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Gay Mens Health Crisis (GMHC)

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FIRST IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST AIDS



Ronald Johnson
Managing Director
Policy, Communications
& Community Relations

July 15, 1999

212/367-1250
Fax 212/367-1247
ronaldj@gmhc.org

Mr. Daniel Montoya
Executive Director
Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Daniel:

Here are the copies of the *Sexual Health Survey* which I spoke to you about today. This is document that I will be mailing to the full council.

Sincerely,

Ronald Johnson

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

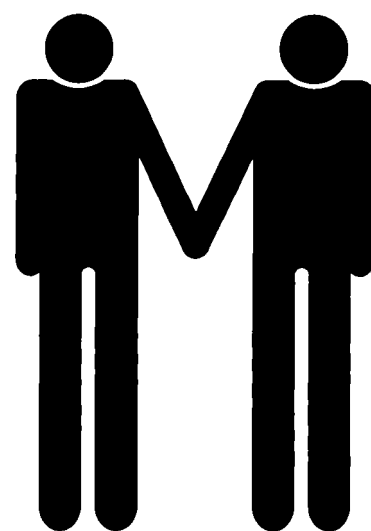
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Results of the 1998 Beyond 2000

SEXUAL HEALTH SURVEY



Sexual health and practices of gay, bisexual and homosexually active men in New York City

A survey by GMHC's HIV Prevention Department and volunteers from the Beyond 2000 initiative
in consultation with researchers **Tracy Mayne**, Ph.D., Director of HIV Epidemiology & Surveillance for the New York City
HIV/AIDS Prevention Planning Group, New York City Dept. of Health **Peter Weatherburn**, M.S.C., Director, Sigma Research (London)
Ford Hickson, B.S.C., Senior Research Fellow, Sigma Research (London) **Mike Hartley**, B. Eng., M.A., Health Promotion Consultant

GMHC
GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 29, 2000

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in New York City for the Gay Men's Health Crisis gala concert. I am pleased to join you in saluting Phil Donahue and Terry Watanabe for their commitment to the fight against AIDS, and I am delighted to congratulate all the volunteers, staff, and supporters of GMHC as you celebrate 20 years of devoted service to the thousands of New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS.

We can take heart from the progress we have made in recent years. Many people with HIV/AIDS are living longer and more fulfilling lives, and new drugs are showing promising results in halting the progress of the disease. But we cannot afford to become complacent. The incidence of HIV infections continues at an unacceptable rate, particularly in minority populations, and HIV remains a serious public health problem nationwide and worldwide.

My Administration is dedicated to preventing and treating HIV and AIDS and to finding a vaccine and a cure. We have passed historic funding increases for AIDS programs, and I am particularly proud that our commitment has now reached beyond our own national borders to include new initiatives for fighting the devastating impact of AIDS in Africa, India, and around the world. This year, I was pleased to sign into law the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act to expand the federal government's most comprehensive program for providing care and essential support services to hundreds of thousands of Americans living with HIV and AIDS.

While I believe my Administration has helped make great strides in the battle against AIDS, I also know that no government program or initiative can truly succeed without the dedicated leadership of individuals like your honorees and organizations like GMHC. Each of you can take great pride in all you have done over the last 20 years to provide hope and help to people affected by HIV/AIDS. You have made a real difference in many lives, and you have rightly earned the respect and abiding gratitude of all those you have served.

Hillary and I extend best wishes for a wonderful event, a memorable anniversary celebration, and continued success in the years to come.

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Friend:

I am pleased to enclose a message from the President.

Please be aware, however, that the White House has strict guidelines governing the use of Presidential messages. The enclosed message may be used solely for the specific purpose and the time for which you requested it. Under no circumstance is the message to be altered, reprinted in other media (including the Internet), used for recruiting, reproduced for fundraising solicitations or annual reports, represented as an endorsement, used for advertising, or used for any other purpose without the written consent of the White House.

Thank you for your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines.

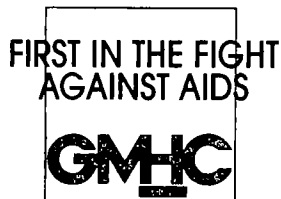
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Delia A. Cohen".

Delia A. Cohen
Special Assistant to the President
Director of Correspondence and
Presidential Messages

Enclosure

David Holtzgrave



May 3, 2000

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Thurman:

We are writing to bring to your attention a serious problem affecting funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for community-based HIV prevention programs in New York State. We are hopeful that you will share Gay Men's Health Crisis' sense of urgency on this issue and support efforts to find a solution.

The problem is with the pending FY 2000 funding awards under CDC's Program Announcement 00023, "Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Prevention Projects for Community-Based Organizations" and the shift in funding levels and pattern from Program Announcement 704, "Community-Based Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Prevention Projects."

Under the "704" announcement, twenty-five community-based organizations (CBOs) in New York State received funding. Twenty-one of the CBOs are in New York City. G.M.H.C. was among the 21 agencies, receiving \$228,791 in FY 1999 for programs that target black and Latino gay men.

A preliminary list of awards indicate that only 15 agencies in New York State will receive funding under the "023" announcement. While final funding levels have not been determined, it is estimated that the state will lose approximately \$2 million in HIV prevention funding. Nineteen agencies (76%) funded under "704" will lose funding; fifteen of those agencies are in New York City. G.M.H.C. will lose its funding, along with other New York City groups that include Bronx AIDS Services, Brooklyn AIDS Task Force, Hetrick-Martin Institute, and the Settlement Health and Medial Services. Only six agencies funded under "704" are slated to be funded under "023."

The shift in funding from the "704" announcement to the "023" announcement raises the following serious concerns:

- The nearly 40% reduction in the number of funded programs in New York City, coupled with the fact that nearly 80% of the "704" programs in New York City are being defunded, suggest a major disruption in the continuity of community-based HIV prevention services. The reduction in programs and the large turnover in programs also threaten the fragile infrastructure for HIV prevention services that target people and communities of color. For example, none of the two Bronx agencies funded under "704" are being renewed under the "023" program. The preliminary lists of "023" awards shows only one agency in the Bronx, which has the second highest AIDS case rate of the five boroughs that make up New York City.

Page 2
May 3, 2000

- The level of HIV prevention services for gay and bisexual men of color will be impacted adversely. As you know, gay and bisexual men of color have never received the level of prevention services that responds to the incidence of HIV infection among gay and bisexual men of color. The effects of this legacy were stated clearly in an article in a recent issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. The reactions to the findings reported in the article, from CDC officials and others, noted the need for more prevention services for black and Hispanic MSM. However, only one agency slated to be funded under "023" explicitly targets gay and bisexual men of color.
- The level of HIV prevention services for Latino communities and Asian/Pacific Islander communities also will be impacted adversely. Of the 19 agencies losing funding, over half (10 agencies) have Latino communities as their primary target population. None of the "023" awards appear to target Asian/Pacific Islander communities.

Given the likely effects of the shift in funding levels and patterns from the "704" announcement to the "023" announcement, we at G.M.H.C. feel that final award decisions should be delayed. We feel that a more thorough examination needs to be made of the impact of the "023" awards on the continuity of prevention service delivery, services for gay and bisexual men of color, and services for Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander communities. We would also like to know the rationale for the high number of programs that will lose funding. What weight did performance under "704" have on the "023" decisions? G.M.H.C.'s "704" program and that of the Bronx AIDS Services have been cited by CDC as being model programs yet both agencies are losing their funding.

We seek your support in urging CDC to delay the final award decisions. We will be happy to meet with you to provide additional information and to discuss ways to remedy this very serious problem affecting HIV prevention in New York.

Sincerely,

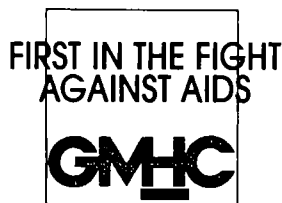


Ana Oliveira
Executive Director



Ronald Johnson
Associate Executive Director

David Holtzman



May 3, 2000

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Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

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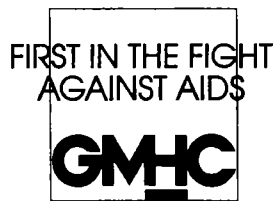
Sincerely,



Ana Oliveira
Executive Director



Ronald Johnson
Associate Executive Director



June 14, 2000

Ana Oliveira
Executive Director
212-367-1362
Fax 212-367-1247
anao@gmhc.org

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The President of the United States
Executive Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc. (GMHC) will soon begin the observance of its twentieth year as the nation's oldest and largest AIDS organization. The year will culminate on January 4, 2002, the anniversary of the founding of GMHC by six gay men in New York City. To start the observance, GMHC will hold a special fund-raising concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Friday, December 1, 2000, World AIDS Day. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am honored to invite you, Mr. President, to attend this special event so that we might honor you for your significant leadership in the fight against AIDS here in the United States and globally.

In January 1993, the HIV/AIDS community was in the depths of despair. There were virtually no effective treatments, the number of AIDS-related deaths was growing, and fear of AIDS and the stigmatization of people with AIDS were still all too often the norm. The global pandemic was hardly mentioned. As we come to the end of your Presidency, we are at a very different place. There is no cure, but there are numerous treatment options that have resulted in a dramatic reduction in the number of AIDS-related deaths. People with HIV infection are living longer without developing symptoms. Hope has replaced despair. The global AIDS crisis is no longer ignored. Much of this can be attributed directly to your Administration and your personal leadership. It is for this that we want to honor you.

We have asked and are working with Edgar Bronfman to serve as a Co-Chair for the December 1 event. For the concert, we will invite celebrities who have performed on behalf of GMHC over the past 20 years, including Patti LuPone, Jesse Norman, Barry Manilow, Bernadette Peters and Angela Lansbury. The event will take place from 8:00 to 10:30 PM. We will also have a pre-concert reception at Carnegie Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 PM for major donors and corporate sponsors.

Mr. President, we would be privileged to have you join us as we begin GMHC's 20th year observance by honoring your leadership. My staff and I will be available to work with your office to insure arrangements that are suitable to your schedule and your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ana Oliveira", with a stylized, flowing script.

Ana Oliveira

c.c. Sandra Thurman
E. Julian Potter

delivered via
Ron Johnson



Ana Oliveira
Executive Director
212-367-1362
Fax 212-367-1247
anao@gmhc.org

April 21, 2000

Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Thurman:

On Sunday, May 21, more than 35,000 people will join together at Sheep Meadow in the southern end of Central Park for Gay Men's Health Crisis' fifteenth annual AIDS Walk New York, which last year raised over \$4 million for the fight against AIDS and was the largest AIDS Walk ever held.

To help begin this festive event, GMHC is hosting an invitational VIP breakfast for our AIDS Walk sponsors, celebrity hosts, and special guests. We invite you to join us for the breakfast and for the Opening Ceremony that will follow immediately. We would be honored if you could also give a few welcoming remarks at the Opening Ceremony.

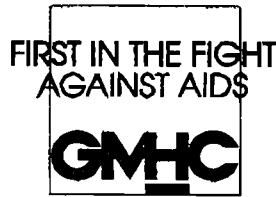
The continental breakfast will be served at 8:30 A.M. in a special tent located adjacent to the AIDS Walk stage. The Opening Ceremony will begin at 9:20 A.M. You are, of course, welcome to participate in the annual Walk, which will begin at 10 A.M. from the Sheep Meadow. Dress is casual and comfortable.

AIDS Walk New York is a powerful, upbeat, and inspiring demonstration of our community's continued commitment to HIV/AIDS. Your national leadership has helped all of us here in New York and is very appreciated. We hope that you will be able to join us and the many thousands of Walkers. Your office can RSVP by contacting my Assistant, Kim Norland, at (212) 367-1154. We will notify you of the exact location of the special tent prior to the date of the Walk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ana Oliveira", written in a cursive style.

Ana Oliveira

*declined*

Ana Oliveira
Executive Director

212-367-1362
Fax 212-367-1247
ando@gmhc.org

April 21, 2000

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Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
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