for children, women and their families at seven RICS, using a multi-disciplinary team approach--multiple agencies provide care coordinated by case management. Services provided to adult and pediatric clients include: antiretroviral therapy, prophylaxis for opportunistic infections, prescription drugs, psycho social services, case management, support groups, referrals to speciality care and hospitalization, nutritional counseling and health education. Services are predominantly child focused. An estimated 847 children received clinical care and specialized care during the current reporting period.

The Division of Training and Technical Assistance (DTTA) administers two programs: AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETC) and the Technical Assistance Program.

A) AETC

The AIDS Education and Training Center is located at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus in San Juan. The center provides education and training to primary care providers, mental health and other allied health professionals. The AETC trains health professionals on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV infection. It also provides complimentary training to the faculty and students enrolled in graduate schools of medicine, nursing, dentistry, mental health, public health and allied health professions. In 1998 the AETC is estimated to provide training to 2,105 participants addressing the areas identified in AETC priorities. It is estimated that 650 providers will have participated in "New Therapies for HIV/AIDS: Clinical Management" training.

Other AETC activities focus on service provider understanding of HIV under Health Care Reform and Title I Planning Council Training. As of May 15, 1998 the Puerto Rico AETC has offered services to 3510 Health service providers, their families and significant others. This figure represents 80% of the projected goal of 4,375 for the year.

B) Technical Assistance Program

The Ryan White CARE Act provides for technical assistance to grantees under all Ryan White titles. Technical assistance needs identified in Puerto Rico have been developed through the coordinated efforts of the HRSA project officer and the grantee. To date 13 technical interventions have been funded totaling \$80,511 in expenditures. A sample of technical assistance interventions include:

- Consortia Development: \$18,301 (1994)
- Puerto Rico PLWH Training: \$5,412 (1995)
- San Juan EMA ADAP: \$3,500 (1997)
- Caguas EMA Comprehensive Planning: \$6,687 (1997)
- Ponce EMA Planning Council Development: \$2,619 (1997)
- Puerto Rico Tri-EMA PLWH Involvement: \$1,340 (1998)

VIII. Accomplishments

The Ryan White grantees have had the following accomplishments to report in 1997 and 1998:

1. Title I centralized medications purchasing in order to control costs and increase grantee ability to manage distribution, increase quality control and ensure other payers are billed first.
2. Title II Grantee expanded access to ADAP medications outside of the Regional Immunology Clinics to include seven community health centers receiving Title III funds. Division of Training and Technical Assistance (DTTA) provided technical assistance resources to assist in this effort.
3. Title III grantees increased the number of HIV/AIDS clients on combination therapies, HIV counseling and testing and other early intervention services.
4. Title I and III grantees provided island-wide training and staff development activities in areas such as PLWH involvement, clinical management guidelines, client adherence to medication therapies and quality assurance management. DTTA provided technical assistance resources to assist in this effort.
5. Title IV grantee showed improvement in enrollment of children in clinical trials.
6. A collaborative agreement was developed between the Title IV grantee and the medical assistance program to inform recipients of available counseling, testing and ZDV therapy at public health clinics.
7. Service enhancements were completed across the Ryan White Titles in areas including: provision of specialized medical services; services to substance users; services to women; nutritional services; services for children; and improved data and quality assurance management systems.
8. Across Title participation facilitated the development of a Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need Plan. The plan identified territory wide management needs and coordinated strategies for addressing these needs in Puerto Rico.
9. Coordinated and rapid response across Ryan White Titles to Hurricane George in September, 1998, provided crisis management, emergency food, shelter assistance and medical care to persons with HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico.

IX. Overarching Issues and Challenges

1. **Organization of Public Healthcare System:** The Medical Assistance Program, Puerto Rico's Medicaid program for the uninsured and under insured, is being replaced by a managed care reform program that has limited benefits for persons with HIV/AIDS and "gatekeeper" controls that may restrict and delay accessibility to needed care.

1. Low capitation rates and lack of coverage for protease inhibitors will continue to strain the ability of Ryan White programs to provide for a significant amount of the health care needs of persons with HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico.
2. **Infrastructure Capacity In Managing HIV/AIDS Healthcare Need:** In projections related to medications alone, it is anticipated that an additional \$7,703,095 is needed to provide HIV/AIDS medications for over 3,000 persons currently in care. This calculation does not include unmet need of those persons who are not in care.
3. **Shift in Roles and Responsibilities Related to HIV/AIDS Management:** The healthcare reform process has led to increasing changes in Title I, II and III grantees' roles and responsibilities in provision of Ryan White services. Territorial and municipal government offices are in effect reconfiguring local and regional public health service delivery systems. These changes are impacting cohesiveness of RW efforts and the ability of RW grantee staff to coordinate program planning, management and evaluation activities. In the case of Title I programs, local municipal reorganization and the decision to lease public health clinics to managed care entities are creating potential legal and service delivery issues related to accountability and delegation of responsibilities from municipal government to private non-profit entities.
4. **Expeditious Disbursement of Ryan White Funds:** Some grantees, especially in Titles II and IV, are unable to expedite execution of contracts and assure payments to providers in a timely manner. The lack of regularity in fund disbursement to provider agencies has, in turn, affected contractor retention, staff retention, and resulted in a disruption of services. High staff vacancies in key fiscal and data management departments create shortage in staff to monitor contracts and process invoices for payments.
5. **Ability to Project Client Caseload and Related Medications Cost:** Difficulties exist in the management of HIV/AIDS medications budget and in grantee and sub-grantee capacity to plan, forecast and monitor medications expenditures more effectively. Grantees have initiated combination therapy regimens on more clients than their budgets are able to maintain.
6. **Quality Assurance and Monitoring of Contractors:** Many Title I and II grantees are still challenged in their ability to build community based provider skills in service administration, accounting/data management, and quality assurance. Issues with quality of services, lack of coordination of care and mismanagement of Ryan White funds have been an ongoing concern.

7. **Staff Retention:** Title II and Title IV programs are challenged by staff stability and retention. Poor staff retention can be traced to low staff wages and the contractual nature of many of the funded positions, which in turn creates an atmosphere of job uncertainty. Low staff morale results in the inability of programs to retain skilled and committed employees. In addition, many of the Title II staff positions funded through this grant do not have health benefits, which contributes to significant staff turnover.
8. **Translation of HRSA Documents and Resource Materials:** Much has been accomplished in this area due to the efforts of the Division of Training and Technical Assistance. However, there continues to be a lag in the availability and accessibility of materials to guide grantee efforts in areas related to clinical management guidelines, quality assurance activities, consumer involvement, and planning council roles and responsibilities.
9. **Special Population Needs:** The number of clients served by the Title IV program is decreasing while the epidemiological data indicates that more women are becoming infected and are in need of services. For all Titles, the extent of HIV/AIDS healthcare need and subsequently provision of care is unknown for those persons who migrate between the Caribbean islands, undocumented residents (especially, persons migrating from the Dominican Republic and Cuba) and those who travel frequently between mainland United States and Puerto Rico.

X. References

1. Puerto Rico HIV/AIDS Reporting System: 10/30/98 Report to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2. San Juan EMA 1999 Title I Application, HRSA
3. Ponce EMA 1999 Title I Application, HRSA
4. Caguas EMA 1999 Title I Application, HRSA
5. Puerto Rico USA: Where Great Ideas are Being Put to Work, Provided by the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, Office of the Governor, Washington DC, Elsa Luis, Director of Federal Proposals Division
6. Division of Community Based Programs, Ryan White Title III and IV Program, HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA
7. Division of Service Systems, Titles I and II, HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA
8. Division of Training and Technical Assistance, AETC and Technical Assistance Contracts, HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA
9. CDC FASTATS, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/fastats/puerto.htm>
10. Welcome to Puerto Rico, Magaly Rivera (<http://www.topuertorico.org/index.shtml>)
11. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), <http://www.paho.org/english/whatpaho.htm>
12. "Puerto Rico," *Microsoft® Encarta® 98 Encyclopedia*. ©

XI Appendices

- HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, October 30, 1998
- Listing of HRSA Funded Ryan White Grantees by Title

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
 Casos de SIDA Confirmados en Puerto Rico hasta 10/30/98
 Surveillance Report - 10/30/98

Disease Category	Adult/Adolescent *		Pediatric *		Total	
	Cases (%)	Deaths (%)	Cases (%)	Deaths (%)	Cases (%)	Deaths (%)
PCR	5942 (27)	418 (79)	134 (35)	87 (64)	6076 (27)	505 (79)
Other Disease w/o PCR	10704 (48)	7250 (68)	250 (65)	121 (48)	10954 (48)	7369 (67)
ES Alone	437 (2)	341 (69)	0 (0)	0 (0)	437 (2)	341 (69)
No Disease Listed	5165 (23)	1773 (34)	7 (0)	0 (0)	5166 (23)	1773 (34)
Total	22248 (100)	14060 (63)	387 (100)	208 (54)	22635 (100)	14268 (63)

Age *	Cases (%)	3. Race/Ethnicity	Adult/Adolescent *		Pediatric *		Total	
			Cases (%)		Cases (%)		Cases (%)	
Under 5	292 (1)	White, Not Hispanic	39 (0)		1 (0)		40 (0)	
5-12	90 (0)	Black, Not Hispanic	11 (0)		2 (1)		13 (0)	
13-19	132 (1)	Hispanic	22192 (100)		384 (99)		22376 (100)	
20-29	4134 (18)	Asian/Pacific Is.	1 (0)		0 (0)		1 (0)	
30-39	10186 (45)	Am. Indian/Alaska Native	0 (0)		0 (0)		0 (0)	
40-49	5438 (24)	Unknown	5 (0)		0 (0)		5 (0)	
Over 49	2378 (11)	Total	22268 (100)		387 (100)		22635 (100)	
Unknown	0 (0)							
Total	22635 (100)							

Exposure Category	Adult/Adolescent Transmission Modes**		Total (%)
	Males (%)	Females (%)	
Men who have sex with men	3730 (21)	0 (0)	3730 (17)
Injecting drug use	9916 (55)	1866 (38)	11482 (52)
Men who have sex with men and inject drugs	1040 (10)	0 (0)	1040 (7)
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	40 (0)	8 (0)	56 (0)
Horizontal contact	2067 (12)	2831 (58)	4898 (22)
Receipt of blood, components, or tissue	103 (1)	120 (2)	223 (1)
Risk not reported/Other	132 (1)	65 (1)	177 (1)
Total	17356 (100)	4870 (100)	22226 (100)

	Pediatric Transmission Modes		Total (%)
	Males (%)	Females (%)	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	9 (4)	1 (0)	10 (2)
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	180 (88)	197 (96)	377 (92)
Receipt of blood, components, or tissue	10 (5)	7 (3)	17 (4)
Risk not reported/Other	5 (2)	0 (0)	5 (1)
Total	204 (100)	205 (100)	409 (100)

* Classification at time of AIDS dx if patient met the AIDS case definition (otherwise age at first HIV report).
 **22 patients were diagnosed with AIDS as adults but have evidence of being HIV infected as children. They are counted as adults/adolescent cases in tables 1, 2, and 3; and as pediatric cases in table 6.

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
 Casos de SIDA Confirmados en Puerto Rico hasta 10/30/98
 Surveillance Report - 10/30/98

5. Reported Cases of AIDS and Case-Fatality Rates by Half-Year of Diagnosis.

Half-Year of Diagnosis	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Case-Fatality Rate
Before 1983	17	11	65%
1983 Jan - June	18	18	100%
July-Dec	22	21	95%
1984 Jan - June	53	48	91%
July-Dec	73	66	90%
1985 Jan - June	118	88	77%
July-Dec	154	124	81%
1986 Jan - June	212	168	79%
July-Dec	267	207	84%
1987 Jan - June	362	297	82%
July-Dec	463	364	79%
1988 Jan - June	663	520	78%
July-Dec	633	531	84%
1989 Jan - June	789	627	79%
July-Dec	815	652	80%
1990 Jan - June	921	706	77%
July-Dec	960	752	78%
1991 Jan - June	1106	864	78%
July-Dec	1186	900	76%
1992 Jan - June	1238	889	71%
July-Dec	1200	857	71%
1993 Jan - June	1470	1020	69%
July-Dec	1211	789	65%
1994 Jan - June	1154	764	66%
July-Dec	1181	668	57%
1995 Jan - June	1163	621	53%
July-Dec	933	462	50%
1996 Jan - June	1143	464	41%
July-Dec	872	298	34%
1997 Jan - June	831	230	28%
July-Dec	715	149	21%
1998 Jan - June	330	87	26%
July-Dec 30	104	7	7%
Totals	22635	14268	63%

Ryan White Grantees in Puerto Rico

Title I

Caguas

Dr. Ruth Reyes Ramos, Executive Director
Caguas Department of Health
Calle Rafael Cordera Final
Caguas, P.R. 00725

Phone: 787-746-3525 (Dr. Reyes); 787-745-0340 (RW Office)
Fax: 787-258-9614 (Dr. Reyes); 787-286-9560 (RW Office)

Ponce

Luis A. Cruz, Administrator
Ryan White Title I Program/Ponce EMA
La Rambla Shopping Center
360 Avenida Tito Castro, Suite #201-A
Carreter 14 km.3.2
Ponce, P.R. 00731

Phone: 1-787-284-5261;
Fax: 1-787-284-5261;

San Juan

Yvette Perez Toro, Interim Director*
San Juan Department of Health
AIDS Task Force
Avenida de Diego Final, 2nd Piso
Oficina #20, Barrios Moncellos
Rio Piedras, P.R. 00928

Phone: 787-751-6075 or 787-751-4278
Fax: 787-751-9888

Title II

Marisol Cruz Lopez*
Coordinator, Special Projects Section
PASET
Puerto Rico Department of Health
P.O. Box 70185
San Juan, P.R. 00936

Phone: 787-274-5502 (temporary);
Fax: 787-274-5503

Title III**Lares**

Gonzalo Maldonado, R.N.
HIV Program Coordinator
Centro de Salud de Lares
Carretera 111,km.1.9
Lares, P.R. 00669

Phone: 787-897-2727
Fax: 787-897-2725

Ponce

Victor M. Rodriguez, M.D., HIV Program Coordinator
Consejo de Salud de la Comunidad
Diagnostic and Treatment Center, Playa de Ponce
216 Avenida Hostos, P.O. Box 254, Playa Ponce
Ponce, P.R. 00731

Phone : 787-843-9393, ext. 242
Fax: 787-841-0077

Gurabo

Daisy Perez Melendez, HIV Program Coordinator
Gurabo Community Health Center
P.O. Box 1277
Gurabo, P.R. 00778-0427

Phone: 787-737-1131
Fax: 787-737-2377

Mayaguez

Wanda Acosta, HIV Program Coordinator*
Migrant Health Center., W. Reg./Programa SSIMA
P.O. Box 7128
Mayaguez, P.R. 00680-7128

Phone: 787-834-1470 or 787-805-2900
Fax: 787-834-1470

Bayamon

Tamara Behar, M.D., HIV Program Coordinator
Municipality of Bayamon/Epidemiology Center of Bayamon
P.O. Box 1588
Bayamon, P.R. 00960

Phone: 787-269-5230
Fax: 787-269-5230

San Juan

Rafael Pagan, M.D., HIV Program Coordinator*
Puerto Rico CONCRA
Calle Pelegrina #989
Rio Piedras, P.R. 00925

Phone: 787-753-9443
Fax: 787-753-2894

Humacao

Felicita deJesus Martinez, HIV Program Coordinator*
Ryder Memorial Hospital
Call Box 859
Humacao, P.R. 00792

Phone: 787-852-0768, ext. 4717 or 4609
Fax: 787-852-0768, ext. 3262

* Title III sites recommended for visits

Title IV

Rolando Jimenez Mercado
Coordinator, Pediatric HIV Section
Pavellon 1
Puerto Rico Department of Health
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico 00936

Phone: 787-274-5591 or 787-274-5595
Fax: 787-274-5503

AETC

Angel Bravo, MPH
Daisy Gely
Puerto Rico AETC
University of Puerto Rico
Medical Sciences Campus
GPO 36-5067 Rm. A-956
San Juan, P.R. 00936-5067

Phone: 787-759-6528 (D. Gely)
Fax: 787-764-2470

Phone: 787-756-7931 (A. Bravo)
Fax: 787-764-4951

New Ryan White Grantees

Title IV Grant for Adolescent Services

Rafael Pagan, M.D., HIV Program Coordinator
Puerto Rico CONCRA
Calle Pelegrina #989
Rio Piedras, P.R. 00925

Phone: 787-753-9443
Fax: 787-753-2894



OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
Ivan Roman	Cheryl Bauerle
COMPANY:	DATE:
	May 12, 1999
FAX NUMBER:	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:
787-723-6029	2
PHONE NUMBER:	
RE:	

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Please see attached.

736 Jackson Place
Washington, DC 20503
(202) 456-2437
(202) 456-2438 (fax)

urgent

f a c s i m i l e

To: **Ms. Sandra Thurman**

Company:

Fax Number: +1 (202) 456-2438

Business Phone:

From: **Jose F. Colon/A. Fonseca**

Fax Number: +1 (787) 283-8623

Business Phone:

Home Phone:

Pages: 3

Date/Time: 5/12/99 8:19:04 PM

Subject: Potential San Juan AIDS Crisis

Please reply ASAP.

Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana

C-1 Ronda, Villa Andaluca, San Juan, PR 00926-2301

Tel. (787) 246-4718 - (787) 283-8623

May 12, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National Aids Policy
The White House
Washington DC

Dear Ms. Thurman:

First of all I want to thank you for the steps that you have taken so far in regards of establishing communication with those that fight for HIV/AIDS patients rights in Puerto Rico. Our struggle has been, and is, very uphill and intense because of all the ramifications that fighting this illness have taken in the past years in the island.

The San Juan Aids Institute scandal has not helped our quest. A state of distrust has emerged by the actions of those that unscrupulously stole money destined to fighting HIV/AIDS. Community based organizations have been affected by this distrust, as well as services rendered to patients. That is the main reason for us wanting the much needed audits that were never done during the lapse of time in which the embezzlement occurred. That is why we need for these organizations to open their books, so that money destined to services can be accounted for, and the donations from different sources can continue without questioning the real use of their destination. We have asked and will welcome an audit from the General Accounting Office, GAO.

In regards to auditing, we also want human resources audited. We have seen many people making the fight against HIV/AIDS their income source. We must be reassured that those that work day by day are totally committed to seeing the end of this terrible epidemic someday soon.

In other matters, it is important that we study the possible effects of the Health Reform that is currently under way in Puerto Rico. As a matter of fact, and sad to say, this reform was originally designed by the principal person accused of embezzling money at the San Juan Aids Institute: Mr. Yamil Kourí.

This reform is affecting institutions that offer aid to HIV/AIDS patients, including "Centro Latinoamericano de Enfermedades de Transmisión Sexual", "C.L.E.T.S."

Today I had a chance, as a patient and as an activist to sit down with Dr. Hermes García, C.L.E.T.S. Medical Director, and in our conversation he pinpointed out some of the needs that the center has today, (when I entered the reception room there were about sixty people sitting down in a closed room without air conditioning), amongst them: the need of at least one more full time doctor, (they are working with two full time and three part time doctors only), to take care of 2,400 HIV/AIDS patients and about 40 to 50 sexually transmittable disease patients per day.

They also need more clerical employees, (there are only two), to help with records, a nutritionist, (there is not one), a health educator, and an administrator, because neither of these positions are covered.

All of this with the extra dilemma of possibly having to absorb the whole clientele of the Carolina's CDT (Center for Diagnostics and Treatment) which is going to be closed soon. A rumor is also going around that C.L.E.T.S. will be relocated in order to establish a trauma center. All of this is happening while every day they are getting new HIV patients, specially youngsters and females. Dr. García told me that the hospice for terminally ill patients had been recently closed down too. Evidently the panorama is not at all good. We need help.

In this respect, I asked Dr. García if it would be OK, that if you decided to visit Puerto Rico, we could visit C.L.E.T.S. with you. He immediately agreed.

That is why today I am inviting you to schedule a visit to Puerto Rico in your agenda. I insist, we need your help. If this is the outlook at the main center of services for HIV/AIDS patients under the Department of Health, who can imagine what the rest of the centers' services are like?

Please respond to this invitation ASAP. Your acceptance is urged, due to how critical the situation seems to be. The quality of work can be improved and the continuity of the fight against HIV/AIDS can be reassured with a boost in areas such as outreach and prevention. Ryan White funds must be audited after being allocated. We do not want what has happened to ever happen again.

Thank you.

José F. Colón
Coordinator

Attn: Sandra Thurman

From: Wayne Turner

Re: letter from 1993 about
AIDS Fraud in Puerto Rico

FROM : MARGLEZ TORRES

TO : DAVID NOFIEGA (027) 756-2155

PHONE NO. : 787 751 7577

NO. 545 P. 2

May. 12 1999 08:25PM

ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO
CAMARA DE REPRESENTANTES
CAPITOLIO
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00901



Rep. David Noriega Rodriguez

STANCE PARTIDO INDEPENDENTISTA PUERTORRIENSE
CONSERVANTE POR ADJUNTA

May 13 1999

May 3, 1993

The Hon. Donna Shalala
Secretary
Department of Health
and Human Resources
200 Independence Ave. So. W.
Washington, D. C. 20201

Re: Federal Funds for AIDS Control
in Puerto Rico.

Dear Secretary Shalala:

As a result of our inquiries related to the management of federal funds for AIDS control and services in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, specifically the City of San Juan, I respectfully present for your consideration, the following findings:

Since January 1993 my staff has conducted a serious investigation on the transfer of federal funds from the Health Department of Puerto Rico to the City of San Juan and then to private corporations. Our main concern is whether the funds are spent in real services to the patients or are absorbed by bureaucracy and mismanagement.

The Health Department of the City of San Juan is now handling millions of dollars in programs known as Ryan White Title I, II and III, Target Cities and Sentinel Hospital Surveillance, among others. The City of San Juan through its Ryan White AIDS Planning Council, distribute funds to alleged non profit corporations, notably among them Advanced Community Health Services, Inc., (ACHS) which is also their operating arm for AIDS services. ACHS began as a profitable corporation in 1987, changing their corporate status to NON PROFIT in 1990, just to become eligible for Ryan White monies.

The following are the highlights of what we have found:

Dr. Juan E. Rizek, President of the Board of Directors of ACHS, along with his brother Dr. Rafael Rizek, are owners of Las Americas Laboratories and Blood Bank. This provider was contracted by ACHS to

SUBJECT: DAVID MONTAGNA, MD, DOB: 1935

1 MARQUEZ STERCE

PHONE NO. : 787 753 7570

May. 12 1999 05:27PM PT

The Hon. Donna Shalala
Page 2
May 3, 1993

perform their laboratory tests and are constantly bidding to control the same services as is the municipal hospital.

ACHS has been purchasing medicines and office equipment from "Octagon Corporation", which is neither a manufacturer nor the main distributor of pharmaceutical or office supplies. One of the incorporators of "Octagon Corporation" is the son of the operations manager at ACHS.

Under our constant process of investigation there are, at least, eight (8) different corporations, interwined with each other and with ACHS. These corporations that provides services related with programs of the Institute of AIDS of the City of San Juan.

The Ryan White AIDS Planning Council's Executive Director is the son of the creator of ACHS and their principal advisor under different professional contracts with the Institute of AIDS, ACHS and the Municipality of San Juan. (The history of this person is revealed in the enclosed newspaper clippings that denote a scandal under the "alleged" patronage of Harvard University).

The Ryan White funds granted to the Planning Council for their day to day operation are also managed by ACHS who is the recipient of almost all the monies distributed for AIDS services in San Juan City and the Metropolitan Area. Such conflict of interest is not only evident but divert the true intention of the use of federal funds.

ACHS AIDS patients are not being medicated on a prescribed regular basis and employees do not receive their regular pay on time.

We need the following information to continue our legislative work on this matter:

- a. Amount of monies granted to each AIDS program since 1987 to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and to San Juan City.
- b. Level of federal funds allowed for consulting and non direct services and rules that govern their use.
- c. Proper use of indirect costs allowance.

CCO.DAVID NORIEGA (787) 756-2155

J. J. MARQUEZ & TORRES

PHONE NO. : 787 753 7577

May. 13 1999 09:27AM P3

The Hon. Donna Shalala
Page 3
May 3, 1993

- d. Projected grants during next three years and copy of audits performance both to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the City of San Juan.

We feel that an external audit must be performed as soon as possible to cover all these findings and those related with the Harvard Institute for International Development, whose principal coordinator Yamil Roura is, by all means, behind the scheme in the use of Federal funds for AIDS services.

Acknowledging your attention in this matter, that could guide us in implementing legislation to avoid future similar incidences, I remain.

Very respectfully,


David Noriega Rodríguez
Minority Floor Leader
Puerto Rican Independence Party

/and-007

FROM : ACT UP WDC!
MAY 18, 1993 5:47

PHONE NO. : 202 547 9404

May. 13 1999 10:08AM P5

LIDU.DAVID NORIEGA: 787 756-2155

NO. 545 P. 5

BY NORIEGA & DARRIN

PHONE NO. : 787 753 7577

MAY 13 1999 06:29PM P4

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Health
Washington DC 20201

JUN 29 1993

The Honorable David Noriega Rodriguez
Minority Floor Leader
Puerto Rican Independence Party
Cámara de Representantes
Capitolio
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

Thank you for your letter of May 2 to Secretary Shalala concerning Puerto Rico's management of Federal funds for AIDS control and services. We are providing the following information that you requested.

Enclosed is a list of HIV/AIDS grants made by the Public Health Service (PHS) to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the City of San Juan since 1987. Grant awards to Advanced Community Health Services are also included in the list.

Concerning the level of Federal funds allowed for consulting and non-direct services, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the City of San Juan are subject to the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-37, Cost Principles for State and Local Governments, and the appropriate authorizing legislation, in determining allowable consulting and non-direct service costs. Indirect costs are also an allowable item, subject to Circular A-87 and the appropriate authorizing legislation.

Projected awards for the next 3 years vary from program to program. If current programs continue to be authorized and funds are appropriated, the City of San Juan and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico can expect to continue receiving funds under the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act. Funding might also be continued under other HIV programs listed in the enclosure if applications compete successfully under the objective review process.

JUL 12 1993

243

MARGUEZ TORRES

PHONE NO. : 202 253 7577

May. 12 1999 06:29PM P5

Page 2 - The Honorable David Noriega Rodriguez

At the present time, we do not have the audit reports of Ryan White CARE Act funds. We have requested copies of the most recent audits and will send you a copy as soon as we receive them. In addition, DHS components awarding AIDS funds are being made aware of the issues raised in your letter. They will be requested to review any audit reports, financial records, and other grants monitoring data, including any site visit reports they may have in relation to their grants to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the City of San Juan, and Advanced Community Health Services. A decision will be made regarding the need for further review.

Thank you for your interest in the HIV programs of the Public Health Service. I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Audrey F. Manley
Audrey F. Manley, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Assistant Secretary for Health

Enclosure

Attachment

Public Health Service
AIDS Control and Service Grants Awarded to the
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
and the City of San Juan
Fiscal Years 1987 to 1993

Program: Surveillance Activities and Studies of AIDS - HIV
Prevention Project
Awarded by: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Health
Awards: 1987 \$622,951
1988 1,386,175
1989 1,714,706
1990 1,547,999
1991 526,840
1992 2,104,545
1993 865,447

Project period ends December 31, 1997.

Program: Surveillance Activities and Studies of AIDS -
AIDS Surveillance and Seroprevalence
Awarded by: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Health
Awards: 1991 \$1,334,742
1992 1,101,522

Project period ends December 31, 1995.

Program: AIDS School Health Education Activities
Awarded by: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Education
Awards: 1987 \$125,000
1988 174,557
1989 233,000
1990 262,929
1991 345,953
1992 1,003
1993 72,596

Project period ends March 31, 1993.

Program: Health Services Delivery to AIDS Patients -
Demonstration Grants
Awarded by: Health Resources and Services Administration
Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Health
Awards: 1988 \$646,600
1990 743,879

Project period ended March 31, 1993. This program is no longer authorized and no additional awards will be made.

FROM : MARQUEZ TORRES

PHONE NO. : 787 753 7577

May. 13 1999 20:32PM P9

Attachment, page 2

Program: AIDS Drug Reimbursement Program
Awarded by: Health Resources and Services Administration
Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Health
Awards: 1987 \$160,574
1989 221,067
1990 \$80,548
1991 675,411

Project period ended September 30, 1991. This program is no longer authorized and no additional awards will be made.

Program: Home Health Services for AIDS Patients
Awarded by: Health Resources and Services Administration
Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Health
Award: 1990 \$3,363,312

Project period ended June 30, 1992. This program is no longer authorized and no additional awards will be made.

Program: HIV CARE Formula Grants
Awarded by: Health Resources and Services Administration
Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Health
Awards: 1991 \$4,041,541
1992 5,691,717
1993 6,121,433

Project period ends March 31, 1996.

Program: HIV Emergency Relief Formula Grants
Awarded by: Health Resources and Services Administration
Grantee: City of San Juan
Awards: 1991 \$1,182,944
1992 1,841,790
1993 2,540,586

Project period ends January 31, 1996.

Program: HIV Emergency Relief Project Grants
Awarded by: Health Resources and Services Administration
Grantee: City of San Juan
Awards: 1991 \$498,137
1992 1,738,192
1993 2,139,191

Project period ends April 3, 1996.

Program: Ambulatory Facilities for Patients with AIDS
Awarded by: Health Resources and Services Administration
Grantee: Advanced Community Health Services
Awards: 1990 \$442,732
1991 324,927

Attachment, page 2

Program: Pediatric AIDS Health Care Demonstration Program
Awarded by: Health Resources and Services Administration
Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Health
Awards:
1988 5225,000
1989 143,227
1990 232,973
1991 400,000
1992 312,064

Project period ends July 31, 1994.

Program: Prevention and Primary Health Care Services in
Community Health Facilities to Persons with HIV
Infection and/or AIDS
Awarded by: Health Resources and Services Administration
Grantee: Advanced Community Health Services
Awards:
1991 \$288,497
1992 465,092
1993 465,092

Project period ends December 31, 1993.

Program: HIV/AIDS Treatment Grants
Awarded by: Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services
Administration
Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Anti-Addiction Services
Awards: 1992 3349,135
Project period ends August 31, 1995.

Program: AIDS Epidemiologic Research and Pediatric
Surveillance Cooperative Agreements
Awarded by: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Health
Awards:
1991 \$169,190
1992 152,705
1993 711,476

Project period ends December 31, 1995

Program: State and Local Comprehensive School Health
Programs
Awarded by: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Education
Awards: 1993 \$165,580
Project period ends November 10, 1997.



The San Juan Star 35

THE ONLY PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PUBLICATION IN PUERTO RICO

Saturday, May 1, 1999

PUER

Witness: ACHS didn't file reports as required by federal law

By MARTY GERARD DELFIN
Of the STAR Staff



Advanced Community Health Services, which ran the San Juan AIDS Institute, received more than \$1.7 million in government grants for four years, but didn't submit audited reports as required by federal law, a grant administrator testified on Friday.

Another witness in the AIDS Institute trial identified an ACHS check for \$3,000 made out to him — which he never received — that was cashed by the law firm

of Dubón & Dubón.

As the government wraps up its case against Yamil Kouri and two other defendants, prosecutors will take a short break Monday to allow the defense to present its first witness.

Dr. Gloria Ornella Hall will testify before a federal jury in San Juan through a teleconference link up from Mexico City. Ornella ran the Pan American Foundation that was paid \$484,000 for promotional and educational materials that were never used.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Maria Dominguez and Edna Rosario will travel to México on Sunday to be present to cross examine the witness.

Testimony will be taken at Mexico City's World Trade Center.

Ornella, who is director of the prevention and health program at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, has declined to travel to Puerto Rico for fear that she may be charged and arrested for her alleged role in the case.

Traveling with the prosecutors will be FBI Agent Phillip Irizarry and a court stenographer. Kouri's lawyer Benay Frankie Cerezo is already in Mexico preparing for the presentation.

Technicians from Applied Technical Solutions began setting up the equipment on Friday in U.S. District Court. The link up, the first of its kind in the federal courthouse, will be paid for by Kouri, according to court officials.

Acting U.S. Attorney Guillermo Gil and Judge Jose A. Fusté will listen to Ornella's testimony, which is expected to last two days, with the jury.

The government will present on Wednesday its final three witnesses when Dominguez and Rosario return.

On Friday, Lawrence R. Poole, a grants adminis-



AIDS activists, including members of the national group Act Up, demonstrated on Friday outside federal court in San Juan during a break in the San Juan AIDS Institute embezzlement trial.

trator in the U.S. Department Health and Human Services, identified more than \$1.7 million in direct government grants that were awarded to ACHS between 1990-94.

Poole said that ACHS also received Ryan White Title II funding that is granted to cities and municipalities. However, he didn't say what the amount given was.

Poole said that in 1995 grant officials discovered that ACHS didn't file annual audited reports with the agency as regulations required.

"The annual audited reports would show whether those funds were used correctly," he said. "There are no indications that they were ever filed."

Earlier in the day, an anthropology professor testified that he never received a \$3,000 ACHS check that was made out to him in October 1990.

John Kreniski said he worked with Kouri in early 1990 on a grant development program for an AIDS research project in the Dominican Republic, but was never affiliated with ACHS.

Prosecutors showed him the check with a forged signature endorsement, which was deposited in the Dubón & Dubón escrow account.

Luis Dubón Otero, a former ACHS board member, has also been indicted in the case and will go to trial at a later date.

Kreniski said he never knew Dubón or anybody else in ACHS.

STAR photo by Francesca Van Robe

05/11/99 05:57:27 PM



Cheryl S. Bauerle
05/11/99 05:57:27 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Todd A. Summers/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Puerto Rico

Here are the two individuals to fax it to:

Leonor (sp?) from El Nuevo Dia newspaper: fax-301-652-5163

Oscar from Primera Hora newspaper: fax-787-751-1304.

Thanks!

Cheryl

*** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO 4689
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RESULT OK

Oscar cell 787-751-1304
or 787-505-5429
L. 787-751-1304



OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Oscar FROM:
COMPANY: Primera Hora DATE:
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*** TX REPORT ***

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OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 1999 (7:13 PM)

Contact: (202) 456-2437

POSTPONEMENT OF TRIP TO PUERTO RICO

Washington, DC – The Office of National AIDS Policy announced yesterday that its Director, Sandra Thurman, has postponed an upcoming trip to Puerto Rico, which had been scheduled for May 14 to 16.

Ms. Thurman stated, "I have made this decision because the brevity of the trip would not have allowed enough time to meet with people living with HIV/AIDS, community groups and public health officials. In recognition of the critical role that community-based organizations have in addressing HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico—as they do elsewhere—it is important that I have time to hear from them directly on how we might improve services to people living with HIV/AIDS."

##30##

AIDS Patients for Sane Policies

May 6, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National Aids Policy
The White House
Washington DC

Dear Ms. Thurman:

We are addressing you, hopeful of receiving your support, within the scope of your power, to react on the serious repercussions over the lives of Aids patients that the criminal embezzlement and fraudulent use of federal funds earmarked for services not rendered, have had over those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Since March 11, 1999 "Aids Patients for Sane Policies" has been organized as a reaction to the fraud committed at the San Juan Aids Institute by its former directors and administrators. Our goal and first priority is to empower HIV/AIDS patients, loved ones and/or significant others to make sure that the information revealed during the Federal judicial proceedings in the case USA vs. Kouri, Sotomayor, Borel, (Case # 97-091, JAF), should serve as an international soundboard so that this should never be repeated.

\$ 2.2 million were embezzled for personal and political use as was reflected by the plea of guilt of five of the eight persons accused. The case is being conducted at Hon. Judge José A. Fusté's courtroom at the Federal Courthouse, District of Puerto Rico. According to the press, the USA District Attorney's Office for Puerto Rico has received full support from Hon. Janet Reno, Attorney General, USA Department of Justice, which has stated that the case should continue no matter who is implicated.

Amongst those who have accepted guilt is former Senator and head of the Health Commission of the Senate, Dr. Edgardo Rosario Burgos, from the pro-commonwealth, Popular Democratic Party. Other politicians have been implicated in the mishandling of the funds by various witnesses presented by the USA Government, and/or were subpoenaed to testify before a Grand Jury. One of the witnesses was even wired by the FBI to document the accused's statements to this effect. Some other politicians implicated are Mr. Héctor Luis Acevedo, former Mayor of San Juan, (Popular Democratic Party), José Granados Navedo, a current member of the House of Representative, and Dr. Pedro Rosselló, our current Governor, (both members of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party). As is made evident, this case may possibly involve high-ranking officials from the two major political parties in Puerto Rico.

AIDS Patients for Sane Policies

In our quest for truth, we have asked Mr. David Walker, Comptroller General of the General Accounting Office to conduct an audit so that the public is reassured of the appropriate use of funds. We have also asked Hon. Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, for an explanation of why auditors did not detect this fraud before. Funds were apparently disbursed for various years, (1990-1994), without the proper protocols and financial reports as testified by Mr. Lawrence R. Poole, an official from the Department of Health and Human Services, as reported by the press -- "there are no indications that such reports were ever prepared". The fraud had to be brought out to public light by a publicist working in a private firm.

We would welcome all your efforts to guarantee the accountability of the use of federal funds provided for prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. We would also want to clearly state that in no way should these investigations affect the excellent work that other good faith organizations and their members have done in the past in regards to patients' health care and services.

Our determination is to follow this case to its final consequence. We believe that all those that are guilty should pay for their crime, no matter how high their rank, position, political affiliation was, or is. Because Aids does not discriminate by political affiliation we must insist in bipartisan action to protect the lives of all. Not doing so, will open the gates to the continuation of the devastation, pain and sorrow caused by HIV/AIDS.

Thank you very much in advance.

Mr. José F. Colón
Mr. Anselmo Fonseca
Ms. Katherine Angueira

game 801-6
410 501-1011

Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana

San Juan, P.R. 00926 Tel (787) 246-4718 - (787) 283-8623

May 3, 1999

President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington DC

Dear Mr. President:

We are addressing you, hopeful of receiving bipartisan support, within the scope of your power as President and Prime policy maker, on the serious repercussions over the lives of Aids patients that the criminal embezzlement and fraudulent use of federal funds earmarked for services not rendered, have had over those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Since March 11, 1999 "Aids Patients for Sane Policies" has been organized as a reaction to the fraud committed at the San Juan Aids Institute by its former directors and administrators. Our goal and first priority is to empower HIV/AIDS patients, loved ones and/or significant others to make sure that the information revealed during the Federal judicial proceedings in the case USA vs. Kouri, Sotomayor, Borel, (Case # 97-091, JAF), should serve as an international soundboard so that this should never be repeated.

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P.S.P.S.

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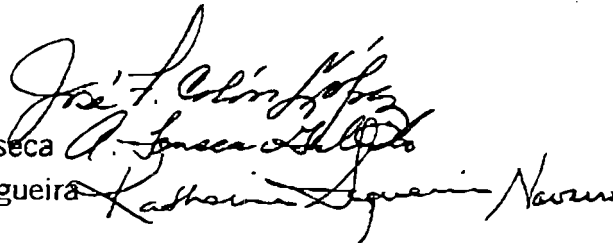
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Thank you very much in advance.

Mr. José F. Colón

Mr. Anselmo Fonseca

Ms. Katherine Angueira

Handwritten signatures of the three individuals listed to the left. The first signature is for José F. Colón, the second for Anselmo Fonseca, and the third for Katherine Angueira. The signatures are written in dark ink and are somewhat stylized.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

HIV/AIDS Bureau

Health Resources and
Services Administration
Rockville MD 20857

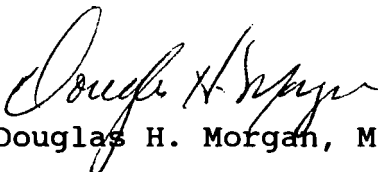
MAY 13 1999

TO: Director, White House of National AIDS Policy

FROM: Director, Division of Service Systems, HAB
THROUGH: Associate Administrator, WHA

SUBJECT: Briefing Report on HIV/AIDS Services in Puerto Rico

You requested information on the two investigations currently underway in Puerto Rico. The following report provides background on the investigations, the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) involvement, including: 1) HIV/AIDS funds that may have been involved; 2) routine monitoring activities and requirements that are in place to assess Grantee performance; and 3) specific actions undertaken by HRSA in responding to these particular investigations. We have also included a copy of a briefing report prepared in November 1998, that provides a good orientation to Puerto Rico, its challenges and HRSA funding. Please let me know if this information provides you with the background on the agencies and HRSA's management role.


Douglas H. Morgan, M.P.A.

Attachment

REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS IN PUERTO RICO AND THE USE OF HRSA AIDS FUNDS (MAY 11, 1999)

1. Information on Advanced Community Health Services (ACHS) and HRSA Funding

Advanced Community Health Services, a non-profit corporation, operated the San Juan Institute as a community health care operational arm of the corporation. In this capacity, the parent organization, through its subsidiary, managed a number of health related grants awarded from private non-profit, municipal and Federal sources. In 1987, the San Juan Health Department entered into a contract with the now defunct Advanced Community Health Services, Inc. (ACHS) as administrator of the San Juan AIDS Institute (SJAI). The contract designated ACHS and the Institute as a subcontractor, with the "responsibility for all AIDS health activities in San Juan." These services included education, research, outreach, and all levels of clinical services, including ambulatory (outpatient and home care) and highly specialized inpatient, skilled nursing, hospice and extended care.

In total, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureaus awarded \$4,217,186 in Ryan White Title I and III funds to ACHS from January 1991 through December 1994, and an additional \$2,918,734 in Pediatric AIDS Demonstration and 1610(b) funds. The following breakdown is provided on specific grants through HRSA and the HRSA-ACHS relationship in each case.

- A. HRSA funded ACHS directly as a Grantee beginning in September 1990 for the first of two renovation grants for an outpatient AIDS clinic. In total \$767,679 in 1610(b) funds were awarded by HRSA's Division of Facilities Compliance and Recovery Hill-Burton Program.
- B. Ryan White Title III funds were awarded directly to ACHS for the provision of primary health care through the San Juan AIDS Institute, described as the operational entity to administer the program. A total of \$1,679,876 in funds were awarded for a 4 year period, 1/1/91 - 12/31/94.
- C. ACHS was a subgrantee of the San Juan Title I Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) and received funds to provide services for medications, laboratory, case management, homeless shelters, primary medical services, and nursing services. A total of \$2,537,310 in funds were awarded from 4/4/91 - 1/31/94.

- D. ACHS also served as a Maternal and Child Health Bureau subgrantee of the San Juan Municipality when the Bureau awarded a Pediatric AIDS Demonstration Grant to Puerto Rico under PHS Act Title 301 in the amount of \$381,424.

2. Background on ACHS Investigation and Federal Indictment

ACHS ceased operation effective February 1994 when a legislative investigation launched by the Puerto Rico House of Representatives on ACHS' operations and use of municipal and Federal funds found sufficient cause to refer the findings to local and Federal authorities. The U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. States Attorneys Office, District of Puerto Rico issued indictments charging nine defendants in key positions at ACHS with defrauding the Grantee and Federal Government of Federal monies from 1987 through 1993. Among the charges were the allegations that \$250,000 in funds used to finance current Governor Pedro Rossello's bid for Governor came from ACHS accounts. At the time, Dr. Rossello was Director of Health for San Juan Municipality. The former Mayor of San Juan, Hector Acevedo, a former Health Director, Pedro Borrás, and a former Territorial Senator, Edgardo Burgos, were also implicated as having received payments from ACHS accounts. Several corporations were apparently formed to handle the illegal transactions.

The Federal criminal case commenced March 15, 1999. The Office of U.S. Attorney, District of Puerto Rico, contacted HRSA in writing on 4/15/98 to request submittal of certification of Ryan White grant funds awarded to ACHS as a Grantee or subgrantee in preparation for trial. The certification dated June 5, 1998, was provided with copies of all Notices of Grant Awards, Financial Status Reports, and other financial reports detailing information noted in Section II of this report. In addition, a request was made by telephone on April 19, 1999, that a representative from HRSA attend the trial that commenced March 15, 1999, to provide certification related to Title III awards to ACHS. The Bureau of Primary Health Care's (BPHC) Grants Management Office has sent a representative.

3. Chronology of Events Involving ACHS and HRSA Actions

On December 13, 1993, a letter was sent to Guillermo Otero-Hermann, M.D., DHHS Sub Regional Office Director, notifying him of the resignation of the Executive Director of ACHS effective October 31, 1993. The resignation was soon followed by an announcement by the San Juan Municipality that effective February 1, 1994, ACHS would transfer all AIDS services provided by ACHS and its operational arm, San Juan AIDS Institute, to the municipality.

Correspondence in the official HRSA files show that as early as January 18, 1994, the Sub Regional Office began the process of evaluating both grant transfer and closeout options to prevent both the further access by ACHS to Ryan White funds and the interruption of services.

Correspondence between Grantee, subgrantee, and HRSA for Title III grants also included the Region II Office of Grants Management which at that time managed the Title III grants. Files show that as early as 1991, questions were raised by grants and program management staff related to allowable budgetary costs, reasonableness of costs charged to budget, and discrepancies between expenditures and HRSA fund disbursements. The DHHS Region II Sub Regional Office Director issued a letter January 18, 1994, advising ACHS that a meeting was needed to clarify issues and consequences on Title III and 1610(b) renovation funds. Audit reports for 1992 and 1993 showed irregularities in accounting and/or subgrantee monitoring activities. The audit report prepared by KPMG Peat Marwick LLP for the year ending June 30, 1993, as required by OMB Circular A-128, issued more substantial indications of problems. HRSA notification of ACHS restrictions on funds, suspension and final termination of grant occurred between August 1994 and August 1995 due to attempts to identify and transfer the grant to a viable successor for Title III and 1610 (b) grants; although ACHS ceased as a Ryan White Title I and PHS Title 301 subgrantee in 1994 when the San Juan Department of Health decided to directly administer the services.

Given the fact that ACHS had both a Grantee and subgrantee relationship with HRSA, the resolution as to how to continue services after the dissolution of ACHS was handled differently in each case. The Title III grant awarded to ACHS was officially terminated without a transfer or successor identified on August 7, 1995, after several possible leads did not result in a viable successor. The San Juan Health Department decided not to renew their contract with ACHS to provide the Title I and PHS Title 301 grant funded services and instead chose to directly manage the program as Programa SIDA. According to the files, Title III HIV patients were referred to several other organizations such as Puerto Rico CONCRA and the Title I successor to ACHS, Programa SIDA. ACHS was also the recipient 1610(b) funds to renovate the outpatient AIDS clinic. The Hill-Burton Program records show that the San Juan Municipality assumed the Hill-Burton obligations consisting of community service, free care, and twenty year eligible use obligations when they took direct charge of the facility.

4. Current Status of Other Investigations

A second investigation of a Grantee (Proyecto Oasis de Amor), not related to the first subgrantee, surfaced in June 1998 with a newspaper article citing agency mismanagement of funds and management's use of funds for personal purposes.

Charges were made that San Juan Municipal staff were involved in illegal activities involving drawing up of contracts for services that were not rendered, awarding Ryan White fund levels to Proyecto Oasis that were incongruent with evaluator scores, redistributing Ryan White funds to providers for service categories above planning council authorization levels, inconsistencies between providers in payments for same or similar services, contracting with agencies in excess of requested level, and lack of acceptable provider program evaluation and monitoring activities. A subsequent independent audit and internal investigation by the San Juan and Caguas Municipalities uncovered accounting problems but fell short of finding criminal wrongdoing by Municipal staff or by Proyecto Oasis. Three senior management staff including the Executive Director, Deputy Director, and Program Manager had their contracts terminated effective July 1, 1998. The audit report was forwarded to the Puerto Rico Justice Department to add to a wider investigation regarding the provider agency.

Proyecto Oasis de Amor received Ryan White Title I funding from the San Juan EMA (funded services included medications, medical specialists, laboratory and diagnostic testing, case management, mental health, substance treatment, nursing, hospice care, transportation, and primary and intermediate care, with most recent year funding received in fiscal year (FY) 1997/98 totaling \$989,039). They also received funding from the Caguas EMA (funded services included housing assistance and substance detox, with most recent year funding received in FY 1998/99 totaling \$58, 875 for partial year funding). Title II funding to Proyecto Oasis through the Puerto Rico Department of Health consisted of services funded through the San Juan Consortium and the Caguas Consortium (case management and transportation services for \$63,000 in FY 1997/98) and State direct services to Bayamon and Arecibo areas (temporary housing assistance, hospice care, day care and transportation services for \$290,529 in FY 1997/98).

HRSA grants and program management staff provided guidance to San Juan EMA in a number of areas. HAB Grants Management Office provided written guidance to the Grantee in July 1998 related to how Grantees should handle closing of current year obligations with Proyecto Oasis. A HRSA site visit was conducted by program staff to San Juan EMA in January 1999 to assess how the Grantee was managing the program given the investigations and major staff changes. The internal audit report was completed in October 1998 and a corrective plan addressing audit findings was submitted to HRSA in April 1999.

Site visit recommendations also addressed ongoing concerns regarding fiscal management and field quality/fiscal staff and monitoring procedures and upgrade in office technology to allow fiscal staff to efficiently manage invoices and other accounting activities. HRSA program staff has requested that the Grantee hire additional fiscal staff, field fiscal/quality assurance monitors, and upgrade office technology. Grants and program staff worked with newly assigned interim staff to provide an orientation to HRSA and specifically to program and grants management during a reverse site visit at HRSA central office in March 1999.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
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Public Health Service

HIV/AIDS Bureau

Health Resources and
Services Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NOV 27 1998

TO: Director, White House Office of National AIDS Policy

FROM: Director, Division of Service Systems, HAB

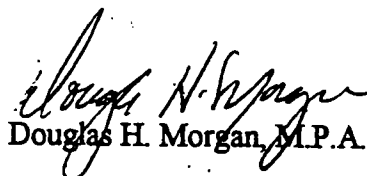
THROUGH: Associate Administrator 20

SUBJECT: Briefing Report on HIV/AIDS Services in Puerto Rico

- In accordance with my discussion with you I am forwarding a report entitled "Profile of HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico" which will help familiarize you with the Health Resources and Services Administration's Ryan White CARE Act funded programs in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

We hope this background information prepared for your upcoming visit to Puerto Rico will provide you with a contextual framework and a historical perspective on key issues facing the Commonwealth that have impacted HIV/AIDS care. Included with the document is a listing of HRSA funded service providers, as well as a HRSA staff assessment of accomplishments and challenges facing these particular grantees.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance and whether a face-to-face meeting with you is needed. You can reach me on 301 443-6745.


Douglas H. Morgan, M.P.A.

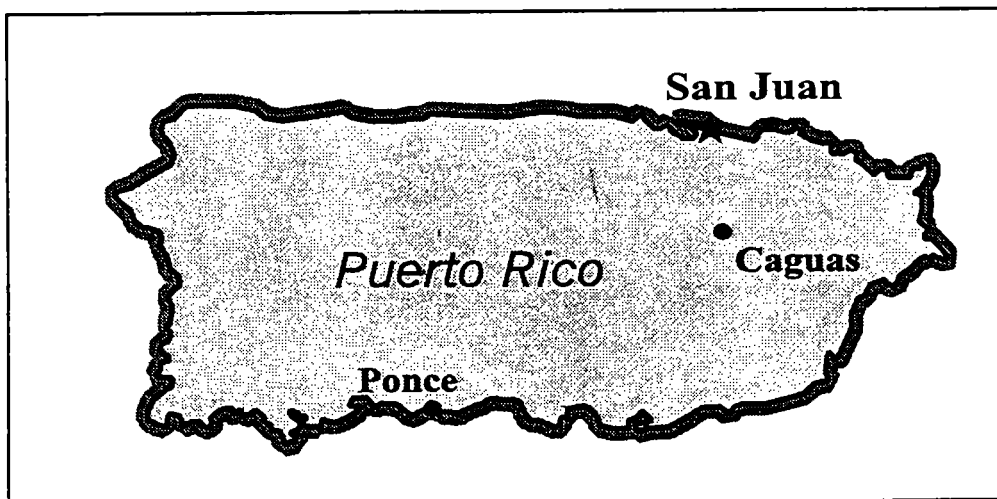
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Profile of HIV/AIDS in **Puerto Rico**

Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act Services

- AIDS Profile
- Economic and Social Indices
 - Health Indices
- Overarching Issues



Prepared by:
Health Resources and Services Administration
HIV/AIDS Bureau (Jerry Meier, Consultant)

I. Island Overview

The 3.6 million people that inhabit the island of Puerto Rico make it one of the most densely populated islands in the world. There are about 1,000 people per square mile, a ratio higher than any area within the 50 states in the United States. Puerto Rico is one of the larger islands of the West Indies, and the Commonwealth also includes several small islands, such as Culebra, La Mona, and Vieques.

Puerto Rico has experienced a political, economic, social and health transformation in the last 100 years that has brought with it significant changes in both the quality of life and health status of its residents. Historical events that have assisted Puerto Rico's passage from a rural agricultural society to an urban industrial one are highlighted below.

The current Commonwealth status of Puerto Rico has not halted sentiment for other forms of island governance, including statehood and independence. Whether Puerto Rico becomes a state, remains a territory or seeks independence as a sovereign nation is yet to be determined.

PUERTO RICO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES

- Puerto Ricans are US citizens but can not vote in general elections.
- Puerto Rico is represented by a nonvoting resident delegate in the Congress of the United States. The delegate is elected by Puerto Ricans to a four-year term.
- All federal agencies are represented in Puerto Rico as they are in the US.
- Residents of Puerto Rico contribute to local income taxes but pay no federal income taxes, however they must pay into Social Security and Medicare.
- Puerto Rico and other United States Territories do not receive Medicaid, but they do receive a form of federal assistance and each year HCFA places a new cap on expenditures.

SNAPSHOT OF PUERTO RICO HISTORY

- Puerto Rico is surrendered to the United States military authority in 1900 and Puerto Rico became U.S. first unincorporated territory.
- In 1917 Puerto Ricans gain U.S. citizenship and a bill of rights.
- Puerto Rico became a U.S. commonwealth on July 25, 1952.
- The first Health Center is founded in Adjuntas in 1950 and the first Social Security cards were issued.
- In 1997 the U.S. Congress introduced Project Young, to provide a process leading to full self-government for Puerto Rico.
- Hurricane George with 120 mph winds strikes the island in September, 1998, leaving more than 24,000 in shelters. The entire island was left without electricity (99.5%), most without water service (77%). President Clinton declared Puerto Rico a disaster area, authorizing immediate release of federal recovery aid. Damage estimated at \$2 billion.

II. Puerto Rico's Economy, Social Structure and Health Care System

A. Economy

Economic development in Puerto Rico has historically lagged well behind that of most mainland states of the United States. Significant improvements have been made in economic conditions since the late 1940s. Growth has occurred largely through stimulation of the manufacturing sector. While the United States has experienced a surge in economic growth, Puerto Rico's economy has seen sustained growth, but at a lower rate compared to the past three years. The economy depends heavily on the tax incentives (known as Section 936) given to US mainland companies and on federal transfers. Puerto Rico is also used to channel loans to other Caribbean and Central American countries under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). Apparel making is Puerto Rico's leading manufacturing industry in terms of employment, followed by production of electronic goods, processed foods, and chemicals.

B. Social Structure

Puerto Ricans consider themselves American but are fiercely proud of their island and their culture. The great majority of Puerto Rico's inhabitants are of Hispanic background; Spanish is the official language of the Commonwealth. About 80 percent of the people are Roman Catholic. The people of Puerto Rico represent a cultural and racial mix including Taino Indian, Spanish and African ancestry. The most significant new immigrant population arrived in the 1960s, when thousands of Cubans fled from Fidel Castro's Communist state. The latest arrivals to Puerto Rico have come from the economically depressed Dominican Republic.

C. Health Care System

Health care is provided through territorial and municipal primary health clinics, private non-profit hospitals and community based health care centers and private medical practices. Puerto Rico received a total of \$167 million of federal medical assistance in Fiscal Year 1998. U.S. Territories do not receive Medicaid and HCFA places a new annual cap on assistance. Unlike Medicaid, the P.R. federal medical assistance program funding level does not change when expenditures increase. A number of problems arise as a result of the federal assistance cap and Puerto Rico's inability to foot the bill for annual health care expenses. In 1993 the government decided to transition to a managed care system called **Puerto Rico Health Reform** where the public sector contracted with private insurance carriers to provide health insurance to those previously served by the Puerto Rico Department of Health. The ultimate goal of the Puerto Rico Health Reform initiative is to get government out of the health care business--with the expectation that the entire island will transition into managed care shortly after the year 2000.

KEY ECONOMIC FACTS

- Per Capita Income (1993)-\$6,760
- Unemployment Rate (1997) : 13.5% (US average: 4.9%).
- Migration/economic safety valve: many Puerto Ricans migrate to and from the island depending on economic conditions.
- Principal industries: manufacturing.
- Tourism is growth industry contributing about 6.5% to the GDP.
- Some 30% of all expenditures are supported with dollars originating from Washington DC.

KEY SOCIAL FACTS

- College education rate: 6th in the world
- Literacy Rate: 89.7%
- Percent of the island's inhabitants living in urban areas: 71%.
- More than one-half of population lives below poverty level.

KEY HEALTH CARE FACTS

- Health Reform Goal: 73 of the 78 municipalities participating in the Health Reform by mid 1999.
- Health Reform has placed a \$25,000 per person annual expenditure cap.
- Employees working in all the hospital institutions (1993): 15,994.
- 72 hospitals in operation: 59 general, 7 psychiatric, 5 specialized, and 1 federal hospital (1990)

III. Health Status of Puerto Rico's Residents

Puerto Rico's transformation into the Caribbean's economic leader has brought with it changes in morbidity and mortality patterns. Within the new epidemiologic profile, acute infectious tropical diseases coexist alongside chronic degenerative diseases, and the prevalence of cardiovascular diseases and cancer is high. Alcohol abuse and smoking are common and drug consumption is on the increase. Key mortality statistics from 1995 include:

- Heart Disease and malignant neoplasms were the two leading causes of death accounting for 37.8% of all mortality.
- Diabetes mellitus was the third leading cause of death (7.6%).
- Cerebrovascular disease was the fourth leading cause of death (6.0%).
- In fifth place was mortality from HIV infection accounting for 5.1% of deaths.

Tuberculosis, STDs and drug use have been further impacted by HIV infection. These comorbidities, socioeconomic status, a deteriorating health services infrastructure, and availability of health resources are interrelated and present challenges to health care in Puerto Rico.

IV. AIDS Epidemic Overview

According to the Puerto Rico HIV/AIDS reporting system (HARS) 22,635 cases of AIDS were reported as of October 1, 1998. HARS also reported 14,268 deaths due to AIDS, ranking Puerto Rico 4th in the U.S. Some distinctive differences in the epidemic pattern of HIV transmission in Puerto Rico are evident when compared to the United States. While the majority of reported AIDS cases in adult males in the U.S. are homosexual/bisexual men, in Puerto Rico the highest incidence occurs in male injection drug users, accounting for 59% of all confirmed cases, versus 25% for the US. In the last three years the total number of AIDS cases has declined from 2,095 in 1995 to 1,566 in 1997. As of October 30, 1998, 636 cases have been reported.

AIDS prevalence data is useful in better understanding the general impact in large communities. The most useful information, however is data from the past two years which captures emerging trends in those communities and groups most recently affected.

Puerto Rico Health Facts (1997)

	<u>Puerto Rico</u>	<u>US</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population):	16.6	14.6
% of Births to Teenagers:	20.8	12.8
% of Births to Unmarried Mothers:	45.7	32.4
% Low Birth weight:	10.7	7.5
Infant mortality rate (per/1,000 births) :	12.7	9.8

AIDS Epidemic Profile

- AIDS cases reported in 1997: 2,040
- AIDS cases by gender: 78% male; 22% female
- Cumulative incidence rate: 53.3 /100,000 (4th in U.S. and Territories).
- AIDS cases due to heterosexual transmission increased fifty-fold (1987-97).
- Women age 25 to 39: HIV/AIDS is leading cause of death (1997).
- Men age 30-49: HIV/AIDS leading cause of death (1997).
- Male AIDS cases attributed to IDU: 55% (1997)
- Male AIDS cases attributed to homosexual contact: 21.1% (1997).
- Female cases attributed to heterosexual contact; 55.5% (1997).
- Cumulative adolescent AIDS cases: 132 (1997)
- Cumulative AIDS cases by fetal transmission: 387 (1997).

V. Profile of AIDS in Puerto Rico's Three Most Impacted Metropolitan Areas

In Puerto Rico the municipalities of San Juan, Caguas and Ponce have been impacted the greatest by HIV/AIDS. All three receive HRSA Title I funding as Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs). A profile of these municipalities, their location, history and AIDS profile is provided below.

AIDS Profile



- AIDS cases reported in 1997: 1,323 (78% male, 22% female).
- Heterosexual contact: 29% increase as transmission mode in past 2 years.
- Adolescent infections: 28% increase in past 2 years.
- Female AIDS cases: 23% of all female cases have been reported in the past two years.

In San Juan, the population is just under one million, or a third of the entire island. It is a major port and tourist resort of the West Indies and is the country's financial capital. Many U.S. banks and corporations maintain offices or distributing centers there. San Juan has yet to be included in Puerto Rico's Health Care Reform initiative.

As of March, 1998, San Juan has a total of 13,401 reported cases of AIDS, comprising 64.8% of all cases reported in Puerto Rico. In San Juan, 49.7% of AIDS cases reported in the past two years were IDU and 31.7% were heterosexual contact. A total of 75 AIDS cases among adolescents have been reported to date, with 36% of adolescent cases in females. Pediatric cases total 244 cases through March, 1998 with 28% of these cases reported since April of 1996.

AIDS Profile



- AIDS cases reported in 1997: 402 (72% male, 28% female).
- Heterosexual contact: 32.2% increase as transmission mode in past 2 years.
- Adult (>45 years) infections: 24.3% increase in past 2 years.
- Female AIDS cases: 14.5% increase as transmission mode in past 2 years.

Ponce, with a population of 300,000, is Puerto Rico's second largest city. Called La Perla del Sur, Ponce is an important trading and distribution center, and has a port of entry, Playa de Ponce Port, Puerto Rico's principal shipping port and one of the busiest in the Caribbean area.

As of March, 1998 Ponce has a total of 2603 reported cases of AIDS. Of the three EMAs in Puerto Rico, Ponce reports the highest incidence rate of AIDS (209.7 cases per 100,000 as of June 30, 1996). 59.5% of Ponce's AIDS cases in the last two years can be traced to injection drug use. Pediatric AIDS cases total 64 through March, 1998.

AIDS Profile

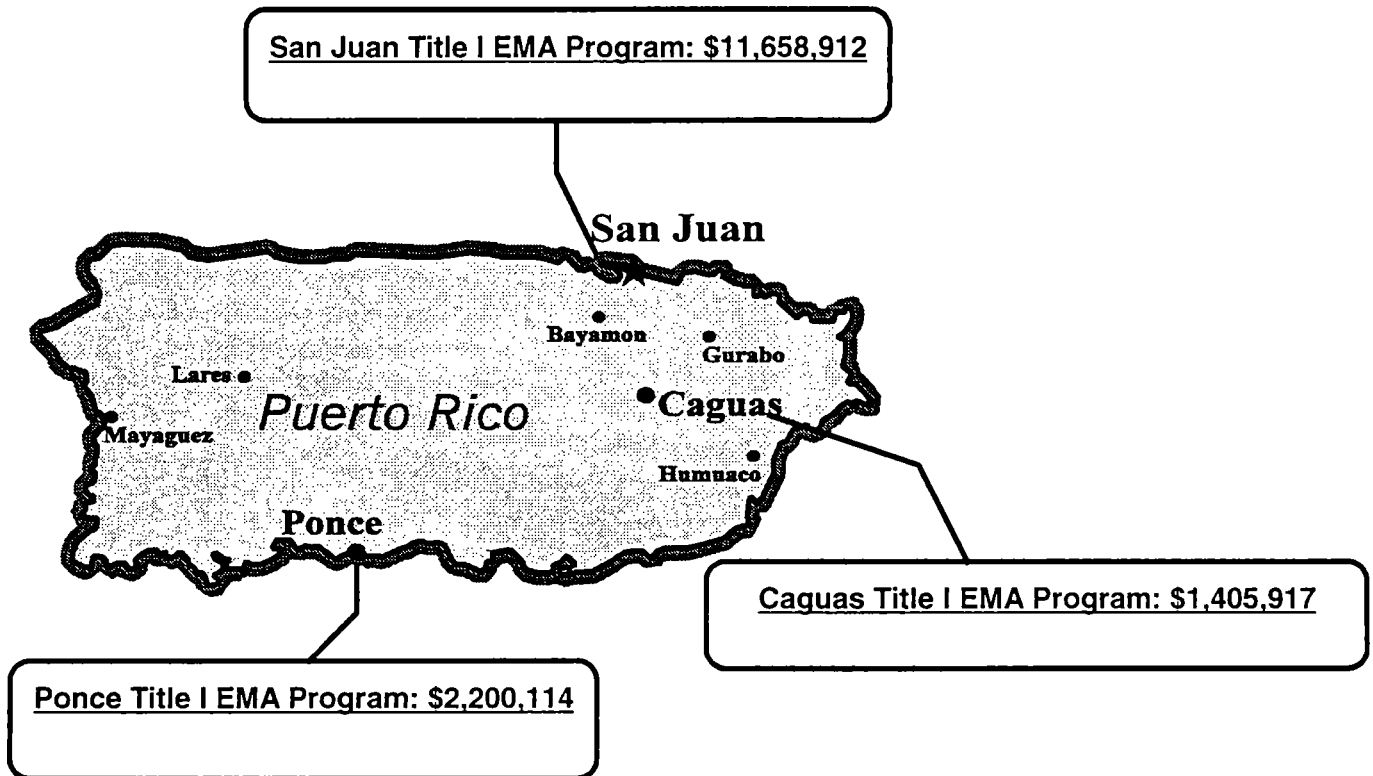


- AIDS cases reported in 1997: 274 (75% male, 25% female).
- Heterosexual contact: 77% increase as transmission mode in past 2 years.
- Adult (>45 years) infections: 38% increase in past 2 years.
- Female AIDS cases: 18% of all cases have been reported in the past two years.

Caguas was founded in January 1, 1775 and has a population of 133,447. The town's economic activities include: diamond cutting, tobacco processing, and the manufacture of leather goods, glass and plastic products, electronic equipment, clothing and bedding.

As of March, 1998 Caguas has a total of 1,636 reported cases of AIDS. The principle mode of HIV transmission is IDU, accounting for 60% of AIDS cases in the past two years. Heterosexual contact is the second leading mode of transmission accounting for 23% of AIDS cases in the past two years. Pediatric AIDS cases totaled 20 through March, 1998.

VI. HRSA/Ryan White CARE Act Program in Puerto Rico (1998 Funding: \$36,702,171)



Puerto Rico Title III Programs

- Centro de Salud de Lares (Lares): \$567,225
- Migrant Health Center (Mayaguez): \$611,850
- Gurabo Community Health Center (Gurabo): \$250,750
- Bayamon Epidemiology Center (Bayamon): \$500,000
- Puerto Rico Concra (Rio Piedra): \$533,209
- Ryder Memorial Hospital (Humacao): \$458,076
- Consejo Salud de La Comunidad (Ponce): \$659,955

Territory Wide Ryan White Programs

- Title II: \$16,793,353 (of which \$9,264,908 is ADAP earmarked).
- Title IV, Puerto Rico Pediatric AIDS Project (through PRDOH): \$533,209
- AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC), University of P.R.: \$529,601

VII. HRSA Funded Ryan White Initiatives: Funding Levels, Services & Clients Served

Ryan White Title I Funds provide additional support to Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs) of San Juan (15 towns), Caguas (5 towns) and Ponce (six towns) that are disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic. In FY 1998, a total of \$15,264,912 in Title I funding was awarded to the three Puerto Rico EMAs including:

• HIV/AIDS Therapeutic Medications:	\$6,357,860 (42%)
• Ambulatory/Outpatient Medical Care:	\$3,808,767 (25%)
• Support Services (e.g., day/respite care and food bank):	\$1,078,019 (7%)
• Care/Case Management:	\$1,202,365 (8%)
• Substance Treatment & Mental Health:	\$1,133,532 (7%)
• Rehabilitative Care, Hospice, and Home Care	\$ 731,604 (5%)
• Other (administration, planning council, etc.)	\$ 952,765 (6%)

Client utilization levels vary by service. Those services with the highest demand are primary care, HIV/AIDS therapies, nursing services, case management, drug treatment and supportive services, and transportation. Average number of clients utilizing services in 1998:

• San Juan:	3,500
• Caguas:	325
• Ponce:	480

Ryan White Title II provides funding on a formula basis to Puerto Rico as an eligible U.S. territory. Ryan White Title II funding is awarded to the State/Territory entity designated by the governor to administer these funds. In the case of Puerto Rico, funds are administered by the Puerto Rico Department of Public Health. Of the eligible services under Title II funding, the grantee provides funding to ADAP, six consortia and statewide direct services.

The ADAP Program is centrally administered and operates through seven Regional Immunology Clinics (RIC) and 7 community health centers (Title III). In FY 1998, a total of \$16,793,353 in Title II funding was awarded to Puerto Rico with \$9,264,908 earmarked for AIDS drug therapies. Puerto Rico utilizes an additional \$3,437,230 of the Ryan White funds for medications. Of the total award, 76% is budgeted for HIV/AIDS medications. As of October, 1998, a total of 1,335 individuals are enrolled in the ADAP program. Of the remaining award, Consortia services account for \$2,974,096 in budget allocations or an estimated 18% of 1998 budget. Consortia services include primary care, dental care, case management, mental health services, rehabilitative care, hospice care and supportive services including direct assistance with financial needs, transportation, housing and food.

Ryan White Title III funds support comprehensive primary care service delivery that is community based. Title III funds are provided to seven public and private non-profit entities for outpatient early intervention services. Four of the centers are federally qualified community health centers and migrant health centers; of the remaining three, one is a health department, one is a community primary care center specializing in HIV/AIDS care, and one is a private not for profit hospital.

Title III services include provision of HIV risk reduction counseling, outreach services, HIV antibody testing, medical evaluation and clinical care. Funding is also provided for antiretroviral therapy and case management. Currently \$3,581,065 is provided to the seven community health centers to serve an estimated 3,000 persons annually. Of these funds, \$100,000 is targeted to fund the Airbridge Network, a program that coordinates medical assistance and social services for persons with HIV/AIDS that travel frequently between New York City and Puerto Rico.

Ryan White Title IV funds comprehensive family centered care for children, women and their families at seven RICS, using a multi-disciplinary team approach--multiple agencies provide care coordinated by case management. Services provided to adult and pediatric clients include: antiretroviral therapy, prophylaxis for opportunistic infections, prescription drugs, psycho social services, case management, support groups, referrals to speciality care and hospitalization, nutritional counseling and health education. Services are predominantly child focused. An estimated 847 children received clinical care and specialized care during the current reporting period.

The Division of Training and Technical Assistance (DTTA) administers two programs: AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETC) and the Technical Assistance Program.

A) AETC

The AIDS Education and Training Center is located at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus in San Juan. The center provides education and training to primary care providers, mental health and other allied health professionals. The AETC trains health professionals on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV infection. It also provides complimentary training to the faculty and students enrolled in graduate schools of medicine, nursing, dentistry, mental health, public health and allied health professions. In 1998 the AETC is estimated to provide training to 2,105 participants addressing the areas identified in AETC priorities. It is estimated that 650 providers will have participated in "New Therapies for HIV/AIDS: Clinical Management" training.

Other AETC activities focus on service provider understanding of HIV under Health Care Reform and Title I Planning Council Training. As of May 15, 1998 the Puerto Rico AETC has offered services to 3510 Health service providers, their families and significant others. This figure represents 80% of the projected goal of 4,375 for the year.

B) Technical Assistance Program

The Ryan White CARE Act provides for technical assistance to grantees under all Ryan White titles. Technical assistance needs identified in Puerto Rico have been developed through the coordinated efforts of the HRSA project officer and the grantee. To date 13 technical interventions have been funded totaling \$80,511 in expenditures. A sample of technical assistance interventions include:

- Consortia Development: \$18,301 (1994)
- Puerto Rico PLWH Training: \$5,412 (1995)
- San Juan EMA ADAP: \$3,500 (1997)
- Caguas EMA Comprehensive Planning: \$6,687 (1997)
- Ponce EMA Planning Council Development: \$2,619 (1997)
- Puerto Rico Tri-EMA PLWH Involvement: \$1,340 (1998)

VIII. Accomplishments

The Ryan White grantees have had the following accomplishments to report in 1997 and 1998:

1. Title I centralized medications purchasing in order to control costs and increase grantee ability to manage distribution, increase quality control and ensure other payers are billed first.
2. Title II Grantee expanded access to ADAP medications outside of the Regional Immunology Clinics to include seven community health centers receiving Title III funds. Division of Training and Technical Assistance (DTTA) provided technical assistance resources to assist in this effort.
3. Title III grantees increased the number of HIV/AIDS clients on combination therapies, HIV counseling and testing and other early intervention services.
4. Title I and III grantees provided island-wide training and staff development activities in areas such as PLWH involvement, clinical management guidelines, client adherence to medication therapies and quality assurance management. DTTA provided technical assistance resources to assist in this effort.
5. Title IV grantee showed improvement in enrollment of children in clinical trials.
6. A collaborative agreement was developed between the Title IV grantee and the medical assistance program to inform recipients of available counseling, testing and ZDV therapy at public health clinics.
7. Service enhancements were completed across the Ryan White Titles in areas including: provision of specialized medical services; services to substance users; services to women; nutritional services; services for children; and improved data and quality assurance management systems.
8. Across Title participation facilitated the development of a Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need Plan. The plan identified territory wide management needs and coordinated strategies for addressing these needs in Puerto Rico.
9. Coordinated and rapid response across Ryan White Titles to Hurricane George in September, 1998, provided crisis management, emergency food, shelter assistance and medical care to persons with HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico.

IX. Overarching Issues and Challenges

1. **Organization of Public Healthcare System:** The Medical Assistance Program, Puerto Rico's Medicaid program for the uninsured and under insured, is being replaced by a managed care reform program that has limited benefits for persons with HIV/AIDS and "gatekeeper" controls that may restrict and delay accessibility to needed care.

- Low capitation rates and lack of coverage for protease inhibitors will continue to strain the ability of Ryan White programs to provide for a significant amount of the health care needs of persons with HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico.
2. **Infrastructure Capacity In Managing HIV/AIDS Healthcare Need:** In projections related to medications alone, it is anticipated that an additional \$7,703,095 is needed to provide HIV/AIDS medications for over 3,000 persons currently in care. This calculation does not include unmet need of those persons who are not in care.
 3. **Shift in Roles and Responsibilities Related to HIV/AIDS Management:** The healthcare reform process has led to increasing changes in Title I, II and III grantees' roles and responsibilities in provision of Ryan White services. Territorial and municipal government offices are in effect reconfiguring local and regional public health service delivery systems. These changes are impacting cohesiveness of RW efforts and the ability of RW grantee staff to coordinate program planning, management and evaluation activities. In the case of Title I programs, local municipal reorganization and the decision to lease public health clinics to managed care entities are creating potential legal and service delivery issues related to accountability and delegation of responsibilities from municipal government to private non-profit entities.
 4. **Expeditious Disbursement of Ryan White Funds:** Some grantees, especially in Titles II and IV, are unable to expedite execution of contracts and assure payments to providers in a timely manner. The lack of regularity in fund disbursement to provider agencies has, in turn, affected contractor retention, staff retention, and resulted in a disruption of services. High staff vacancies in key fiscal and data management departments create shortage in staff to monitor contracts and process invoices for payments.
 5. **Ability to Project Client Caseload and Related Medications Cost:** Difficulties exist in the management of HIV/AIDS medications budget and in grantee and sub-grantee capacity to plan, forecast and monitor medications expenditures more effectively. Grantees have initiated combination therapy regimens on more clients than their budgets are able to maintain.
 6. **Quality Assurance and Monitoring of Contractors:** Many Title I and II grantees are still challenged in their ability to build community based provider skills in service administration, accounting/data management, and quality assurance. Issues with quality of services, lack of coordination of care and mismanagement of Ryan White funds have been an ongoing concern.

7. **Staff Retention:** Title II and Title IV programs are challenged by staff stability and retention. Poor staff retention can be traced to low staff wages and the contractual nature of many of the funded positions, which in turn creates an atmosphere of job uncertainty. Low staff morale results in the inability of programs to retain skilled and committed employees. In addition, many of the Title II staff positions funded through this grant do not have health benefits, which contributes to significant staff turnover.
8. **Translation of HRSA Documents and Resource Materials:** Much has been accomplished in this area due to the efforts of the Division of Training and Technical Assistance. However, there continues to be a lag in the availability and accessibility of materials to guide grantee efforts in areas related to clinical management guidelines, quality assurance activities, consumer involvement, and planning council roles and responsibilities.
9. **Special Population Needs:** The number of clients served by the Title IV program is decreasing while the epidemiological data indicates that more women are becoming infected and are in need of services. For all Titles, the extent of HIV/AIDS healthcare need and subsequently provision of care is unknown for those persons who migrate between the Caribbean islands, undocumented residents (especially, persons migrating from the Dominican Republic and Cuba) and those who travel frequently between mainland United States and Puerto Rico.

X. References

1. Puerto Rico HIV/AIDS Reporting System: 10/30/98 Report to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2. San Juan EMA 1999 Title I Application, HRSA
3. Ponce EMA 1999 Title I Application, HRSA
4. Caguas EMA 1999 Title I Application, HRSA
5. Puerto Rico USA: Where Great Ideas are Being Put to Work, Provided by the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, Office of the Governor, Washington DC, Elsa Luis, Director of Federal Proposals Division
6. Division of Community Based Programs, Ryan White Title III and IV Program, HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA
7. Division of Service Systems, Titles I and II, HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA
8. Division of Training and Technical Assistance, AETC and Technical Assistance Contracts, HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA
9. CDC FASTATS, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchswwww/fastats/puerto.htm>
10. Welcome to Puerto Rico, Magaly Rivera (<http://www.topuertorico.org/index.shtml>)
11. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), <http://www.paho.org/english/whatpaho.htm>
12. "Puerto Rico," *Microsoft® Encarta® 98 Encyclopedia*. ©

XI Appendices

- HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, October 30, 1998
- Listing of HRSA Funded Ryan White Grantees by Title

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
Casos de SIDA Confirmados en Puerto Rico hasta 10/30/98
Surveillance Report - 10/30/98

Disease Category	Adult/Adolescent *		Pediatric *		Total	
	Cases (%)	Deaths (%)	Cases (%)	Deaths (%)	Cases (%)	Deaths (%)
PCP	5942 (27)	4/18 (79)	136 (35)	87 (64)	6078 (27)	4805 (79)
Other Disease w/o PCP	10704 (48)	7260 (68)	250 (65)	121 (48)	10954 (48)	7389 (67)
KS Alone	437 (2)	301 (69)	0 (0)	0 (0)	437 (2)	301 (69)
No Diseases Listed	5165 (23)	1773 (34)	1 (0)	0 (0)	5166 (23)	1773 (34)
Total	22248 (100)	14060 (63)	387 (100)	208 (54)	22635 (100)	14268 (63)

Age *	Cases (%)	3. Race/Ethnicity	Adult/Adolescent *	Pediatric *	Total
			Cases (%)	Cases (%)	Cases (%)
Under 5	292 (1)	White, Not Hispanic	30 (0)	1 (0)	40 (0)
5-12	99 (0)	Black, Not Hispanic	11 (0)	2 (1)	13 (0)
13-19	132 (1)	Hispanic	22192 (100)	384 (99)	22576 (100)
20-29	4134 (18)	Asian/Pacific Is.	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
30-39	10166 (45)	Am. Indian/Alaska Native	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
40-49	5438 (24)	Unknown	5 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0)
Over 49	2378 (11)				
Unknown	0 (0)	Total	22248 (100)	387 (100)	22635 (100)
Total	22635 (100)				

Exposure Category	Adult/Adolescent Transmission Modes**		Total (%)
	Males (%)	Females (%)	
Men who have sex with men	3730 (21)	0 (0)	3730 (17)
Injecting drug use	9616 (55)	1866 (38)	11482 (52)
Men who have sex with men and inject drugs	1660 (10)	0 (0)	1660 (7)
Hemophilia/coagulation disorder	44 (0)	8 (0)	56 (0)
Heterosexual contact	2067 (12)	2831 (58)	4898 (22)
Receipt of blood, components, or tissue	103 (1)	120 (2)	223 (1)
Risk not reported/Other	132 (1)	43 (1)	177 (1)
Total	17356 (100)	4870 (100)	22226 (100)

	Pediatric Transmission Modes		Total (%)
	Males (%)	Females (%)	
Hemophilia/coagulation disorder	9 (4)	1 (0)	10 (2)
Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	180 (88)	197 (96)	377 (92)
Receipt of blood, components, or tissue	10 (5)	7 (3)	17 (4)
Risk not reported/Other	5 (2)	0 (0)	5 (1)
Total	204 (100)	205 (100)	409 (100)

* Classification at time of AIDS dx if patient met the AIDS case definition (otherwise age at first HIV report).
**22 patients were diagnosed with AIDS as adults but have evidence of being HIV infected as children. They are counted as adults/adolescent cases in tables 1, 2, and 3; and as pediatric cases in table 4.

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
 Casos de SIDA Confirmados en Puerto Rico hasta 10/30/98
 Surveillance Report - 10/30/98

5. Reported Cases of AIDS and Case-Fatality Rates by Half-Year of Diagnosis.

Half-Year of Diagnosis	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Case-Fatality Rate
Before 1983	17	11	65%
1983 Jan - June	18	18	100%
July-Dec	22	21	95%
1984 Jan - June	53	48	91%
July-Dec	73	66	90%
1985 Jan - June	115	88	77%
July-Dec	154	124	81%
1986 Jan - June	212	168	79%
July-Dec	267	207	84%
1987 Jan - June	362	297	82%
July-Dec	463	364	79%
1988 Jan - June	663	520	78%
July-Dec	635	531	84%
1989 Jan - June	789	627	79%
July-Dec	815	652	80%
1990 Jan - June	921	706	77%
July-Dec	960	752	78%
1991 Jan - June	1106	884	79%
July-Dec	1184	900	76%
1992 Jan - June	1238	883	71%
July-Dec	1200	857	71%
1993 Jan - June	1470	1020	69%
July-Dec	1211	789	65%
1994 Jan - June	1154	764	66%
July-Dec	1181	668	57%
1995 Jan - June	1162	621	53%
July-Dec	933	462	50%
1996 Jan - June	1143	464	41%
July-Dec	872	298	34%
1997 Jan - June	851	239	28%
July-Dec	715	149	21%
1998 Jan - June	530	87	16%
July-Dec 30	106	7	7%
Totals	22635	14268	63%

Ryan White Grantees in Puerto Rico

Title I

Caguas

Dr. Ruth Reyes Ramos, Executive Director
Caguas Department of Health
Calle Rafael Cordera Final
Caguas, P.R. 00725

Phone: 787-746-3525 (Dr. Reyes); 787-745-0340 (RW Office)
Fax: 787-258-9614 (Dr. Reyes); 787-286-9560 (RW Office)

Ponce

Luis A. Cruz, Administrator
Ryan White Title I Program/Ponce EMA
La Rambla Shopping Center
360 Avenida Tito Castro, Suite #201-A
Carreter 14 km.3.2
Ponce, P.R. 00731

Phone: 1-787-284-5261;
Fax: 1-787-284-5261;

San Juan

Yvette Perez Toro, Interim Director*
San Juan Department of Health
AIDS Task Force
Avenida de Diego Final, 2nd Piso
Oficina #20, Barrios Moncellos
Rio Piedras, P.R. 00928

Phone: 787-751-6075 or 787-751-4278
Fax: 787-751-9888

Title II

Marisol Cruz Lopez*
Coordinator, Special Projects Section
PASET
Puerto Rico Department of Health
P.O. Box 70185
San Juan, P.R. 00936

Phone: 787-274-5502 (temporary);
Fax: 787-274-5503

Title III

Lares

Gonzalo Maldonado, R.N.
HIV Program Coordinator
Centro de Salud de Lares
Carretera 111, km. 1.9
Lares, P.R. 00669

Phone: 787-897-2727
Fax: 787-897-2725

Ponce

Victor M. Rodriguez, M.D., HIV Program Coordinator
Consejo de Salud de la Comunidad
Diagnostic and Treatment Center, Playa de Ponce
216 Avenida Hostos, P.O. Box 254, Playa Ponce
Ponce, P.R. 00731

Phone : 787-843-9393, ext. 242
Fax: 787-841-0077

Gurabo

Daisy Perez Melendez, HIV Program Coordinator
Gurabo Community Health Center
P.O. Box 1277
Gurabo, P.R. 00778-0427

Phone: 787-737-1131
Fax: 787-737-2377

Mayaguez

Wanda Acosta, HIV Program Coordinator*
Migrant Health Center., W. Reg./Programa SSIMA
P.O. Box 7128
Mayaguez, P.R. 00680-7128

Phone: 787-834-1470 or 787-805-2900
Fax: 787-834-1470

Bayamon

Tamara Behar, M.D., HIV Program Coordinator
Municipality of Bayamon/Epidemiology Center of Bayamon
P.O. Box 1588
Bayamon, P.R. 00960

Phone: 787-269-5230
Fax: 787-269-5230

San Juan

Rafael Pagan, M.D., HIV Program Coordinator*
Puerto Rico CONCRA
Calle Pelegrina #989
Rio Piedras, P.R. 00925

Phone: 787-753-9443
Fax: 787-753-2894

Humacao

Felicita deJesus Martinez, HIV Program Coordinator*
Ryder Memorial Hospital
Call Box 859
Humacao, P.R. 00792

Phone: 787-852-0768, ext. 4717 or 4609
Fax: 787-852-0768, ext. 3262

* Title III sites recommended for visits

Title IV

Rolando Jimenez Mercado
Coordinator, Pediatric HIV Section
Pavellon 1
Puerto Rico Department of Health
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico 00936

Phone: 787-274-5591 or 787-274-5595
Fax: 787-274-5503

AETC

Angel Bravo, MPH
Daisy Gely
Puerto Rico AETC
University of Puerto Rico
Medical Sciences Campus
GPO 36-5067 Rm. A-956
San Juan, P.R. 00936-5067

Phone: 787- 759-6528 (D. Gely)
Fax: 787-764-2470

Phone: 787-756-7931(A. Bravo)
Fax: 787-764-4951

New Ryan White Grantees

Title IV Grant for Adolescent Services

Rafael Pagan, M.D., HIV Program Coordinator
Puerto Rico CONCRA
Calle Pelegrina #989
Rio Piedras, P.R. 00925

Phone: 787-753-9443
Fax: 787-753-2894

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1999

Mr. José F. Colón
Coordinator
Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana
C-1 Ronda, Villa Andalucía
San Juan, PR 00926-2301

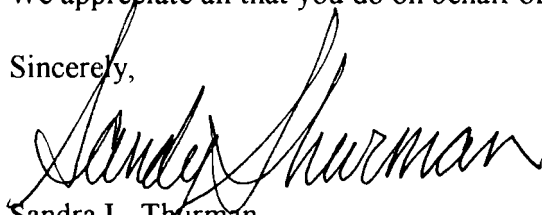
Dear Mr. Colón:

Thank you for your letter regarding recent developments in Puerto Rico. We are committed to ensuring that funds are appropriately allocated and understand the sense of urgency to improve services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

I am currently working with public health officials and community-based organizations to schedule a trip as soon as possible. I will keep you posted as to when the dates are set.

We appreciate all that you do on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra L. Thurman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" being more prominent and the last name "Thurman" following in a similar style.

Sandra L. Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy

*** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

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CONNECTION ID		
ST. TIME	05/17 14:38	
USAGE T	00'24	
PGS.	1	
RESULT	OK	

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1999

Mr. José F. Colón
Coordinator
Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana
C-1 Ronda, Villa Andalucía
San Juan, PR 00926-2301

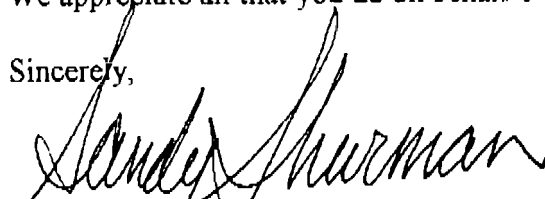
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I am currently working with public health officials and community-based organizations to schedule a trip as soon as possible. I will keep you posted as to when the dates are set.

We appreciate all that you do on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy

urgent

f a c s i m i l e

To: **Ms. Sandra Thurman**

Company:

Fax Number: +1 (202) 456-2438

Business Phone:

From: **Jose F. Colon/A. Fonseca**

Fax Number: +1 (787) 283-8623

Business Phone:

Home Phone:

Pages: 3

Date/Time: 5/12/99 8:19:04 PM

Subject: Potential San Juan AIDS Crisis

Please reply ASAP.

Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana

C-1 Ronda, Villa Andalucía, San Juan, PR 00926-2301

Tel. (787) 246-4718 - (787) 283-8623

May 12, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National Aids Policy
The White House
Washington DC

Dear Ms. Thurman:

First of all I want to thank you for the steps that you have taken so far in regards of establishing communication with those that fight for HIV/AIDS patients rights in Puerto Rico. Our struggle has been, and is, very uphill and intense because of all the ramifications that fighting this illness have taken in the past years in the island.

The San Juan Aids Institute scandal has not helped our quest. A state of distrust has emerged by the actions of those that unscrupulously stole money destined to fighting HIV/AIDS. Community based organizations have been affected by this distrust, as well as services rendered to patients. That is the main reason for us wanting the much needed audits that were never done during the lapse of time in which the embezzlement occurred. That is why we need for these organizations to open their books, so that money destined to services can be accounted for, and the donations from different sources can continue without questioning the real use of their destination. We have asked and will welcome an audit from the General Accounting Office, GAO.

In regards to auditing, we also want human resources audited. We have seen many people making the fight against HIV/AIDS their income source. We must be reassured that those that work day by day are totally committed to seeing the end of this terrible epidemic someday soon.

In other matters, it is important that we study the possible effects of the Health Reform that is currently under way in Puerto Rico. As a matter of fact, and sad to say, this reform was originally designed by the principal person accused of embezzling money at the San Juan Aids Institute: Mr. Yamil Kouri.

This reform is affecting institutions that offer aid to HIV/AIDS patients, including "Centro Latinoamericano de Enfermedades de Transmisión Sexual", "C.L.E.T.S."

Today I had a chance, as a patient and as an activist to sit down with Dr. Hermes García, C.L.E.T.S. Medical Director, and in our conversation he pinpointed out some of the needs that the center has today, (when I entered the reception room there were about sixty people sitting down in a closed room without air conditioning), amongst them: the need of at least one more full time doctor, (they are working with two full time and three part time doctors only), to take care of 2,400 HIV/AIDS patients and about 40 to 50 sexually transmittable disease patients per day.

They also need more clerical employees, (there are only two), to help with records, a nutritionist, (there is not one), a health educator, and an administrator, because neither of these positions are covered.

All of this with the extra dilemma of possibly having to absorb the whole clientele of the Carolina's CDT (Center for Diagnostics and Treatment) which is going to be closed soon. A rumor is also going around that C.L.E.T.S. will be relocated in order to establish a trauma center. All of this is happening while every day they are getting new HIV patients, specially youngsters and females. Dr. García told me that the hospice for terminally ill patients had been recently closed down too. Evidently the panorama is not at all good. We need help.

In this respect, I asked Dr. García if it would be OK, that if you decided to visit Puerto Rico, we could visit C.L.E.T.S. with you. He immediately agreed.

That is why today I am inviting you to schedule a visit to Puerto Rico in your agenda. I insist, we need your help. If this is the outlook at the main center of services for HIV/AIDS patients under the Department of Health, who can imagine what the rest of the centers' services are like?

Please respond to this invitation ASAP. Your acceptance is urged, due to how critical the situation seems to be. The quality of work can be improved and the continuity of the fight against HIV/AIDS can be reassured with a boost in areas such as outreach and prevention. Ryan White funds must be audited after being allocated. We do not want what has happened to ever happen again.

Thank you.

José F. Colón
Coordinator

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. form	re: Travel authorization [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	05/03/1999	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National AIDS Policy Office
Sandra Thurman
OA/Box Number: 40014

FOLDER TITLE:

Puerto Rico

2018-0764-F
jm2018

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICIAL TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION
(Privacy Act Statement on back)

1. TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION NO. TA004934		2. DATE 05/03/99	
3. TYPE OF TRAVEL ☒ Official ☐ Relocation ☐ Mixed ☐ Political ☐ Invitational (Non EOP Employees Only) ☐ Amendment (Show items amended) ☐ Funded by Non-Federal Sources			
4. TRAVELER (First name, middle initial, last name) SANDRA L. THURMAN		[001]	
5. TITLE OF TRAVELER DIRECTOR, AIDS POLICY		6. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (b)(6)	
7. AGENCY 736 Jackson Place		8. DIVISION OPD	
9. OFFICE PHONE 395-1441		10. OFFICIAL DUTY STATION WASHINGTON, DC	
11. ☒ Per Diem ☐ Actual Subsistence (unusual circumstances)* Rate(s):			
12. TRAVEL INFORMATION PURPOSE: Participating in meetings with local government officials regarding their progress in combating their increasing rates of AIDS incidence. DATE(S): Travel Begin On 5/14/1999 Travel End On 5/16/1999 ITINERARY: (Point of Origin/Place(s) of Official Visitation/Point of Return) From: Washington, DC To: SAN JUAN & USN RES, PR 150/ 70 To: To: To: To: Return to: Washington, DC			
13. MODE OF TRAVEL ☒ Commercial Air ☐ Private Vehicle 0 000 Mileage Rate ☐ Rail ☐ Military Air ☐ Government Owned Vehicle ☒ Other (specify)			
14. SPECIAL EXPENSE AUTHORIZED ☐ Registration Fees (meeting, training, etc.) ☐ Commercial Rental Car ☐ Excess Baggage not to exceed ☐ Other (Please identify)		15. ESTIMATED COST Per Diem/Lodging \$ 300.00 Per Diem/M&IE 175.00 Transportation 444.00 Rental Car 0.00 Miscellaneous 0.00 TOTAL \$ 919.00 16. ADVANCE REQUESTED (meals and miscellaneous expenses only) \$ 0.00	
17. * SPECIAL PROVISIONS/REMARKS (Justification for first class/business/extra fare travel, annual leave enroute, actual subsistence, etc.) Earlier Sunday connecting flight into Reagan-National Airport taken to arrive in Washington for evening event.			
18. ACCOUNTING DATA (Appropriation, division, project, vendor number)			
19. REQUESTED BY [Signature] Dep Director		20. I certify the travel herein was reviewed and determined to be essential for the accomplishment of agency programs and missions in the most economical means available. Approval Official (Signature and Title)	
21. Funds are available to defray travel cost specified above Funds Manager's Certification (Signature)			

OA FORM 22

REVISED JUNE 1994

1. Original (Return with voucher)

4. Teleticketing Office

2. FMD copy

5. Funds Manager copy

3. Advance of funds

6. Travelers copy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

From: Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
(202) 456-2437

Date: May 3, 1999

Re: Travel Authorization – San Juan, Puerto Rico – 5/14-16, 1999 - TA004934

This TA requests authorization for me to travel to Puerto Rico from Friday, May 14 – Sunday, May 16.

Puerto Rico has a rate of AIDS cases that is 38 percent higher than the National rate, while they continue to combat social and class barriers to accessing treatment, care and employ prevention efforts. I will be attending meetings with local government officials to talk about their current efforts to curb the effects of the epidemic and next steps with an emphasis particular to their populations.

This visit is particularly important, as I have not traveled to Puerto Rico, nor met with any of their representatives since my appointment. Participation in these meetings will help not only to share information on the Administration's progress, but to give the Office of National AIDS Policy a sense of where we need to move in dealing with Puerto Rico's unique situation in the epidemic.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

SarahEASYLINK 3282399S001 29APR99 10:11/10:12 EST
FROM: 52029150AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL
TO: 2024562439SALES PERSON: 47
CUSTOMER NBR: 1695000023

ITINERARY

TTSFKL

DATE: 29 APR 99
PAGE: 01

TO: MS SANDY THURMAN

FOR: THURMAN/SANDY MS

14 MAY 99 - FRIDAY

AIR AMERICAN AIRLINES FLT:1135 COACH
LV WASHINGTON DULLES 705AAR SAN JUAN PR 1041A
ARRIVE: TERMINAL DBREAKFAST
EQP: BOEING 727-200
03HR 36MIN
NON-STOP
REF: TTSFKL

15 MAY 99 - SUNDAY

AIR AMERICAN AIRLINES FLT:1550 ECONOMY
LV SAN JUAN PR 1120ADEPART: TERMINAL D
AR MIAMI INTERNTNL 205PLUNCH
EQP: BOEING 757
02HR 45MIN
NON-STOP
REF: TTSFKLAIR AMERICAN AIRLINES FLT:604 ECONOMY
LV MIAMI INTERNTNL 310PAR WASHINGTON REAGAN 535P
ARRIVE: TERMINAL B/CEQP: SUPER 80
02HR 26MIN
NON-STOP
REF: TTSFKL

26 OCT 99 - TUESDAY

OTHER WASHINGTON
HAVE A GREAT TRIP

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SALES PERSON: 47
CUSTOMER NBR: 1695000023

ITINERARY

TTSFKL

DATE: 29 APR 99
PAGE: 02

TO: MS SANDY THURMAN

FOR: THURMAN/SANDY MS

. TOTAL AIR FARE USD444.40
AIR FARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CALL FOR CORRECT
FARE BEFORE PROCESSING TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION.
. SECURITY ALERT INFORMATION
DUE TO THE FAA MANDATED INCREASE IN AIRPORT SECURITY
YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION
AT AIRPORT CHECKIN.

FOR AFTER HOUR EMERGENCIES
CALL 800-847-0242/YOUR HOTLINE CODE IS S-KC52

. REMINDER
ALL FREQUENT FLYER BENEFITS EARNED ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL
ARE THE SOLE PROPERTY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND CANNOT
BE REDEEMED FOR PERSONAL USE.

. ALL UNUSED TICKETS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO AMERICAN
EXPRESS OR YOUR TRAVEL COORDINATOR IMMEDIATELY UPON
RETURN FROM TRAVEL OR WHEN TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELED.

. THANK YOU FOR TRAVELING WITH AMERICAN EXPRESS.

**TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR
SANDRA THURMAN
May 13- May 16**

Thursday, May 13

PM

Arrival to Luis Muñoz Airport.

Flight # _____ Airline _____

Taxi to Hotel _____

Friday, May 14

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Transportation from the Hotel to the Department of Health

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM

Briefing at the Department of Health: Dr. Janice Ferrer, Undersecretary of Health for Prevention, and Dr. Orlando López, Director PASET.

9:45 AM - 10:15 AM

Transportation to a State Immunology Clinic (in Bayamon)

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Visit to the Immunology Clinic

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Transportation to the Senate

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Lunch with Senator Kenneth McClintock

PM

Meeting with Secretary Carmen Feliciano

PM

Meeting at the Department of Justice

Saturday, May 15

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Transportation to ICIS (Community Based Organization)

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Visit to the Community Based Organization ICIS

Sunday, May 16

Departure from Luis Muñoz Marín Airport



Dando SALUD...
a tu Vida.

February 24, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
808 19th St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Thurman:

I would like to invite you to visit Puerto Rico in order to brief you and your staff of the Government of Puerto Rico's efforts to combat the AIDS epidemic on the Island and to discuss with you our primary areas of concern regarding this epidemic.

As you know, Puerto Rico is a high AIDS incidence jurisdiction. Even though, we have achieved a dramatic decrease in the number of new AIDS cases - a reduction of 70 percent in the last six years - the rate of all AIDS cases in Puerto Rico is 38 percent higher than the National rate. We have also seen a decline in the number of new pediatric AIDS cases, a goal which Governor Pedro Rosselló, a pediatrician himself, has placed as one of the main priorities of his Administration and even with the progress achieved in the last six years, I am sure you will agree that much more can be done.

Puerto Rico's health system has unique characteristic which create special circumstances and challenges in our efforts to fight the AIDS epidemic. Puerto Rico currently receives federal funding under the Ryan White Care Act in the struggle against this epidemic. The AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Affairs Program (PASET for its Spanish acronym), a branch of the Puerto Rico Department of Health, manages these funds. In turn, PASET provides prevention and treatment activities to the general population.

During your trip, I hope to share with you the Governor's views on how to improve the services PASET provides. I hope you will be able to accept this invitation during which we can discuss matters of importance to residents of Puerto Rico with AIDS. I have asked Rosario Méndez, Legislative Counsel at the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration - the Governor's Office in Washington, D.C. to help in coordination of possible dates for your visit. You may contact her at (202) 778-0743. Of course, you may contact me directly with any questions you may have. I look forward to meeting you here on the Island at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Carmen Feliciano de Melecio, M.D.
Secretary of Health

c: Fred Duvall
Jeff Farrow



OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: (202) 456-2437

May 11, 1999 (7:13 PM)

POSTPONEMENT OF TRIP TO PUERTO RICO

Washington, DC – The Office of National AIDS Policy announced yesterday that its Director, Sandra Thurman, has postponed an upcoming trip to Puerto Rico, which had been scheduled for May 14 to 16.

Ms. Thurman stated, “I have made this decision because the brevity of the trip would not have allowed enough time to meet with people living with HIV/AIDS, community groups and public health officials. In recognition of the critical role that community-based organizations have in addressing HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico—as they do elsewhere—it is important that I have time to hear from them directly on how we might improve services to people living with HIV/AIDS.”

##30##



OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
Keith Mason	Sandy Thurman
COMPANY:	DATE:
	May 24, 1999
FAX NUMBER:	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:
404-527-4198	2
PHONE NUMBER:	
RE:	

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

FYI.

736 Jackson Place
Washington, DC 20503
(202) 456-2437
(202) 456-2438 (fax)

*** TX REPORT ***

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OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: **Keith Mason**

FROM: **Sandy Thurman**

COMPANY:

DATE: **May 24, 1999**

FAX NUMBER:
404-527-4198

*TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:
2

PHONE NUMBER:

RE:

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

FYI.

LONG ALDRIDGE & NORMAN^{LLP}

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

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LONG ALDRIDGE & NORMAN LLP
SUITE 5300
303 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.
ATLANTA, GA. 30308
(404) 527-4000
(404) 527-4198 FAX
ATLANTA@LANLAW.COM

TO:	Sandy Thurman	FAX NUMBER:	202-456-2439
COMPANY:	White House Office of AIDS Policy	RECIPIENT'S PHONE NUMBER:	202-456-2437
FROM:	Keith Mason	SENDER'S PHONE NUMBER:	404-527-4930
DATE:	May 24, 1999		
NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER):	3		
MESSAGE:			

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

NRA saddles 'em up

First lady Chelsea, sour Apple, blooming patriot, candidate LaFontaine

BY PAUL BEDARD

The first National Rifle Association fund-raising letter since the Colorado high school shootings began arriving in homes last week with a rallying cry to gun owners: Take on Congress, the White House, and the media. Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president of the lobby headed by Charlton Heston, warns: "Time is short. . . . I am counting on you, as a gun owner and as a patriotic, law-abiding American, to accept your place in the history of freedom by joining the NRA." He especially wants to target the media. "Instead of doing their homework, and giving the American people the real facts about guns and crime, the national media has simply repeated the lies put forth by the gun-ban lobby!" To encourage folks to join, he included a \$10-off coupon toward the annual dues of \$35.

Bait and switch

The some 500,000 people who suffer from chronic fatigue syndrome have some dispiriting news. Last year, the acting head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention testified that more than \$17 million had been spent over three years on finding a cure for the debilitating disease. But an inspector general's report found that just \$10 million was used over four years. Some of the rest was shifted into research on measles, herpes, and polio. Rep. John Edward Porter, head of the House Appropriations subcommittee that funds the CDC, doesn't appreciate the bait-and-switch tactic. "We consider

lying to Congress a very serious matter," he tells our Gary Cohen. "If the CDC thinks there is a better way to spend the money, they should tell us, not lie to us." The CDC has promised no more games.

First kid

If first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton takes the plunge and runs for the Senate in New York, who's going to mind the house? First kid Chelsea, suggest boosters. They say the Stanford University sophomore could occasionally fill in as first lady, and she might even like it. White House insiders, however, tell our Kenneth T. Walsh that there's a

downside: Playing such a visible role would encourage the media to peel back the veil of privacy surrounding Chelsea. Still, it beats a summer of flipping hamburgers at McDonald's.

Sour Apple

Look who's not on board a bipartisan bid to give tax credits to firms that donate used computers to classrooms—school-friendly Apple Computer. While the industry's trade group backs the initiative sponsored by Sens. Spencer Abraham, a Michigan Republican, and Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, Apple publicly remains on the fence, says a

spokesperson. Behind the scenes, industry insiders say the company is fighting the provision because it would eat into their school sales. Ironically, Apple has moved into classrooms through charitable programs such as that of Washington, D.C.-based Giant Food, in which schools trade supermarket receipts for Apple products.

New guy's rules

New Gore campaign honcho Tony Coelho is shaking up the veep's crowd with his maverick but winning style. First, say insiders, he has ignored demands for attention from House Democrats who feel overlooked. Instead, he spent his first week reaching outside the beltway to mayors, governors, and Democratic delegates. "We're not Capitol Hill-centric," says an aide. Next, he has put out word that Democratic fund-raising magician Terrence McAuliffe isn't guaranteed to be the chairman of the Democratic National Convention, despite earlier indications.

Act up, act now

AIDS activists have formed an unusual alliance of Republicans and the president's AIDS czar to review federal spending on the disease in reaction to a funding embezzlement case that threatens to tarnish Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign chairman in Puerto Rico, Gov. Pedro Rosselló. At the request of ACT UP, AIDS czar Sandra Thurman killed a trip to visit Rosselló last week because it looked too much like a photo op. She wants to reschedule the trip so that it includes



The NRA's Charlton Heston rounds up gun owners to fight the media.

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

meetings with activists watching the case, which involves the diversion of federal AIDS money to island political leaders. ACT UP has also persuaded House GOP leaders to have the General Accounting Office determine if AIDS dollars provided to organizations around the country have been siphoned off for improper uses.

Mayday

Navy rank and file are flashing distress calls to the Pentagon. Teams recently dispatched to bases around the nation have returned with reports full of morale and training complaints, a troubling sign as President Clinton moves to expand U.S. military participation in the Kosovo crisis. One team recently visited the Pensacola Naval Hospital in Florida and reported that "men and women felt strongly that 'military bearing and discipline is gone' and that both need to be re-emphasized especially in boot camp." Also, "Across the ranks there is a general perception that the military is not concerned for its people."

Murphy Brown II

Former Vice President Dan Quayle returns to the site of his famous *Murphy Brown* speech on family values to promise that as president he will eliminate legal hurdles to school prayer and values education. In San Francisco Wednesday, Quayle plans to accuse the legal establishment of undermining education by blocking religion in classrooms. "He will even name names of the legal elites who have waged a battle to drive religion and faith from schools," says an aide.

Blooming patriot

Jackson & Perkins, the rose company, is readying a new bud that will commemorate veterans. The fragrant red rose will be unveiled Memorial Day weekend at Arlington

"I guess if you start at the bottom there is only one way to go, right?"

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley, in a radio interview with Don Imus, explaining his uphill fight with Vice President Al Gore.



"I didn't even consider it. What would I have done in Washington with Jimmy at home?"

Rosanna Carter on Democratic efforts to have her run for the Senate after his loss in re-election.

"We really like your president."

Johnny Chung, former Democratic vice-presidential pick, quipping about Clinton's approval.

"Some expect me to be the second coming, and the next."

George Lucas on the expectations for his new movie, Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace.

National Cemetery, says spokesman Bill Ihle. "It will have a patriotic veterans' theme," he says. The firm is looking at other political flowers. Says Ihle, "It's a blooming issue for us, but it occasionally gets thorny."

Political insider

Political junkies have a new—and free—place to get their info on the Internet. The site, <http://politicalinsider.com>, is

an easy-to-navigate page that you can use to collect the day's news, read jokes, and register to vote.

Dog-faced president

Add Gary LaFontaine to the list of Republicans running for president. Gary who? you ask. Among anglers, LaFontaine is a fly-fishing god who has turned his passion for books and trout into a popular catalog business out of Helena,

Mont. In the latest "Book Mailer," LaFontaine announces his write-in bid and also asks voters to back his running mate, pet dog Chester. But can a dog be president? "He's loyal, he's mute, and he's neutered. Wouldn't these be refreshing qualities for a president?"

Heard a Whimper?

Call: (202) 955-2696

E-mail: whispers@usnews.com

urgent

f a c s i m i l e

To: **Ms. Sandra Thurman**

Company:

Fax Number: +1 (202) 456-2439

Business Phone:

From: **Jose F. Colon/A. Fonseca**

Fax Number: +1 (787) 283-8623

Business Phone:

Home Phone:

Pages: 2

Date/Time: 5/22/99 2:01:49 PM

Subject: Possible conflict with San Jaun AIDS Institute trial verdict.

Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana

Calle Ronda C-1, Villa Andalucía, San Juan, P.R. 00926

Tel. (787) 246-4718 - (787) 283-8623



May 22, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National Aids Policy
The White House
Washington DC

Dear Ms. Thurman:

Thank you very much for your recent letter where you expressed your plans of coming to Puerto Rico to meet with Health Officials and Community Based Organizations.

Even though the San Juan Aids Institute trial is not over we are planning a possible visit to Washington in the near future, hopefully for the meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and its Subcommittees on June 7th and 8th. We fear that the ending of the trial may coincide with these dates, in which case we plan to send a written deposition to the Council.

In this scenario we would schedule our visit to Washington as soon as the trial ends, meaning mid or later June. Keeping this in mind, we would appreciate that, if by then your arrangements and plans to visit Puerto Rico are not set, you could receive us.

Besides discussing plans for future accountability of funds destined to CBO's on the island, we would like to discuss certain matters of the Health Reform that is being implemented in Puerto Rico. These are directly related to HIV/AIDS patients and their treatments.

We are grateful for your decision of postponing your trip. We think that now your visit will be framed within the proper scope: understanding, through direct contact, the essential needs of HIV/AIDS patients on the island. We are avidly waiting for the moment in which we will meet.

Thank you, so very much.

José F. Colón
Coordinator

urgent

f a c s i m i l e

To: **Ms. Sandra Thurman**

Company:

Fax Number: +1 (202) 456-2439

Business Phone:

From: **Jose F. Colon/A. Fonseca**

Fax Number: +1 (787) 283-8623

Business Phone:

Home Phone:

Pages: 2

Date/Time: 5/22/99 1:46:10 PM

Subject: Meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

If this fax is incomplete please call.
Thank you.

Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana

Calle Ronda C-1, Villa Andaluca, San Juan, P.R. 00926

Tel. (787) 246-4718 - (787) 283-8623



May 22, 1999

Mr. Daniel C. Montoya
Executive Director
Presidential Advisory Council
Office of National Aids Policy
Washington DC

Dear Sir:

"Pacientes de Sida pro Política Sana", (AIDS Patients for Sane Polices), an HIV, PWA'S, family and friends, community based organization in San Juan , Puerto Rico, formally requests the meeting's agenda and roster of the committee members of the upcoming meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS to be held at the Radisson-Barcelo Hotel in Washington DC, on June 7th and 8th.

We would like to know if it is possible for our organization to present a deposition on current issues on the island, including the San Juan Aids Scandal, its repercussions in HIV/AIDS funding, Puerto Rico's Health Reform impact on HIV/AIDS, and others. Please let us know ASAP if this can be arranged.

Thank you very much.

José F. Colón
Coordinator

cc:
Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National Aids Policy
The White House

urgent

f a c s i m i l e

To: **Ms. Sandra Thurman**

Company:

Fax Number: +1 (202) 456-2439

Business Phone:

From: **Jose F. Colon/A. Fonseca**

Fax Number: +1 (787) 283-8623

Business Phone:

Home Phone:

Pages: 2

Date/Time: 5/22/99 2:01:49 PM

Subject: Possible conflict with San Jaun AIDS Institute trial verdict.

Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana

Calle Ronda C-1, Villa Andaluca, San Juan, P.R. 00926

Tel. (787) 246-4718 - (787) 283-8623



May 22, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National Aids Policy
The White House
Washington DC

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Thank you, so very much.

José F. Colón
Coordinator

LONG ALDRIDGE & NORMAN^{LLP}

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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LONG ALDRIDGE & NORMAN LLP
SUITE 5300
303 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.
ATLANTA, GA. 30308
(404) 527-4000
(404) 527-4198 FAX
ATLANTA@LANLAW.COM

TO: Sandy Thurman

FAX NUMBER: 202-456-2439

COMPANY: White House Office of AIDS Policy

RECIPIENT'S
PHONE
NUMBER: 202-456-2437

FROM: Keith Mason

SENDER'S PHONE
NUMBER: 404-527-4930

DATE: May 24, 1999

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 3

MESSAGE:

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

NRA saddles 'em up

First lady Chelsea, sour Apple, blooming patriot, candidate LaFontaine

BY PAUL BEDARD

The first National Rifle Association fund-raising letter since the Colorado high school shootings began arriving in homes last week with a rallying cry to gun owners: Take on Congress, the White House, and the media. Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president of the lobby headed by Charlton Heston, warns: "Time is short. . . . I am counting on you, as a gun owner and as a patriotic, law-abiding American, to accept your place in the history of freedom by joining the NRA." He especially wants to target the media. "Instead of doing their homework, and giving the American people the real facts about guns and crime, the national media has simply repeated the lies put forth by the gun-ban lobby!" To encourage folks to join, he included a \$10-off coupon toward the annual dues of \$35.

Bait and switch

The some 500,000 people who suffer from chronic fatigue syndrome have some dispiriting news. Last year, the acting head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention testified that more than \$17 million had been spent over three years on finding a cure for the debilitating disease. But an inspector general's report found that just \$10 million was used over four years. Some of the rest was shifted into research on measles, herpes, and polio. Rep. John Edward Porter, head of the House Appropriations subcommittee that funds the CDC, doesn't appreciate the bait-and-switch tactic. "We consider

lying to Congress a very serious matter," he tells our Gary Cohen. "If the CDC thinks there is a better way to spend the money, they should tell us, not lie to us." The CDC has promised no more games.

First kid

If first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton takes the plunge and runs for the Senate in New York, who's going to mind the house? First kid Chelsea, suggest boosters. They say the Stanford University sophomore could occasionally fill in as first lady and she might even like it. White House insiders, however, tell our Kenneth T. Walsh that there's a

downside: Playing such a visible role would encourage the media to peel back the veil of privacy surrounding Chelsea. Still, it beats a summer of flipping hamburgers at McDonald's.

Sour Apple

Look who's not on board a bipartisan bid to give tax credits to firms that donate used computers to classrooms—school-friendly Apple Computer. While the industry's trade group backs the initiative sponsored by Sens. Spencer Abraham, a Michigan Republican, and Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, Apple publicly remains on the fence, says a

spokesperson. Behind the scenes, industry insiders say the company is fighting the provision because it would eat into their school sales. Ironically, Apple has moved into classrooms through charitable programs such as that of Washington, D.C.-based Giant Food, in which schools trade supermarket receipts for Apple products.

New guy's rules

New Gore campaign honcho Tony Coelho is shaking up the veep's crowd with his maverick but winning style. First, say insiders, he has ignored demands for attention from House Democrats who feel overlooked. Instead, he spent his first week reaching outside the beltway to mayors, governors, and Democratic delegates. "We're not Capitol Hill-centric," says an aide. Next, he has put out word that Democratic fund-raising magician Terrence McAuliffe isn't guaranteed to be the chairman of the Democratic National Convention, despite earlier indications.

Act up, act now

AIDS activists have formed an unusual alliance of Republicans and the president's AIDS czar to review federal spending on the disease in reaction to a funding embezzlement case that threatens to tarnish Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign chairman in Puerto Rico, Gov. Pedro Rosselló. At the request of ACT UP, AIDS czar Sandra Thurman killed a trip to visit Rosselló last week because it looked too much like a photo op. She wants to reschedule the trip so that it includes



The NRA's Charlton Heston rounds up gun owners to fight the media.

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

meetings with activists watching the case, which involves the diversion of federal AIDS money to island political leaders. ACT UP has also persuaded House GOP leaders to have the General Accounting Office determine if AIDS dollars provided to organizations around the country have been siphoned off for improper uses.

Mayday

Navy rank and file are flashing distress calls to the Pentagon. Teams recently dispatched to bases around the nation have returned with reports full of morale and training complaints, a troubling sign as President Clinton moves to expand U.S. military participation in the Kosovo crisis. One team recently visited the Pensacola Naval Hospital in Florida and reported that "men and women felt strongly that 'military bearing and discipline is gone' and that both need to be re-emphasized especially in boot camp." Also, "Across the ranks there is a general perception that the military is not concerned for its people."

Murphy Brown II

Former Vice President Dan Quayle returns to the site of his famous *Murphy Brown* speech on family values to promise that as president he will eliminate legal hurdles to school prayer and values education. In San Francisco Wednesday, Quayle plans to accuse the legal establishment of undermining education by blocking religion in classrooms. "He will even name names of the legal elites who have waged a battle to drive religion and faith from schools," says an aide.

Blooming patriot

Jackson & Perkins, the rose company, is readying a new bud that will commemorate veterans. The fragrant red rose will be unveiled Memorial Day weekend at Arlington

"I guess if you start at the bottom there is only one way to go, right?"

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley, in a radio interview with Don Imus, explaining his uphill fight with Vice President Al Gore



"I didn't even consider it. What would I have done in Washington with Jimmy at home?"

Joseph P. Sartori, Democratic candidate for governor of New York, and his wife, Sarah, at a campaign event.

"We really like your president."

Johnny Chung, former Democratic candidate for governor of New York, and his wife, Mary, at a campaign event.

"Some expect it to be the Second Coming, and the next."

George L. Latham, a former star war correspondent, at a campaign event.

National Cemetery, says spokesman Bill Ihle. "It will have a patriotic veterans' theme," he says. The firm is looking at other political flowers. Says Ihle, "It's a blooming issue for us, but it occasionally gets thorny."

Political insider

Political junkies have a new—and free—place to get their info on the Internet. The site, <http://politicalinsider.com>, is

an easy-to-navigate page that you can use to collect the day's news, read jokes, and register to vote.

Dog-faced president

Add Gary LaFontaine to the list of Republicans running for president. Gary who? you ask. Among anglers, LaFontaine is a fly-fishing god who has turned his passion for books and trout into a popular catalog business out of Helena,

Mont. In the latest "Book Mailer," LaFontaine announces his write-in bid and also asks voters to back his running mate, pet dog Chester. But can a dog be president? "He's loyal, he's mute, and he's neutered. Wouldn't these be refreshing qualities for a president?"

Heard a Whisper?

Call: (202) 955-2695

E-mail: whispers@usnews.com

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. form	re: Travel authorization [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	05/03/1999	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National AIDS Policy Office
Sandra Thurman
OA/Box Number: 40014

FOLDER TITLE:

Puerto Rico

2018-0764-F

jm2018

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICIAL TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION
(Privacy Act Statement on back)

1. TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION NO.
TA004934

2. DATE
05/03/99

3. TYPE OF TRAVEL

- ☒ Official
☐ Relocation
☐ Mixed
☐ Political
- ☐ Invitational
(Non EOP Employees Only)
☐ Amendment
(Show items amended)
☐ Funded by
Non-Federal Sources

4. TRAVELER (First name, middle initial, last name)

SANDRA L. THURMAN

[002]

5. TITLE OF TRAVELER

DIRECTOR, AIDS POLICY

6. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

(b)(6)

7. AGENCY

736 Jackson Plac

8. DIVISION

OPD

9. OFFICE PHONE

395-1441

10. OFFICIAL DUTY STATION

WASHINGTON, DC

11. ☒ Per Diem

☐ Actual Subsistence (unusual circumstances)*
Rate(s):

12. TRAVEL INFORMATION

PURPOSE: Participating in meetings with local government officials regarding their progress in combating their increasing rates of AIDS incidence.

DATE(S): Travel Begin On 5/14/1999

Travel End On 5/16/1999

ITINERARY: (Point of Origin/Place(s) of Official Visitation/Point of Return)

From: Washington, DC

To:
To:
To:
To:
To:

SAN JUAN & USN RES, PR 150/ 70

To:
To:
To:
To:

Return to: Washington, DC

13. MODE OF TRAVEL

☒ Commercial Air

☐ Private Vehicle 0.000 Mileage Rate

☐ Rail

☐ Military Air

☐ Government Owned Vehicle

☒ Other (specify)

14. SPECIAL EXPENSE AUTHORIZED

- ☐ Registration Fees (meeting, training, etc.)
☐ Commercial Rental Car
☐ Excess Baggage not to exceed
☐ Other (Please identify)

15. ESTIMATED COST

	AMOUNT
Per Diem/Lodging	\$ 300.00
Per Diem/M&IE	175.00
Transportation	444.00
Rental Car	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
TOTAL	\$ 919.00
16. ADVANCE REQUESTED (meals and miscellaneous expenses only)	\$ 0.00

17. * SPECIAL PROVISIONS/REMARKS (Justification for first class/business/extra fare travel, annual leave enroute, actual subsistence, etc.)

Earlier Sunday connecting flight into Reagan-National Airport taken to arrive in Washington for evening event.

18. ACCOUNTING DATA (Appropriation, division, project, vendor number)

19. REQUESTED BY

21. Funds are available to defray travel cost specified above
Funds Manager's Certification (Signature)

20. I certify the travel herein was reviewed and determined to be essential for the accomplishment of agency programs and missions in the most economical means available.
Approval Official (Signature and Title)

OA FORM 22

REVISED JUNE 1994

1. Original (Return with voucher) 2. FMD copy 3. Advance of funds
4. Ticketing Office 5. Funds Manager copy 6. Travelers copy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

From: Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
(202) 456-2437

Date: May 3, 1999

Re: Travel Authorization – San Juan, Puerto Rico – 5/14-16, 1999 - TA004934

This TA requests authorization for me to travel to Puerto Rico from Friday, May 14 – Sunday, May 16.

Puerto Rico has a rate of AIDS cases that is 38 percent higher than the National rate, while they continue to combat social and class barriers to accessing treatment, care and employ prevention efforts. I will be attending meetings with local government officials to talk about their current efforts to curb the effects of the epidemic and next steps with an emphasis particular to their populations.

This visit is particularly important, as I have not traveled to Puerto Rico, nor met with any of their representatives since my appointment. Participation in these meetings will help not only to share information on the Administration's progress, but to give the Office of National AIDS Policy a sense of where we need to move in dealing with Puerto Rico's unique situation in the epidemic.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sarah

EASYLINK 3282399S001 29APR99 10:11/10:12 EST
FROM: 62029160
AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL
TO: 2024562439

SALES PERSON: 47
CUSTOMER NBR: 1695000023

ITINERARY

TTSFKL

DATE: 29 APR 99
PAGE: 01

TO: MS SANDY THURMAN

FOR: THURMAN/SANDY MS

14 MAY 99 - FRIDAY

AIR AMERICAN AIRLINES FLT:1135 COACH
LV WASHINGTON DULLES 705A

AR SAN JUAN PR 1041A
ARRIVE: TERMINAL D

BREAKFAST
EQP: BOEING 727-200
03HR 36MIN
NON-STOP
REF: TTSFKL

16 MAY 99 - SUNDAY

AIR AMERICAN AIRLINES FLT:1550 ECONOMY
LV SAN JUAN PR 1120A
DEPART: TERMINAL D
AR MIAMI INTERNTNL 205P

LUNCH
EQP: BOEING 757
02HR 45MIN
NON-STOP
REF: TTSFKL

AIR AMERICAN AIRLINES FLT:604 ECONOMY
LV MIAMI INTERNTNL 310P

AR WASHINGTON REAGAN 535P
ARRIVE: TERMINAL B/C

EQP: SUPER 80
02HR 26MIN
NON-STOP
REF: TTSFKL

26 OCT 99 - TUESDAY

OTHER WASHINGTON
HAVE A GREAT TRIP

SALES PERSON: 47
CUSTOMER NBR: 1695000023

ITINERARY

TTSFKL

DATE: 29 APR 99
PAGE: 02

TO: MS SANDY THURMAN

FOR: THURMAN/SANDY MS

. TOTAL AIR FARE USD444.40
AIR FARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CALL FOR CORRECT
FARE BEFORE PROCESSING TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION.

. SECURITY ALERT INFORMATION
DUE TO THE FAA MANDATED INCREASE IN AIRPORT SECURITY
YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION
AT AIRPORT CHECKIN.

FOR AFTER HOUR EMERGENCIES
CALL 800-847-0242/YOUR HOTLINE CODE IS S-KC52

. REMINDER
ALL FREQUENT FLYER BENEFITS EARNED ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL
ARE THE SOLE PROPERTY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND CANNOT
BE REDEEMED FOR PERSONAL USE.

. ALL UNUSED TICKETS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO AMERICAN
EXPRESS OR YOUR TRAVEL COORDINATOR IMMEDIATELY UPON
RETURN FROM TRAVEL OR WHEN TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELED.

. THANK YOU FOR TRAVELING WITH AMERICAN EXPRESS.

**TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR
SANDRA THURMAN
May 13- May 16**

Thursday, May 13

PM

Arrival to Luis Muñoz Airport.
Flight # _____ Airline _____

Taxi to Hotel _____

Friday, May 14

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Transportation from the Hotel to the Department of Health

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM

Briefing at the Department of Health: Dr. Janice Ferrer,
Undersecretary of Health for Prevention, and Dr. Orlando López,
Director PASET.

9:45 AM - 10:15 AM

Transportation to a State Immunology Clinic (in Bayamon)

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Visit to the Immunology Clinic

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Transportation to the Senate

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Lunch with Senator Kenneth McClintock

PM

Meeting with Secretary Carmen Feliciano

PM

Meeting at the Department of Justice

Saturday, May 15

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Transportation to ICIS (Community Based Organization)

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Visit to the Community Based Organization ICIS

Sunday, May 16

Departure from Luis Muñoz Marín Airport



Dando SALUD...
a tu Vida.

February 24, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
808 19th St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Thurman:

I would like to invite you to visit Puerto Rico in order to brief you and your staff of the Government of Puerto Rico's efforts to combat the AIDS epidemic on the Island and to discuss with you our primary areas of concern regarding this epidemic.

As you know, Puerto Rico is a high AIDS incidence jurisdiction. Even though, we have achieved a dramatic decrease in the number of new AIDS cases - a reduction of 70 percent in the last six years - the rate of all AIDS cases in Puerto Rico is 38 percent higher than the National rate. We have also seen a decline in the number of new pediatric AIDS cases, a goal which Governor Pedro Rosselló, a pediatrician himself, has placed as one of the main priorities of his Administration and even with the progress achieved in the last six years, I am sure you will agree that much more can be done.

Puerto Rico's health system has unique characteristics which create special circumstances and challenges in our efforts to fight the AIDS epidemic. Puerto Rico currently receives federal funding under the Ryan White Care Act in the struggle against this epidemic. The AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Affairs Program (PASET for its Spanish acronym), a branch of the Puerto Rico Department of Health, manages these funds. In turn, PASET provides prevention and treatment activities to the general population.

During your trip, I hope to share with you the Governor's views on how to improve the services PASET provides. I hope you will be able to accept this invitation during which we can discuss matters of importance to residents of Puerto Rico with AIDS. I have asked Rosario Méndez, Legislative Counsel at the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration - the Governor's Office in Washington, D.C. to help in coordination of possible dates for your visit. You may contact her at (202) 778-0743. Of course, you may contact me directly with any questions you may have. I look forward to meeting you here on the Island at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Carmen Feliciano de Molecio, M.D.
Secretary of Health

c: Fred Duvall
Jeff Farrow

Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration
1100 Seventeenth St., N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 778-0738
Fax (202) 822-4522

FAX TRANSMITTAL

703/
522-7514

TO: Sarah Hollinsley
From: Rosario Mendez
Fax Number: 202 456-2439
Subject: Sandra Thurman's trip to PR
Number of Pages: 2
Date: April 26

Comments:

Please find attached a preliminary agenda for Mrs. Thurman for her trip to PR. I will be accompanying her during her stay in PR. You can reach me at (202) 778-0743. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rosario M. Mendez
Legislative Counsel

**TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR
SANDRA THURMAN
May 13- May 16**

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Taxi to Hotel _____

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LV WASHINGTON DULLES 705A

AR SAN JUAN PR 1041A

ARRIVE: TERMINAL D

BREAKFAST

EQP: BOEING 727-200

03HR 36MIN

NON-STOP

REF: TTSFKL

16 MAY 99 - SUNDAY

AIR AMERICAN AIRLINES FLT:1550 ECONOMY
LV SAN JUAN PR 1120A

DEPART: TERMINAL D

AR MIAMI INTERNTNL

205P

LUNCH

EQP: BOEING 757

02HR 45MIN

NON-STOP

REF: TTSFKL

AIR AMERICAN AIRLINES FLT:604 ECONOMY
LV MIAMI INTERNTNL 310P

AR WASHINGTON REAGAN

ARRIVE: TERMINAL B/C

536P

EQP: SUPER 80

02HR 26MIN

NON-STOP

REF: TTSFKL

26 OCT 99 - TUESDAY

OTHER WASHINGTON

HAVE A GREAT TRIP

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SALES PERSON: 47
CUSTOMER NBR: 1695000023

ITINERARY
TTSFKL

DATE: 29 APR 99
PAGE: 02

TO: MS SANDY THURMAN

FOR: THURMAN/SANDY MS

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EXPRESS OR YOUR TRAVEL COORDINATOR IMMEDIATELY UPON
RETURN FROM TRAVEL OR WHEN TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELED.

. THANK YOU FOR TRAVELING WITH AMERICAN EXPRESS.

TONIO BURGOS & ASSOCIATES, INC.

called, said thanks,
asked for info. on
CONF.

Tonio Burgos
President

909 Third Avenue
18th Floor
New York, NY 10022

212-453-3723
Office

212-644-3601
Facsimile

May 24, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of Aids Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Sandy:

What can one say to a true friend and a sister, but thank you for who you are and what you do.

I look forward to hosting your trip to Puerto Rico when you are ready. I would suggest that you consider mid-October, 10/13 – 10/16, 1999. It is the Annual Conference of the National Puerto Rican Conference.

Sincerely,



Tonio Burgos
President

urgent

f a c s i m i l e

To: **Ms. Sandra Thurman**

Company:

Fax Number: +1 (202) 456-2439

Business Phone:

From: **Jose F. Colon/A. Fonseca**

Fax Number: +1 (787) 283-8623

Business Phone:

Home Phone:

Pages: 5

Date/Time: 7/1/99 5:01:28 PM

Subject: AIDS Patients ask for yet another investigation into Ponces health reform.

Please reply ASAP.

Thank you.

Clinton Presidential Records

Foreign Language Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff to identify the location of a document written in a foreign language

Foreign Language Marker

Collection: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup: National AIDS Policy Office

Series: Sandra Thurman

Subseries:

Document Title Comunicado de prensa

Language: Spanish

Folder Title Puerto Rico

OA/ID: 40014

Dear friends and fellow activists:

We are asking your help by fax-zapping the CDT (787) 843-0077 based on the following:

La Fuerza Unida Contra El SIDA, Inc. (FUCES) makes reference to shortcomings in the facilitation of health care services at Centro de Diagnostico y Tratamiento of the Ponce Playa (CDT). FUCES will hold a protest/petition in front of the CDT on Friday, July 2, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. (DST) asking for the resignation of the director and medical director of said institution based on our experiences, along with those of other patients. Since we will have our protest at exactly 10:00 a.m. DST, I suggest that your fax supporting our organization be sent at 10:00 a.m. our time so that it coincides. Some of our concerns are as follows:

As of June 30, 1999 the CDT will not have an experienced physician treating HIV and opportunistic infections. They are probably counting on the services of one infectologist that is already overloaded with work.

The consortium selectively denies services to patients.

Medical records sit on the nursing supervisor's desk without a justifiable reason (including mine).

Medications are not always available and the patient must wait days, sometimes weeks.

We suspect double and triple billing of services, while some services are not being provided.

Patients have complained of harassment and threatened if they speak of deficiencies in the Institution.

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR PARTICIPATION AND/OR COMMENTS by E-MAIL. It will be greatly appreciated. Also, if you have any ideas on how to get these monsters, please advise.

Following is a model of a letter:

Board of Directors
CDT de La Playa de Ponce
216 Avenida Hostos, Ponce Playa
Ponce, PR 00731

Dear members of the Board:

AIDS activism, the policy of taking direct political or social action to achieve a goal, was inspired by the constitutional need to provide essential, available health care services to people living with HIV/AIDS. Through united efforts we have successfully moved the government to enact laws and to push for prompt FDA approval of lifesaving therapies. Still, there remain a lot of work and research to be done before our final goal has been met: total eradication of the virus.

Many opportunistic individuals and organizations, i.e., the recent AIDS Institute scandal, make it a choice to capitalize on the afflicted while others, unknowingly or brutishly, undermine our efforts to improve the quality of life of PWAs. This is why we maintain our solidarity and fully support our sister organization, La Fuerza Unida Contra El SIDA, Inc. (FUCES), in any action it may assume including, without limitation, asking for a criminal investigation and/or prosecution or any motion to move the government to withdraw all funding from institutions that wilfully affect the quality of life of PWAs.

FUCES is asking for the immediate resignation or termination of Mrs. Monserrate Salichs, Dr. Awilda García and Mrs. Eulalia González for reasons of provable recidivist practices that include wilful misconduct, medical neglect, patient harassment, and conflict of interest.

Fred Irizarry
La Fuerza Unida Contra El SIDA, Inc.

June 15, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Office of National AIDS Policy
The White House
Washington DC

Dear Ms. Thurman:

The guilty verdict against Yamil Kouri, Jeannette Sotomayor and Armando Borell in the embezzlement case of \$2.2 millions destined to HIV/AIDS patients treatment and prevention in the San Juan AIDS Institute scandal must serve as an alert to all agencies that handle the proper managing and accountability of HIV/AIDS funds.

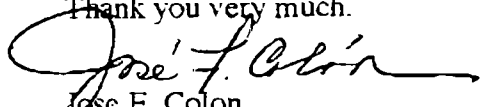
Questions regarding the oversight of auditors and managers of these funds have to be answered, explained and corrected so that this situation is impeded of ever happening again.

Knowing that your office can help remedy the situation and that the steps that you take will directly influence the correction of the gaps that permitted this criminal behavior, we urge that action is immediately taken to guarantee the safe handling of funds that are destined to save lives and stop AIDS.

We expect an interagency coordinated effort to thrust audits and accountability procedures so that we can rest assured that this type of fraud and money laundering is not occurring in CBO's that are still rendering services in Puerto Rico and across the Nation.

We solicit that your office immediately coordinates with the Department of Health in Puerto Rico an open book clarification of the use and management of Ryan White funds in all the organizations that are currently receiving them. This will help the process of cleaning house and will guarantee future grants for programs destined to HIV/AIDS patients.

Thank you very much.



Jose F. Colon
Coordinator
AIDS PATIENTS FOR SANE POLICIES
C-1 Ronda St. Villa Andalucia
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00926
(787) 283-8623 / (787) 246-4718 / (202) 364-2409



Wayne Turner
Coordinator
ACT UP DC
409 H Street NE
Washington, DC. 20002
(202) 547-9404

cc: Ms. Donna Shalala- Secretary of Health
Mr. David Walker- General Accounting Office
Mr. Doug Morgan- Health Resources Services Administration

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power

ACT UP Washington, DC
409 H Street NE
Washington, DC
phone (202) 547-9404
fax (202) 547-9458
www.actupdc.org

July 2, 1999

Ms Sandra Thurman
Director, White House Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms Thurman,

Our meeting on Friday June 18 with representatives from AIDS Patients for Sane Policies is very much appreciated, so thank you, and your assistant Cheryl, for making the arrangements on such short notice.

It is reassuring to know that the issue of AIDS accountability is being addressed by you and your office. We cannot afford to lose these hard fought for dollars through mismanagement, misuse, and outright fraud.

We are very much in agreement that the needs of people with AIDS go beyond merely prescription medicines, and include support services. (Food banks and other nutritional services are in greater demand for example, as a result of the Clinton Administration's welfare 'reform,' where many people living with HIV lost food stamps).

However, bloated bureaucracies and inflated salaries continue to mar the industry of AIDS services (AIDS Inc.). The 'community' planning process continues to be tainted by conflicts of interest.

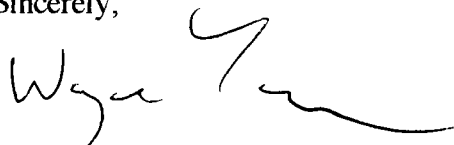
The performance audit by the General Accounting Office will, I'm convinced, provide a useful picture of AIDS funding and the delivery of services. David Walker of the GAO should be keeping your office informed as the audit progresses.

The lack of oversight and accountability, at both the local and federal level, resulted in tragedy for people with AIDS in Puerto Rico. This is not an isolated incident, and other examples have been reported across the country.

When you do visit Puerto Rico, you will find inspiration, (as I did) in patient activists, families, and the service providers who are truly dedicated to their clients. AIDS Patients for Sane Policies has been instrumental in mobilizing the community and standing up for patients' needs.

I'm looking forward to continuing our work on accountability and oversight over federal AIDS programs.

Sincerely,



Wayne Turner

cc: AIDS Patients for Sane Policies
David Walker, General Accounting Office

Suzé Surdyk Jones Interiors

Fax

4170 Paper Mill Road, Marietta, Georgia 30067

Phone: 770.953.2513 Fax: 770.984.9690

To: Ms. Sandy Thurman

Date: 07/07/99

Fax:

Page:

● **Comments:**

Sorry, to keep bugging you. Just got a note from one of the guys who went to Georgetown and called to see what was up.

They said they have had more acceptances in the first group than ever before and that there will be very few from the waiting list to get in. So we are really in Creative mode. So don't give up if there is anything that comes up before the 15th all help will be needed.! It will be a really really long shot at this point.

Not good news. Thanks for your help.

urgent

f a c s i m i l e

To: **Ms. Sandra Thurman**
Company:
Fax Number: +1 (202) 456-2439
Business Phone:

From: **Jose F. Colon/A. Fonseca**
Fax Number: +1 (787) 283-8623
Business Phone:
Home Phone:

Pages: 2
Date/Time: 8/5/99 12:23:17 PM
Subject: Your visit to Puerto Rico.

We need you here ASAP.

Ivan Zaboian
624-1233

Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana, Inc.

Calle Ronda C-1, Villa Andalucía, San Juan, P.R. 00926

Tel. (787) 283-8623

August 5, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National Aids Policy
The White House

Dear Ms. Thurman:

First of all I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for having received us in your office. We know that our message was heard and that measures will be taken to remedy the situation that has occurred in Puerto Rico with the embezzlement of federal funds at the San Juan Aids Institute.

I call on you now so that you try to expedite your visit to the island. These last few days we have had another indictment of a lawyer that served as the administrator of the San Juan AIDS Task Force. Her name is Sonia Torres Villanueva. With her there is another man accused, Juan Carlos Suazo, who is currently being searched for by the Interpol. Both are accused of embezzling thousands of dollars.

Another rumor is around in regards of other indictments at a pediatric AIDS institution. As you may know, other several indictments are still pending in relation to the San Juan Aids Institute scandal as well.

Since we visited you the vice-president of the House of Representatives, José Granados Navedo, had to leave his post after being accused of receiving over \$200,000 of HIV/AIDS funds for his electoral campaign.

On August 31 the hearing for probable cause will be held for Torres at a San Juan court. On September 30 the sentence will be read for the three persons convicted at the Institute. And finally, on October 18, the second part of the San Juan Aids Institute trial will start at the Federal Court.

We need your help. A visit of yours at any of these dates would serve as a remedy to the deterioration that is happening here. It would be an alert to stop once and for all the leniency of authorities in regards to HIV/AIDS funds accountability. Please try to come ASAP.

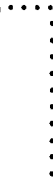
We hope that all is well.

Thank you.



Coordinator

F A X



To: +1 (202) 456-2438
Company:
Fax number: +1 (202) 456-2438
Business phone:

From: Jose F. Colon/A. Fonseca
Fax number: +1 (787) 283-8623
Business phone:
Home phone:

Date & Time: 8/31/99 10:26:02 AM
Pages: 2
Re:

Local News

S.J. mayor committed to bring Rosselló's health card to capital

By RICHARD FAJARDO

Q Es 2549 Del

Despite problems with the government's health reform program, San Juan Mayor Sile Calderón told Tuesday she remains committed and wants the health card for the capital.

"I want the health card for San Juan and this commitment was in my brain plan for the municipality," she said. "That's why I want to begin negotiations as soon as possible."

However, the Popular Democratic Party gubernatorial candidate and she is concerned about problems with health reform in other municipalities.

The most recent examples, she said, are the construction work pay between Humana, Inc. and southern-area doctors, and the closure of a clinic in Aguas Buenas over the weekend, apparently because the insurance provider was not paying doctors. "There are situations that we need to look at very carefully to ensure that they do not repeat themselves in San Juan," she said.

The mayor made her remarks during an open forum to discuss health reform

at the San Juan Municipal Hospital, located at the Rio Piedras Medical Center.

San Juan, the last of Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities to get the Rosselló health card and where city officials estimate there are 130,000 medically indigent people, will soon begin negotiations with the central government to be included in the plan.

On Aug. 12 the governor sent a letter to California designating Health Secretary Carlos Collantes to lead the negotiations on behalf of the government. Although Calderón said she had not yet received the governor's letter, she acknowledged that Bruce Perle, executive director of San Juan's Health Department, would lead the negotiations for the municipality.

How then, he, people attended the working forum, which included representatives from patients, doctors and other health care professionals.

In particular, advocates for people living with AIDS and the homeless called on the municipality to ensure that medical services for the marginalized would not be forgotten.

Noting that the annual cost of medications for people living with AIDS can reach \$18,000, José F. Collin of AIDS Patients for Home Delivers said these medications "must be guaranteed."

At the same time, Olga Rosa Nigam of La Prudencia de Jesús, a nonprofit organization that serves the homeless, said she was concerned that many homeless people may be denied the health card because they are unable to get their Medicaid card, a prerequisite.

Monsieur, Carro, Rodriguez, of Caparra Terrace, said there were thousands of people like her, who have jobs but can't afford to have a medical plan. "It's like we're floating because we don't pay, or we don't qualify for the health card, and yet we can't afford private health insurance," said the disabled nurse who has been suffering from lupus for 14 years. "But we should be able to get the health card too," she said.

There are an estimated 25,000 "working poor" in Puerto Rico who have jobs but lack access to health insurance, according to the insurance commissioner.



San Juan Mayor Sile Calderón said Tuesday she is firmly committed to bringing the government's health reform card to the capital city.

Humana officials, doctors agree to study cases individually

By RICHARD FAJARDO

Insured decisions which were not reported, Sile

Doctors want an increase in their reputation rate

Doctors want an increase in their reputation rate

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nprc

A Publication of the National Puerto Rican Coalition

Message from the President

As the leading national advocacy and public policy organization representing the Puerto Rican community in Washington, D.C., NPRC looks forward to working closely with our members and colleagues to ensure a better future for our families. Today our mandate to achieve social and economic justice for the poor and most vulnerable of our society is as relevant and even more important than when NPRC was created 22 years ago.



Child poverty, substandard housing, high school drop out, poor health, and unemployment continue to affect too many living in distress within our communities. These problems create the most serious hardships for our children, the elderly, and families, and affect the quality of life of the entire community.

Our ability to effectively address these issues depends greatly on how well we are able to respond and engage those who are in positions to affect change in legislative and regulatory actions. Having a presence

in the nation's capitol gives our community visibility, and allows our voices to be heard in the public policy debates taking place in Congress. But to succeed in this effort, we must also encourage greater civic participation of our community, build strong coalitions on common ground issues, develop policy materials reflecting our concerns, empower our advocates, and inspire our young leaders to become more involved in working for change.

As the new millenium draws nearer, we look back with pride on the critical leadership and advocacy that NPRC has provided to address issues of social, political, and economic importance. We also recognize the challenges that we must face in order to find solutions that serve the needs of our community. NPRC will hold its National Policy Conference on October 13-16, 1999 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, bringing hundreds of community activists, businessmen and women, government officials, and elected leaders together for "Un

Encuentro Entre Familia" to address these concerns.

The policy conference will provide an opportunity for us to join together as *Boricuas* to discuss the many issues affecting our communities on the mainland and the Island. We look forward to sharing this unique moment in history with you to reflect on the past, reaffirm our values, celebrate our culture, and consider our aspirations for the future. We encourage you to join us for this historic *Encuentro* in Puerto Rico.

NPRC's 1999 National Policy Conference, "Un *Encuentro Entre Familia*" will be a unique opportunity for our *Familia Puertorriqueña* to share quality time together on *Nuestra Isla del Encanto* before the new millenium arrives. I hope you will join us as we set an example of cooperation, pride, and strength *Como Un Solo Pueblo* to enrich the quality of life of the Puerto Rican community.

¡Siempre Boricua!
Manuel Mirabal
President & CEO

this edition

esta edición

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- NPRC to Hold Annual Meeting in San Juan

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- Puerto Ricans Oppose Navy's Operations on Vieques

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- Rep. Roybal-Allard — First Woman CHC Chair
- Suárez is Elected as First Puerto Rican in Florida Legislature
- Msgr. Roberto González Nieves is Installed as New S.J. Archbishop

five

- Hispanic Leaders Meet with Vice President
- Financial Modernization Bills Jeopardize Community Reinvestment Act

six

- Gore, Schumer Support NPRC Salute to Puerto Rican Veterans
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- Proyecto Diálogo Creates PR Awareness and Action on Local Race Dialogues
- NPRC's 1999 Philip Morris Fellow

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- NPRC's Efforts in Capacity Building Recognized by \$1.8 million HUD Award

LONG ALDRIDGE & NORMAN^{LLP}

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

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LONG ALDRIDGE & NORMAN LLP
701 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., N.W.
SUITE 600
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004
(202) 624-1200
(202) 624-1298 FAX
DC@LANLAW.COM

TO: Sandy Thurman

FAX NUMBER: 202-456-2439

COMPANY:

RECIPIENT'S PHONE
NUMBER:

FROM: E. Ivan Zapien

SENDER'S PHONE 202-624-1233
NUMBER:

DATE: October 19, 1999

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 12

MESSAGE:

User No.: 403

Client/Matter No.: 4251.001

If transmission is unclear or incomplete, please call sender at the above phone number.

**LONG ALDRIDGE
& NORMAN^{LLP}**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20004
Tel: (202) 624-1200
Fax: (202) 624-1298

MEMORANDUM

TO: Keith Mason
Sandy Thurman

FROM: E. Ivan Zapien

DATE: October 19, 1999

RE: Meetings in Puerto Rico

The following information relates to your trip to Puerto Rico.

Weather and Dress

In general, you should never go to Puerto Rico without an umbrella. It always rains. The temperature has been 75- 80 degrees with heavy humidity. For your meetings with Commonwealth officials plan on wearing "light" business clothes; in the evening, you can go with "light" business/casual.

Arrival at Luis Munoz Marin Airport in Puerto Rico.

You are arriving on two different airlines, Delta and American. Therefore, you will be in different terminals. In Puerto Rico, only officials with permits and ticketed passengers can enter the terminals. Further, if you have baggage, the baggage claim is in different buildings.

I have arranged for one car and two individuals to meet you at your gates. The individual at Sandy's gate will be holding a sign that reads "Sandy T" and the individual at Keith's gate will be holding a sign that reads "Keith M." Since Keith gets to the airport half an hour before Sandy, he will wait in the car for Sandy. As soon as Sandy gets to the car, the driver will drive you both to the hotel. The drive to the hotel is 15- 20 minutes. The names of the greeters and the driver, as well

as their cell phone and beeper numbers, will be given to me and I will pass them on to you upon confirmation of the trip tomorrow.

Sandy Thurman's arrival information:

October 21, 1999

American Airlines Flight 1135 from Washington, D.C.

Arrives San Juan at 11:00 AM

Keith Masons's arrival information:

October 21, 1999

Delta Airlines Flight 188 from Atlanta

Arrives in San Juan at 10:18 AM

The Hotel

The hotel is the Condado Plaza Hotel. It's one of the more popular hotels in Puerto Rico located in an area known as "Condado." The hotel is conveniently located to most government buildings and has several restaurants and points of interest nearby.

Once you arrive at the hotel, enter the lobby and go directly to the elevators. Get on the elevators and go to the 10th floor, a.k.a. the Plaza Club. At the Plaza Club there will be a concierge who will check you in. Your rooms are reserved under your names. The rate is \$195 dollars per night. While you check in, you should ask the concierge to make dinner reservations at whatever restaurant you choose. Once you check in you will probably have 45- 60 minutes before you need to depart for the meeting. I suggest you go downstairs to have lunch. At the mezzanine level of the hotel (opposite to the casino) there is a small restaurant called Max's Deli. You really won't have time for anything else. Once you're done with lunch, you will need to go back to the Plaza Club and wait for the staff from the Puerto Rico Department of Health to pick you up.

The Condado Plaza

999 Ashford Avenue

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902

Plaza Club tel: 787-728-1720

Plaza Club fax: 787-725-5987

Sandy Thurman's confirmation #6077664

Keith Mason's confirmation #9769944

The meeting

Either Ms. Wilma Torez or Dr. Marlene Sanchez will pick you up at the hotel. They will come upstairs to the Plaza Club to get you as soon as they arrive. They will have a car and driver. You should leave between 1:15 and 1:30 p.m. They will take you to the Department of Health and

escort you to Dr. Carmen Feliciano's office (Secretary of Health). You should be prepared to wait upon arrival and once you get in the meeting you will spend a little over one hour. At the meeting you should expect to have a light snack and coffee. The Secretary and her staff members will brief you on the AIDS issue in Puerto Rico. The briefing will be from a public policy perspective only.

For your information I have attached a CV on Dr. Feliciano. You should refer to her as "Madam Secretary" and although everyone speaks English you should speak slowly and as clearly as possible.

Dr. Carmen Feliciano (Secretary of Health)
Office 787-756-5982
Office Fax 787-250-6547
Cellular 787-616-1373
Cellular 2 787-382-1645
Home 787-743-9650
Beeper 787-759-1255; unit # 395-0719

c/o Dr. Marlene Seda (confidential special assistant)
787-756-5982

or

c/o Wilma Tomez (special assistant for scheduling)
787-274-7615
787-274-7616

Dinner

After the meeting the driver will take you back to your hotel. Back up on the Plaza Club there is a small relaxing area where you may want to wind down. I suggest that you take some time to relax and that you go out for dinner that evening.

There are several options for dinner. Again, I suggest that you have the concierge make your reservations before you go to the meeting. However, here are brief descriptions of three restaurants you may want to consider:

The Palm is located out by the airport in one of the more vibrant hotels. It's owned by the Palm Corporation and has the same menu as the one in D.C. It takes about ten-fifteen minutes to get there and there are plenty of cabs both at the El San Juan Hotel and the Condado.

Ramiro's is located in the Condado area, about 5 minutes from the hotel in a cab. The cuisine is Spanish/American and it is one of the better known restaurants in Puerto Rico.

Il Perigon is one of the best Italian restaurants I have been to. It's located in Old San Juan and is about five minutes away from the hotel.

Friday

If you do not have meetings planned for early in the morning, I would recommend staying at the Plaza Club. They have a continental breakfast with fruit, bagels and coffee that is good. You will need to ask for a late check out or check out that morning and have them hold on to your bags while you conduct business.

The Return

The easiest thing to do is just take a cab to the airport. The fare is fixed at \$12 from the airport and the cabs are regulated so I have not had any problems. Make sure that you get to the airport at least one hour in advance. If you have luggage to check in, before you go in the main terminal make sure that you put it through the USDA x-ray machine and that they place a sticker on the zipper. If you only have a carry on, don't worry about USDA and walk straight up to the gate. Remember that if you are on different airlines once you enter the passenger area you will not be in the same building.

FR: *San*

Dr. Carmen Feliciano de Melecio
Secretary of Health
Department of Health
Government of Puerto Rico

Curriculum Vitae

I EDUCATION

B.S. University of Puerto Rico
School of Medicine
Magna Cum Laude
1957

M.D. University of Puerto Rico
School of Medicine
July 1957 - June 1961

Internship University Hospital
July 1961 - June 1962

Residency University Hospital
Pediatrics
July 1962 - June 1964

II PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Secretary of Health
Department of Health
Government of Puerto Rico
1993- Present

Assistant Secretary of Family Health and Preventive Medicine/Director
of the Central Office for AIDS Affairs and Communicable Disease
(OCASET) 1993

Director AIDS
Ambulatory Program
San Juan AIDS Institute

San Juan City Health Department
1991 - 1993

Medical Consultant
Director Office of Federal Affairs
San Juan City Health Department
January 1989 - 1991

Director
AIDS Prevention Program
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Program
January 1989 - 1992

Co - Principal Investigator
Puerto Rico AIDS Program - NIDA
October 1, 1998 - Present

Director
Pilot Project for a Health Care System for High Risk Youth
Luis Llorens Torres, Public Housing Project
1987- 1991

General Coordinator
San Juan City AIDS Program
1998- 1989

Director
San Juan City Health Department
November 1987 - January 1989

Deputy Director
San Juan City Health Department
February 1986 - October 1997

Director
Division of Health Promotion, Prevention and Ambulatory Services
San Juan City Health Department
May 1985 - January 1986

Director
Adolescent Health Program
San Juan Health Department
1985 - 1989

Pediatrician
Pediatric Department
Caguas Regional Hospital
February 1985 - April 1985

Regional Medical Director
Caguas Region
May 1980 - January 1985

Executive Medical Director
Caguas Regional Hospital
February 1977 - January 1985

Director
Maternal, Child and Adolescents Program
Caguas Regional Hospital
1974 - 1985

Associate Professor, Ad Honorem
School of Medicine
University of Puerto Rico
1964 - 1991

Chairman
Pediatric and Adolescent Department
Caguas Regional Hospital
July 1969 - January 1977

Director
Pediatric Services
Cidra Health Center (Pilot Project Northeast Region)
November 1964 - June 1969

Director of Pediatric Services

Toa Alta and Toa Baja Health Centers
Pilot Project Northeast Region
July – October 1964

Professional Office for the Pediatric Practice
1964-1991

III PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Puerto Rico Medical Association

Pediatric Chapter of the Puerto Rico Medical Association

Central Region of the Puerto Rico Medical Association

Public Health Association
Board of Director 1985 – 1986
President Elect 1986- 1987
President 1987- 1988
Past President 1988 – 1989

Quality Assurance Association
President Elect 1985- 1986
President 1986 – 1987

Ex – Alumni Association
Natural Science
University of Puerto Rico

Ex – Alumni Association
School of Medicine
University of Puerto Rico

IV CIVIC, SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

Member of the Disciples of Christ Christian Church

Member of the Board of Directors of the Disciples of Christian Church
Caguas, Puerto Rico

Past-President of the Finance Committee of the Disciples of Christian Church
Caguas, Puerto Rico

Representative of the Church at the Central Administrative Board of Disciples of Church

Member of the Choir at the Disciples of Christ Christian Church

Director of the Summer Biblical School Sessions. Mort Camp and Caguas Disciples of Christ Church

Co - Director Summer Youth Activities at Morton Camp.

Past Vice President
Fundación Juvenil Libre de Drogas ("Free of Drugs Juvenile Foundation")
1987

Past Member
Board of Director
CONCRA (AIDS Research CBO)

Member of Puerto Rican HIV/AIDS Network

Member Board of Director
Health Professional Award

President
Board of Director
Puerto Rico Medical Services Administration

President
Board of Director
Cardiovascular Center of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean

Member
Board of Directors
State Insurance Funds Corporation

Member
Board of Directors
Health Insurance Administration of Puerto Rico

Member
Quality of Life Congress

Member
Board of Directors
Automobile Accidents Compensation Administration

V AWARDS

Manuel Quevedo Báez Award
Highest Score in Puerto Rico Medical Board Test

Manuel A. Pérez Award
For Distinguished Services in Public Services 1977

Physician of the Year
Central Region Medical Association 1978

Distinguished Woman
Woman Civic Club
Caguas Civic Club 1983

VII LECTURES/PUBLICATIONS

Health in the Americas, Edition 1998
Presentation at "Paho Publications"

The Health Care Reform
Presentation at "Congreso Mundial de
Promoción y Prevención de la Salud"

Reinventing the Delivery of Health
Care Service in Puerto Rico
Second Hispanic Congress of Health

The State Response to Health Reform
Presentation to Interamerican College
of Physicians & Surgeons

"Reforma de Salud: Actualización"
Presentation to Second Forum of Health Care Reform Experiences

Prevention of AIDS in Adolescent
Presentation at "Fundación SIDA"
Seminar on Adolescent

Role of Health Professionals in Health
Education Programs, Presentation of Health Educators Convention

Strategies for an AIDS Education Program geared to adolescents

The Island and Mainland Commuter: The Impact of Substance Abuse and
HIV/AIDS on the Puerto Rican Community

Eight Latin American Conference on STD/AIDS
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Training on STD and AIDS
Robert Wood Johnson Staff Year II

Health Care System for Patients with AIDS and Special Program at San
Juan City Health Department: Robert Wood Johnson Personnel

Seminar on AIDS and STD for Personnel of RWJ Program

Cost Effectiveness of Health Care System for patients with AIDS at San
Juan Health Department at Sixth International Conference on AIDS at San
Francisco

Pediatric AIDS in Puerto Rico
Seminar to Pediatric AIDS Professionals

AIDS in San Juan Presentation at

Second Think Tank Forum about AIDS in Puerto Rico

Impact of AIDS Epidemic in Female Population
AIDS Pastoral Ponce Methodist Church

Health Care System for Woman with HIV infection in San Juan City.

Presentation to National Commission on AIDS

VIII TASK FORCES MEMBERSHIP

Committee to Design Comprehensive Health Plan for Puerto Rico 1982

Committee to prepare Labor Agreements between the State and the
Municipalities 1983

Chairman of the San Juan Task Force for the Education and Prevention of
Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse 1987

Chairman of Task Force for the Implementation of a Smoke free Area in
San Juan Health Department 1986

Member Task Force for Adolescent Health Program Puerto Rico
Community Foundation 1987

Member Task Force for AIDS, San Juan City Health Department 1986

IX CONSULTANT SERVICES

State Health Department
Implementation of a Labor Union Relations with the State Health
Department 1983

Mayaguez Regional Hospital
Hospital Evaluation for the Reaccreditation of the Joint Commission of
Accreditation of Hospitals 1982

urgent

f a c s i m i l e

To: **Ms. Sandra Thurman**
Company: The White House
Fax Number: +1 (202) 456-2438
Business Phone: 1 202 245-2437

From: **Jose F. Colon/A. Fonseca**
Fax Number: +1 (787) 283-8623
Business Phone:
Home Phone:

Pages: 2
Date/Time: 10/28/99 4:21:06 PM
Subject: San Juan AIDS Institute update.

Hi Sheryl:

Please get this to Sandra ASAP, I need to know when she is coming down, hopefully for the sentencing. 11/10/99. Please call me at 787 293-1155 or 787 283-8623.

Thank you.

Anselmo Fonseca
Co-Founder

wants statement. ^{not} intricate, wed. NOV. 10. 10:00.

LOCAL NEWS

Fusté denies Dubón, Garib change of venue

By MARTY GERARD DELFIN
Of the STAR Staff

U.S. District Judge José A. Fusté rejected defense lawyers' arguments Wednesday that excessive publicity about the San Juan AIDS Institute trial will affect the upcoming trial of attorney Luis E. Dubón and Dr. Jorge Garib Bazain.

But while Fusté denied the defendants' petition to move the trial to another jurisdiction, he agreed to drop property forfeiture counts against the two.

Dubón's lawyer David Román said he will ask for a reconsideration, but was pleased the judge dropped the forfeiture count.

Fusté said that he intends to take all necessary measures to impanel an impartial jury when the second phase of the trial begins on Jan. 10, 2000. Román said he interpreted this as allowing prospective jurors to be questioned individually.

Dubón, a former president of Advanced Community Health Services and New Progressive Party fund raiser, and Garib, a former institute medical director, will stand trial on charges that they conspired to commit theft to a federal program.

Garib is also facing a perjury charge that he allegedly lied to a grand jury.

The two had also faced confiscation of their homes and properties if they were found guilty.

Dubón and Garib were indicted by a federal grand jury in February, but their trial was separated from that of former consultant Yamil Kouri and two other defendants who were convicted in June.

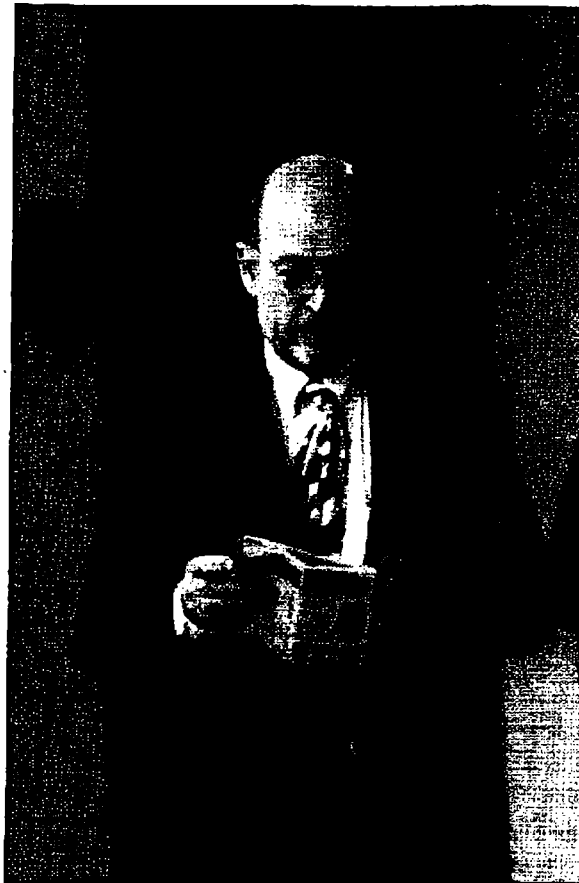
Kouri, former operations manager Jeannette Sotomayor and former property custodian Armando Borel Barreiro will be sentenced on Nov. 10.

After a three month trial, the three were found guilty of conspiracy to commit fraud.

Kouri was also found guilty of money-laundering while Sotomayor was convicted of obstruction of justice. Kouri is the only one in federal custody.

Lawyers for Dubón and Garib had asked the judge for a change of venue or a continuance in the case because of the excessive publicity. They submitted to the court 1,432 newspaper articles and a list of 195 television reports to back their claim.

They also commissioned a poll by Gaither Market



STAR file photo

José A. Fusté

Research that purportedly showed that 28 percent of the 703 people interviewed believed that the defendants were guilty.

The government on Oct. 15 argued that the request for a change of venue should be denied because among other things it was premature to make that assertion before interviewing prospective jurors.

Assistant U.S. Attorney María Domínguez also requested that the court order the defendants to produce the methodology used in coming up with the poll because defense lawyers had refused.

But in his 21-page opinion and order, Fusté said that the publicity generated in the first phase of the AIDS Institute trial doesn't violate the defendants' Sixth Amendment right to a fair trial because the reports were not "sensational" or unflattering.

"Undeniably, this trial has generated a large amount of publicity," the judge wrote. "However, we must not lose sight of the issue — whether the publicity in this case renders an impartial trial impossible. We find that it does not."

Citing numerous cases where similar arguments have been presented, including the 1807 treason trial of Vice President Aaron Burr, Fusté added that the newspaper articles are "largely factual in nature and concentrate on Kouri."

"Thus, media coverage that is largely factual in nature actually subverts any presumption of pre-trial prejudice," the judge said.

Fusté also denied Dubón's request that the government show how much of the \$779,079 that was paid to his law firm was unlawfully made. The judge said that the U.S. Attorney's Office had fulfilled its duty in providing this information in the discovery of evidence phase.

The Dubón firm was paid a monthly \$10,000 retainer fee from AIDS Institute funds between 1987 and 1993, the government alleges.

Lawyers for Dubón and Garib had also tried to get precluded from testifying against their clients two government witnesses they claim were in violation of the federal witness-bribery statute.

The witnesses, former comptroller Angel Corcino Mauras, and former Popular Democratic Party Sen. Edgardo Rosario Burgos, have pleaded guilty to participating in the alleged fraud scheme and testified in the first trial.

Both Corcino and Rosario told the court that they did not receive any significant monetary or other benefits for their testimony, Fusté said.

They are expected to be sentenced when the Dubón-Garib trial is over.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To: **Ms. Sandra Thurman**
Company: **The White House**
Fax number: **+1 (202) 456-2438**
Business phone: **1 202 245-2437**

From: **Jose F. Colon/A. Fonseca**
Fax number: **+1 (787) 283-8623**
Home phone:
Business phone:

Date & Time: **11/12/99 3:33:50 PM**
Pages sent: **4**
Re: **Updates of The San Juan AIDS Institute scandal**

Three down, many more to go.

LOCAL NEWS

Lawyers ask Kouri be freed on bail pending appeal

By MARTY GERARD DELFIN

Of the STAR Staff

Lawyers for former San Juan AIDS Institute consultant Yamil Kouri asked a judge Tuesday that he be released on bail pending an appeal of his case, arguing that his Sixth Amendment right to counsel was not honored.

The motion came one day before Kouri and two others are scheduled to be sentenced at 10 a.m. today before U.S. District Judge Jose A. Fusté.

Kouri, who has been held at the federal Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo since June faces up to 17 years in prison on conspiracy, money laundering

and theft convictions for the embezzlement of \$1.4 million in federal funds assigned to the AIDS Institute.

Former operations manager Jeannette Sotomayor and former property manager Armando Borel face shorter prison sentences on their convictions from the three-month trial which ended in June.

In a 15-page 11th hour motion, Kouri's lawyer Rafael Castro Lang asked Fusté to allow Kouri to be released while the convictions are presented to the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals.

Kouri's bail was revoked in June after one witness came forward and admitted that she was told to lie on his behalf during the trial.

The witness, Dr. Gloria Ornellas, ended up testifying

on behalf of the government instead.

At the time, assistant U.S. Attorney María Domínguez requested that Kouri's bail be revoked because he was helping obstruct justice, and had reportedly threatened to flee to Cuba before his sentence.

However, Castro Lang argued in the motion that Kouri had been imprisoned for 15 years in Cuba where he would still face incarceration worse than he would encounter in any federal institution if he were to flee to his native country.

Castro Lang also argued that the surprising incident involving Ornellas put Kouri's own lawyers at the time, Benny Frankie Cerezo and Charles Daniels, in a conflict of interest with their client.

Kouri's trial lawyers could not effectively impeach Ornellas on the stand, which deprived him of his Sixth Amendment constitutional right to trial and "requires a celebration of a new trial," Castro Lang wrote in his motion.

Castro Lang and Geraldo Carlo were hired by Kouri to handle his appeal after Cerezo and Daniels declined.

Castro Lang also argues that the 1st Circuit Court's recent opinion concerning the appointment of acting U.S. Attorney Guillermo Gil is also an issue which merits granting bail to Kouri.

Last month, the appeals court acting in another criminal case ruled that the issue of Gil's prolonged stay as U.S. attorney without an official appointment could raise serious issues if the arguments had been presented in a timely matter.

Castro Lang also argued that Fusté erred in instructing the trial jury that Kouri had to be considered "an agent" of the AIDS Institute. The lawyer said that Kouri was never employed or held any paid position within the AIDS Institute.



STAR file photo

Yamil Kouri

Fusté sentences Kourí to 14 years in prison

BY THE STAFF OF THE

ST. LOUIS POST-DEMOCRAT

Yani Kourí, the Cuban-born physician, was sentenced Wednesday to 14 years in prison for his role in the 1994-1995 AIDS epidemic in Cuba.

Kourí, 45, was sentenced to 14 years in prison for his role in the 1994-1995 AIDS epidemic in Cuba. He was also sentenced to pay \$1.5 million in restitution to the U.S. Department of Health.

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Yani Kourí is led out of the courtroom in this June file photo. He was sentenced Wednesday to 14 years in federal prison and made to pay \$1.5 million in restitution to the U.S. Department of Health.

the federal government, Kourí was taking a break from his work at the time.

He read a statement in court in which he admitted to his role in the 1994-1995 AIDS epidemic in Cuba. He was also sentenced to pay \$1.5 million in restitution to the U.S. Department of Health.

One of the most serious charges against Kourí was that he was guilty of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. Department of Health.

"I did what I did to do," Kourí said in his statement. "I was a doctor and I was trying to help the people of Cuba. I was not trying to defraud the U.S. Department of Health."

Kourí was sentenced to 14 years in prison for his role in the 1994-1995 AIDS epidemic in Cuba. He was also sentenced to pay \$1.5 million in restitution to the U.S. Department of Health.

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Judge still troubled by sordid events of AIDS Institute trial

By MARTY GERARD DELFIN

ON THE STAFF

U.S. District Court Judge José A. Fuste said Wednesday that he is still affected by the spectacular events that occurred during the three-month-long San Juan AIDS Institute trial.

During the sentencing hearing for the first three defendants to be convicted by a jury in the first phase of the trial, Fuste said that he was troubled by the conspiracy "to present false testimony and false witnesses" during the court proceedings.

"When I think about it, it still throws me tremendously," he said in the courtroom.

The U.S. Attorney's Office is investigating which witnesses brought in to testify on behalf of Yamil Kouri com-

mitted perjury on the stand and whether defense lawyers knew about the scheme.

"No judge will ever see a case with more perjury, more obstruction and travesty of justice than this one in the next 100 years," Fuste said.

Among the witnesses that are being investigated are Joaquín Pérez Morder of the Dominican-based Medservices and former Censura director Rafael Pagán.

The judge said he never "believed a word" that came from Pérez Morder, president of Medservices, who testified that he received money from the San Juan AIDS Institute to perform a study on sexuality.

A jury decided that the money had instead been transferred by Kouri through Hamilton Bank in Miami and Southern Bank and Trust in Montserrat.

"Those banks have no credibility in

this court," Fuste said.

The conspiracy to provide false testimony during the court came apart when one witness, Dr. Gloria Ornelas Hall, a Mexican epidemiologist, announced the scheme to authorities.

Ornelas, who had been president of the Pan American Foundation, had testified on behalf of Kouri, saying that she received money from the AIDS Institute to produce educational materials. However, after testifying in May via a video conference telephone call, Ornelas decided to withdraw from the proceedings.

Later, she appeared as a government witness against Kouri, and told a jury that she was asked to lie on his behalf.

One surprising moment came when a Mexican physician, Dr. Héctor Ramírez Lugo, was arrested on perjury charges

after he testified that he worked with Ornelas at the Pan American Foundation.

Ramírez Lugo, who is being held without bond and was scheduled to go on trial in October, is reportedly seeking a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

For his part, Fuste ordered an investigation into whether Kouri's trial lawyers Benny Frankie Cerezo and Charles Daniels were in on the scheme. However, Fuste, on Wednesday, appeared to exonerate Francisco Rebollo Casagrande for deciding not to get involved in cross-examining Ramírez Lugo during the trial.

"I was able to understand your reasons. You did the right thing and I want to praise you for doing the right thing," he said.

909 Third Avenue 18th Floor NEW YORK NY 10022
TEL 212-453-3722 FAX 212-644-3601

**ONIO BURGOS &
ASSOCIATES**

826-
2000
317-1024

Evelyn

Fax

To: *Sandy Shurman* From: Tonio Burgos
Fax: *202-456-2439* Pages: *5*
Phone: *202-456-2437* Date: *6/9/99*
Re: CC:

* Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

• Comments:

more details to follow

Un Encuentro Entre Familia



NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN COALITION
ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 13-16, 1999 • SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO



Un Encuentro Entre Familia

That's what we hope the 1999 National Puerto Rican Coalition Annual Conference will be for its participants. The conference is a unique opportunity for you to join with your fellow Boricuas to address the many public policy issues affecting the Puerto Rican community on the mainland and the Island. There will be policy forums, discussion groups, cultural events and ample opportunity for networking.

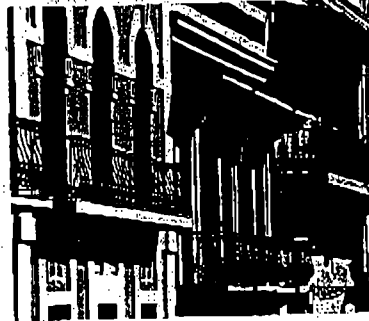
This is your opportunity to learn the strategies and other success stories that can help your community, as well as reaffirm our heritage and traditions. Community building not only happens locally, but nationally and internationally. This is a chance to make it happen for you.

AMALIA V. BETANZOS
Chairwoman, NPRC

MANUEL MIRABAL
President, NPRC

Mission

NPRC's mission is to systematically strengthen and enhance the social, political, and economic well-being of Puerto Ricans throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico with a special focus on the most vulnerable. To accomplish this mission, NPRC has identified strategic goals that support the organization's efforts to further the empowerment of the Puerto Rican community at the public and private sectors level, and enhance the image of the Puerto Rican community.



to advance strategic agendas in the areas of leadership development, community building, and telecommunications at the non-profit community level.

The Department of Public Policy and Research analyzes issues of concern to Puerto Ricans, prepares position papers, conducts policy analysis, tracks pertinent legislation, and works with other organizations in coalitions. The department also acts as a liaison to the U.S. Congress and federal agencies. In addition, it operates a Public Policy Fellowship, whose purpose is to encourage young Puerto Ricans to consider public policy at the national level as a career and to prepare them to deal with policy issues affecting the Puerto Rican community.



The Community Development and Training (CDT) Department coordinates a variety of assessment, training, technical assistance and pass-through fund activities designed to build nonprofit capacity in Puerto Rican communities on the U.S. mainland and on the Island of Puerto Rico, as well as in Hawaii, St. Croix, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The overall intent of these support services is to ensure and enhance access to public and private sector resources so that grass-roots organizations may, in turn, provide the maximum amount of intervention possible to respond to local housing and socio-economic needs; and to maximize the use of available financing and program funds.

ship in the areas of national public policy, foster the growth and empowerment of our civic organizations, and transfer knowledge to our advocates and emerging leadership.

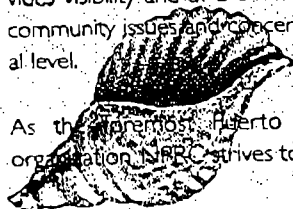
Public Policy and Community Development

NPRC continues to address public policy and community development concerns and has undertaken several new initiatives designed

History

In 1977, a group of 40 community leaders and representatives met in Washington, D.C. to discuss the future of the stateside Puerto Rican community. A consensus emerged that there was a need to establish an organization in Washington, D.C. to represent the interests of the community before national policy makers. The result was the creation of the National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc. (NPRC), which brings together community leaders and organizations in an association that addresses public policy issues and provides visibility and awareness of Puerto Rican community issues and concerns at the national level.

As the foremost Puerto Rican umbrella organization, NPRC strives to provide leader-



Tentative Program

Wednesday, October 13

Arrival

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Conference Registration/Check in

*A Capitol Welcome to
The National Puerto Rican Coalition*

Thursday, October 14

Morning

Continental Breakfast

Concurrent Briefings

- Federal Employment Opportunities
- Hispanic Education Initiatives
- HUD Community Builders
- Veterans Affairs

Luncheon

Women in the Forefront of Community Building

Afternoon

Annual Membership Meeting and Delegate Presentations

Forums

- Census and Reapportionment
- Social Security
- Health Care
- Student Caucus

Friday, October 15

Morning

Labor Union Breakfast

Workshops

- Community Based Organization & Labor Alliance
- Leadership Training
- Block Grant Training
- Charter Schools

Business Roundtable

- The Economic Potential of the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Market

Noon

Conference Closing Luncheon & Plenary Presentations

Afternoon

Recreational Activities

- Student Volleyball
- Visit to El Yunque
- Visit to Museums
- Shopping in Old San Juan
- Student Reception

Evening

Una Noche en San Juan

- City Hall Reception and Tour of Old San Juan

Saturday, October 16

Morning

Business Advisory Council Golf Tournament

Noon

Awards Luncheon

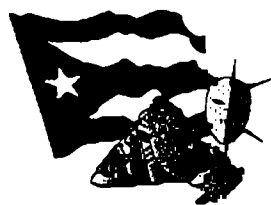
About Our Conference

The program for the 1999 Annual National Puerto Rican Coalition policy conference includes symposiums, workshops, federal agency briefings and interactive dialogues with top agency representatives, a job fair and cultural workshops. Sessions will explore solutions to the problems affecting the Puerto Rican community in areas such as economic development, housing, health, Hispanic education initiatives, veterans and federal employment. Workshops will also address important topics such as: State Block Grants Appropriations, effective strategies to increase civic participation and strategies for legislative advocacy. The program will also explore important issues such as Census 2000, Reapportionment, the Puerto Rican Community and the Labor Movement. A Student Caucus and Leadership Development workshop will also be held.

Special topics featured in this year's conference include: Social Security; "Why Should We Care?" A Symposium on Protecting Our Benefits; Achieving Socio-Economic Empowerment; Building Effective Community and Labor Coalitions; Closing the Economic Gap; Pay Equity; Health Care Reform; and membership presentations regarding the social and economic conditions of the Puerto Rican community; and a business roundtable discussion and presentation on the economic potential of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic market.



REGISTRATION FORM



Un Encuentro Entre Familia

1999 NPRC ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE

October 13 - 16, 1999 • San Juan, Puerto Rico

(Print or type your name as you would like it to appear on your name badge. This form may be duplicated.)
(Por favor, imprime o escribe su nombre en letras de molde. Este formulario puede ser duplicado.)

Name/Nombre: _____

Title/Título: _____

Company/Organization Compania/Organización: _____

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City, State, Zip Code/Ciudad, Estado y Código Postal: _____

Work number/Teléfono de Trabajo: _____

Home number/Teléfono de su hogar: _____

E-Mail/Correo Electrónico: _____

Website/Sitio en el Internet: _____

Check one/Marque una cajita:

- ☐ NPRC member/Miembro de NPRC
☐ Non-member/No-miembro
☐ Student or Senior Citizen/Estudiante o Ancianos

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE / INSCRIPCION A LA CONFERENCIA

	Before 8/15 / Antes de 8/15	After 8/15 / Después de 8/15
NPRC Member/Miembro de NPRC	\$ 75.00	\$100.00
Non-member/No-miembro	\$100.00	\$125.00
Student or Senior Citizens/Estudiante o Anciano	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00

Check/Money Order for \$ _____ enclosed for _____ registration(s).

Please mail registration form along with your check or money order to:

Por favor, envíe este formulario con su cheque o giro a:



NPRC
 1700 K Street, NW, Suite 500
 Washington, DC 20006

For more information, call / Para mas información llame a/
 (202) 223-3915 or 1-888-749-6772 (toll-free).