

**AIDS Committee of Ottawa
Quarterly Meeting
October 19, 2005
18:30 hrs-21:00 hrs**

Present (board)- Reg Dennis, Kevin Hatt, John Morgan, Randolph Shannon, Adrian Lloyd, Mike Murka, Richard Hubley, Sharon Peake, Keith Sayeau, Kathleen Cummings (ED)

Regrets (board)- Cherie Payne, Ayanna Ferdinand, Claude Ouellette

Address from the Chair

Introduction of New Board Members- Reg introduced Sharon Peake who has experience in the AIDS field working with ASO's Canada as well as overseas.

Finances- no funding announcement for 2005/06 has been received from the Ontario AIDS Bureau. ACO is therefore operating on last year's budget and finances are still in surplus.

Events- Look Good Feel Good is Nov. 24 (women) and Dec. 6 (men); Our Way Through (bios and pics of PHA's) will be launched at Venus Envy (Lisgar St.) during World AIDS week; the Fashion show has been moved to April at the request of sponsors (Labatt's Breweries, Arc Hotel, Delta Hotel); Reg has met with Centretown Ward councillor Diane Holmes who has expressed an interest in coming to the next AGM.

Vice-Chair Report

Pet Day- City of Ottawa has been contacted and there is no city bylaw that forbids pets on an agency's premises. Kathleen (ED) will be organizing the timing of dog day which will be for a couple of hours twice a month. Members suggested lots of notice be given for people with allergies or other concerns. Insurance requires dog owners sign a waiver and that the area be cleaned after the pet event; lawyers will be contacted about the possibility of lawsuits in the event a pet injures someone.

Committees- some committees require member reps and a list of committees will be posted.

Report of Executive Director

Statistics on Services- Kathleen gave stats for the past six months- 900 Y passes given out; 100's of bus tickets; 1,000 food bank orders picked up; over 3,000 meals served; over 7,000 AIDS ribbons given out; 15,000 condoms given out (as well as dental dams, female condoms, etc.); 4,000 volunteer hours and over 700 student placement hours put in; 17,000 web-site hits; 13 media contacts; 12 types of support groups.

Gay Men's Wellness Initiative- federal funders (ACAP) clarified that ACO be the lead organization in this partnership with Pink Triangle Services if there is going to be any operational funding; a new contract between the partners will have to be written up; an outreach person has been hired who is now working at both ACO and PTS. GMWI is trying to reach Capital Xtra about an article that misrepresents ACO.

Ontario AIDS Bureau- Kathleen reiterated that the funding from Ontario is still not received but that the letter is expected shortly.

General Discussion

Notification of Board Meetings- according to some board members it would be good to advertise board meetings in the newsletter and website, since there was some concern that members hadn't heard of discussions that had taken place that could have resulted in a merger with Bruce House.

Executive Director- members expressed appreciation to the board for getting Kathleen to stay on and were pleased that the position is now permanent.

Gay Men's Support Group- the head of the group said it will meet every week for another month, after this the meetings may drop to two per month depending on attendance.

Harm Reduction- there was some discussion of the reasons for harm reduction and the timing; Kathleen is still awaiting word from the city about provision of needles and pipes and said that gays will not go to other agencies for this services, hence the need to have it here at ACO.