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HARM REDUCTION FUNDERS NETWORK

A Project of the Tides Center

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→ To: Todd Summers; 3 pages

February 18, 1999

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

3 pages via (202) 456-2438

Dear Sandy:

At last April's Council on Foundations Annual Conference, during a reception co-hosted by the Harm Reduction Funders Network, Tides Foundation and the Open Society Institute held at the Capitol Grille, you suggested the idea of a needle exchange briefing hosted by ONAP at the White House. With Kendra, you briefly discussed bringing a group of grantmakers to Washington to illustrate some federal support for needle exchange and to discuss what role private philanthropists may play in implementing these life-saving programs.

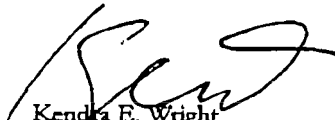
Since your suggestion, Funders Concerned About AIDS and the Harm Reduction Funders Network have been exploring this idea and Paul has kept Todd informed of things as they have developed. We have consulted with the Tides Foundation, Open Society Institute, FCAA Board members and others. From these discussions we developed the attached proposed program for the possible White House briefing. We look forward to receiving your feedback and learning of your interest in the program.

We would like to have a conference call to discuss the possibilities for this event at your earliest convenience. Paul will be in DC on March 10th (and 11th) which may provide an ideal time for a face-to-face meeting to discuss this further. Paul will call you early next week to follow up. Many thanks.

Sincerely,



Paul A. DiDonato
Funders Concerned About AIDS
(212) 573-5533



Kendra E. Wright
Harm Reduction Funders Network
(703) 354-4002

cc: Todd Summers

EVENTS - 2/2000 -
Needle exchange
funders mtg.

3619 TALLWOOD TERRACE • FALLS CHURCH, VA • 22041
PHONE: (703) 354-4002 • FAX: (703) 354-5695
EMAIL: KEWRIGHT@EROLS.COM

HARM REDUCTION FUNDERS NETWORK

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Briefing for Grantmakers Proposed Program Plan

- When:** May 1999
- Where:** Washington, DC in the
White House,
Old Executive Building, or
Council on Foundations
- Host:** Office of National AIDS Policy and/or
Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS
- Sponsors:** Funders Concerned About AIDS, New York, NY
Harm Reduction Funders Network, Washington, DC
Tides Foundation, San Francisco, CA
- Supporters:** Abell Foundation
Harm Reduction Funders Network
Open Society Institute
Public Welfare Foundation
Tides Foundation
- Attendees:** 20-30 grantmakers; 5 additional speakers; and 10 additional representatives of hosts, sponsors and supporters. Total of 30-45 attendees.

Program:

Each introduction will be 1 minute, each presentation 10-14 minutes, with 30 minutes of every hour allocated for Q&A with the two speakers addressing the audience during that hour. Both speakers will address the topics described under each section. The federal Administration official will address them in an all-encompassing national context and the local person will share his/her experience in implementing a harm reduction program, getting a program approved politically or gaining the support of their organization to fund such programs. The speakers named below describe the type of person with the particular expertise we hope to attract. Suggestions are welcome.

Written materials to help facilitate discussion may be mailed to attendees prior to the meeting. Take-home briefing information will be distributed at the meeting.

- 9:30 AM Welcome by Sandra Thurman and/or representatives of Funders Concerned About AIDS, Harm Reduction Funders Network, Tides Foundation or Open Society Institute.
- 9:45-10:30 AM David Satcher, U.S. Surgeon General & researcher, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD (or Health Commissioner Peter Beilenson, or an individual who implements a needle exchange program)
Review the research to: 1) illustrate why needle exchange is needed (proliferation of HIV/AIDS and the engine of IDU); and 2) prove that needle exchange works to prevent the spread of HIV without an increase in the use of drugs.

(Dr. Satcher and the Baltimore representative will be introduced by Kendra E. Wright, Harm Reduction Funders Network.)

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FEBRUARY 18, 1999

10:30-11:30 AM Sandra Thurman, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy & Mayor Schmoke or a representative of the Mayor's Office, Baltimore, MD
Describe: 1) the politics of needle exchange within the Administration; and 2) the inability to commit federal dollars and the limitations on City dollars.

(Ms. Thurman and the Mayor's representative will be introduced by Paul A. DiDonato, Funders Concerned About AIDS.)

11:30 AM-12:30 PM Representative, Internal Revenue Service & a current funder in the harm reduction field (possibly Adisa Douglas of the Public Welfare Foundation)
Discuss: 1) federal legal and tax issues regarding private support of needle exchanges; and 2) other tax status issues and obstacles, real or imagined, which hinder private funding and support.

(These speakers will be introduced by a representative of the Tides Foundation.)

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM Lunch with all grantmakers and speakers or other government representatives who wish to attend. Free time for open discussion over meal.

1:30 PM to 2:00 PM Closed session of grantmakers with panel presentation from those in various stages of supporting needle exchange programs and other harm reduction initiatives. Panelists may include: Betty Wilson of the Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis, a representative of the Elton John Foundation and a representative of the Elizabeth Taylor Foundation.

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM Q&A with grantmaker representatives presenting from 1:30-2:00 and open discussion on all issues discussed throughout the day.

Meetings / Epidemic Update

What is a Needle Exch? ^{SLT} Peter Beidensm

Pep Talk + Big Picture / Inspiration

~~SLT~~ Satchu

15

20

10

← ~~Language~~ Science

Satchu /

45

How we did it -

Adisa /

Current Issues update

Dan Mendelson / MBS

Networking / Dialogue

Panel

① Translating Research into Practice
(Components of good programs) - Peter

② What we know About Needle Exch
as Part of Prevention - Richard Needle

③ Evaluating Needle Exch Programs -
making sure they're working

④ ~~Future~~

OUT week of 27th

(800) 848-5876
John Gm Bailey
July 19th Sunday
Saturday night
713-973-5115