PARTNERSHIP PROJECT
HIV ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network News
July 2012
Issue #147

OREGON HIV/AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT

Next Meeting

September 11th

No Meeting in August

Join OHSU/Partnership Project at AIDS Walk

Sunday, September 23rd

AIDS Walk is such an important event not just because of the funds raised but also because of the awareness the events raises about HIV/AIDS.

When your raise money for our team you support both the work of both Partnership Project and Cascade AIDS Project. We retain 75% of the funds our team raises for the work specifically done at Partnership Project.

Go here to join or support our team! Thank you for your support!!

Were you at AIDS 2012?

Even if you were there you probably missed a session or two.

To listen, see or read about all that occurred at AIDS 2012 visit Kaiser Family Foundation and POZ.

Social Security and Kaiser Permanente Begin Partnership to Speed Up Disability Decisions
Unprecedented Agreement Will Cut Cost, Save Time and Improve Service

The Social Security Administration and Kaiser Permanente, one of the nation's largest healthcare providers, will electronically transmit complete medical records for its patients to the agency with the appropriate consent. Social Security requests about 70,000 patient files from Kaiser Permanente each year so this seamless new system will save time and money for both partners as well as allow Social Security to make faster and more accurate decisions.

Over the last few years, Social Security had entered into similar agreements with several smaller providers to exchange medical records electronically over the Nationwide Health Information Network. Today's agreement marks the agency's first move into using health information technology on a large-scale basis.

"I am confident that people will look back at today's announcement as the most significant improvement in our disability determination process since the program began in 1956. In today's world it makes no sense for us to chase down paper records on an individual basis," said Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security. "We are thrilled that Kaiser Permanente is now one of our key agents for change."

"Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to supporting safe and secure health information exchange for members and our work with Social Security will enable our patients to obtain quicker disability decisions on their benefits," said Lisa Caplan, Kaiser Permanente's Senior Vice President and Business Information Officer. "We are delighted to be working with such an innovative agency."

More information on Social Security's use of health IT is available at www.socialsecurity.gov/hit.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WOMEN

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs

August 26 is known as Women's Equality Day. On that date in 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was signed, giving women the right to vote.

Social Security treats men and women equally. Men and women with identical earnings histories are treated exactly the same. However, there are things women in particular should know about Social Security. Although treated equally by Social Security, there are trends and differences in lifestyle that can affect benefits.

For example, women tend to care for many people: spouses, children, and parents. Taking time away from the workplace to care for a newborn child or aging parent can have an impact on your future Social Security benefits.

Also, despite significant strides through the years, women are more likely to earn less over a lifetime than men. Women are less often covered by private retirement plans, and they are more dependent on Social Security in their retirement years.

And, women tend to live about five years longer than men, which means more years depending on Social Security and other retirement income or savings.

If a woman is married to a man who earns significantly more than she does, it is likely she will qualify for a larger benefit amount on his record than on her own.

Want to learn more? Visit our Women's page at www.socialsecurity.gov/women. Follow the link on that page to our publication, *What Every Woman Should Know*. You can read it online, print a copy, or listen to it on audio. We provide alternate media as well to reach as many women as possible and to provide the information the way you'd like to receive it.

Learning about your future Social Security benefits and how men and women are treated just the same in the eyes of Social Security: what better way to celebrate Women's Equality Day?

Cascade AIDS Project is excited to partner with Project Able Oregon to provide a week-long Peer Support Specialist training for up to 12 individuals. Those who complete the training will become certified as Peer Specialists, via a state-approved curriculum. Training is being offered with the goal of providing professional skills to HIV-positive individuals that will be marketable within health care organizations across the state. In addition, CAP will seek to hire up to three individuals who've completed the certification for part-time work at Cascade AIDS Project as Peer Specialists.

This training is specifically for people who are HIV+ and who have dealt with mental health challenges such as (but not limited to) depression, substance abuse, or anxiety. Individuals who would like to use their experience to offer support to other HIV-positive individuals that may be struggling with mental health issues are encouraged to apply.

By filling out an application, you certify that you are HIV-positive and have dealt with mental health issues in the past. This opportunity is not available to individuals who currently receive intensive support services through CAP's CareLink program, MAI case management, or mental health support through CAP's partnership with Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare.

If you are participating in CAP's housing program we request that you have at least 6 months of housing stability prior to applying. Training costs and meals during the training will be covered by Cascade AIDS Project.

No advanced schooling is required to be eligible for this training. CAP seeks to recruit a broad diversity of trainees representing the many communities infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. All applicants for the training must commit to being available to participate in a five day training the week of September 17-21 and will be notified of their selection no later than August 30th.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Erin Nortrup, Manager of Support Services by close of business Wednesday, August 15, 2012. You can obtain an application by going here.

Applications can be faxed to 503-223-6437, dropped off or mailed to the CAP office at 208 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 800, Portland, Oregon 97204 (Attn: Erin Nortrup) or emailed to enortrup@cascadeaids.org.
For questions about the training or application process call Erin at 503-278-3830.

Funding for this effort has been provided by Multnomah County via Ryan White Federal Funds.

For more information about Peer Specialists and Peer Delivered Services in Oregon –
go to: http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/amh/peer.shtml

Are you seeing more and more Young Adults? Are they in need of support to manage their HIV, interact with families, friends and partners. Consider referring them to the Young Adult Support Group for support and information

YOUNG ADULTS HIV/AIDS PEER SUPPORT GROUP

- Connect with other HIV + Young Adults in a comfortable, small group setting
- Receive and provide support and information about issues such as navigating relationships, work and school, disclosure, and more

When? **Every 2nd Monday of the month from 4:30pm -6:00**

Where? **Central Drugs: 538 SW 4th Ave. Portland**

Hungry? **Food & drinks provided each meeting.**

Interested? **RSVP requested. Contact Partnership Project facilitator:**

Lisa Steeves, LCSW, : mitcheli@ohsu.edu
(503) 494-6516

THANK YOU to Central Drugs for donating the space and food for this group!

OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

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This issue, and issues from Feb 2002 on, can be found electronically at http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/hiv/services/news.shtml