



## "2011 WOW" Award Recipients Announced WOW Celebration to be Held on Friday, May 6, 2011

The Delaware HIV Consortium is proud to announce the award recipients for the 2011 WOW Awards Celebration which will be held on Friday, May 6, 2011 at the Clarion Hotel - The Belle in New Castle, Delaware. This annual awards event recognizes corporate and individual excellence for philanthropy, volunteerism, fundraising and community leadership in the field of HIV/AIDS. Each and every WOW Awards is celebrated with a new and exciting theme so look for details coming soon. Take out your calendar and save the date now. The awards celebration incorporates live entertainment, endless food and drinks, a vast silent auction, exciting raffles, fellowship, the Red Ribbon Awards ceremony, wine tasting, dancing and so much more. And, please help us in congratulating all of this year's awardees; they are all most deserving of this recognition.

This is the seventh year of the WOW Awards Celebration and every year it is difficult to choose a select number of caring, dedicated individuals and businesses to honor from among the many who help us so much. This year's awardees are: **John Gardner** (Board of AIDS Delaware), Humanitarian Award; **Renetta Mosley** (Bristol-Myers Squibb), Visionary Award; **Liz Ramsoram** (House of Joseph II), Guardian Angel Award; **Steve Elkins** (CAMP Rehoboth), Community Award ; **Kelly Snavely**, Volunteer of the Year; **Mark Manchen**, Impact Award; **Basha Silverman** (Brandywine Counseling & Community Services), Ally Award; **Mary Kay Sullivan** (Christiana Care), Ryan White Award; **Mary Mathews and LabCorp**, Corporate Award.

There are many opportunities for supporting the 2011 WOW Awards, from purchasing a reserved table for eight to becoming an official sponsor with your company logo on thousands of printed materials. Please consider a donation to our silent auction or give us that bottle of wine or liquor that you got as a Christmas gift but can't see yourself drinking. No donation is too small.

*It's HOT, It's SPICY, It's... WOW 2011. Can't you just taste it?*

## World AIDS Day Remembered

There were a few tears shed by some in attendance at the 2010 World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington on December 1, 2010. But, there was also a feeling of great hope for the future as 2010 produced good news in HIV prevention studies. Religious leaders from many faiths were present at the service and the Rainbow Chorale of Delaware sang several moving songs during the vigil.



*Attendants placed votive candles on the altar, above, as the names of those remembered were read aloud on World AIDS Day in Wilmington on December 1, 2010.*

The World AIDS Day vigil in Wilmington was organized by AIDS Delaware and was attended by allies from local churches and houses of worship and members of the community. Friends, staff and supporters of AIDS Delaware, Brandywine Counseling & Community Services, the Delaware HIV Consortium, Connections CSP, House of Joseph II, Beautiful Gate Outreach Center, and other local organizations all proudly showed their support of the HIV community.

Bob Bercaw, a member of the Rainbow Chorale, gave a personal testimony about living in San Francisco in the early 1980s and watching the AIDS epidemic slowly claim the lives of many of his friends. Bercaw was in the Gay Men's Chorus at the time and knew 75 men on a list of 250 who were in the chorus that have died of AIDS. Eight of them were his very close friends. "I love, honor and remember each of my beloved friends whom I lost along the way."

# Letter From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Your support during the past year has been incredible. Whether it was a monetary donation, attending one of our special events or helping the Consortium as a volunteer, your continued support and generosity of time, talents and resources humble me. I continue to be amazed by the outpouring of support that helps us continue to bring alive our mission statement and provide housing assistance to more than one hundred and twenty five households and an additional two hundred family members. Your support also makes possible the continuance of the Michael Brossett Emergency Client Assistance program, client advocacy, HIV/AIDS education and numerous other supportive services that assist the hundreds of men, women, children, families and our community.

My wish to all of you is that 2011 will be a healthy, prosperous, joyous and exciting year, both professionally and personally. I look forward to another gratifying year that is hopefully one year closer to ending this epidemic. It's simple... we can not do what we do best without you.

*Best Regards, Peter Houle*



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## CONSORTIUM STAFF

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Executive Director

**Glen Pruitt**  
Associate Executive Director

**Robert Raup, CPA**  
Director of Finance & Administration

**Dianne Casey**  
Director of Housing

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**Rita Devlin Salvo**  
Manager of Community Planning and Policy Development

**Joe Scarborough**  
Client Advocate & Community Planning and Policy Assistant



The DHC is an Affiliate Member of the United Way of Delaware.

Our Partner Agency Number is 9467.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, May 6, 2011  
WOW Awards Celebration,

Wednesday, May 18, 2011  
Consortium Annual Meeting  
Sheraton Hotel, Dover, Delaware

*Executive Director of the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Paul Kawata, right, will address the guests of the Consortium's Annual Meeting on May 18, 2011.*



### Planning Council/Policy Sub-Committee 2011 Meeting Schedule

Five joint Planning Council/Policy Sub-Committee Meetings will be held as follows:

Dover Sheraton Meeting Room: To Be Determined  
1570 North Dupont Highway Meeting Time: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Dover, DE 19901 Lunch 12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. (Buffet in meeting space during the meeting)  
Orientation, if needed: 9:30 a.m.  
Ad Hoc Work Group Meetings, When Needed: 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Five additional Policy Sub-Committee Meetings will be held as follows:

Community Service Building, Room 105  
100 W. 10th Street, Wilmington DE, 19801  
Meeting Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Meeting	Dates	Location
Planning Council/Policy	Tuesday, February 22	Dover
Policy	Wednesday, March 23	Wilmington
Planning Council/Policy	Thursday, April 28	Dover
Consortium Annual Meeting	Wednesday, May 18	Dover
Policy	Wednesday, June 22	Wilmington
Policy	Wednesday, July 27	Wilmington
Planning Council/Policy	Tuesday, August 16	Dover
Policy	Wednesday, September 21	Wilmington
Planning Council/Policy	Thursday, October 20	Dover
No November Meeting	No November Meeting	No Meeting
Planning Council/Policy	Tuesday, December 6	Dover

The Delaware HIV Consortium Annual Meeting is included so people can reserve the date on their calendars.

### Mission Statement:

**The Delaware HIV Consortium is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating the spread of HIV/AIDS and to creating a seamless continuum of care for all people infected and affected in Delaware.**

# Looking Back, Looking Ahead

## Planning Council & Policy Committee

### *Taking A Position (or Two)*

Working together, the Consortium's Planning Council and Policy Committee recently completed position papers on two initiatives that are important to Delaware and supportive of the first ever National HIV AIDS Strategy:

- **Needle Exchange Program:** A five-year pilot Needle Exchange Program (NEP) that has operated in parts of the City of Wilmington since February 2007 is due to sunset in 2012. The NEP has been successful on many levels. The position paper recommends making the program permanent, extending the service area based on proven need, enhancing flexibility, continuing state funding, and maintaining capacity to obtain available future federal funds. The committees are working with Senator Margaret Rose Henry on this issue.

- **Routine Opt-Out Testing:** HIV testing is a key component of HIV prevention and treatment. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that HIV testing be done as a part of routine medical testing in all healthcare settings for those 13 through 64, with consent inferred unless the patient declines. Opt-out procedures help eliminate impediments to HIV testing, such as stigma, fear and discrimination. The committees are working with the Division of Public Health and legislators to encourage changes to Delaware code to include the CDC recommendations for routine opt-out testing.

Anyone interested in reading the position papers can find them on the Consortium website, [www.delawarehiv.org](http://www.delawarehiv.org). Support for the papers can be given to Joe Scarborough at [jscarborough@delawarehiv.org](mailto:jscarborough@delawarehiv.org) or by calling 654-5471.

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### *NAPWA Staff Member, Matt Lesieur, Vice President for Public Policy, Talks About Changes Coming to Health Care System, Ryan White*

At the December 7, 2010 meeting of the Delaware HIV Planning Council, Matt Lesieur of the *National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA)* spoke to attendees regarding health care reform (specifically the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* of 2010) and funding for HIV services. In response to the big question, "What will these changes mean for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)?" Lesieur made the following points:

- The expansion of Medicaid in 2014 to all low-income individuals is a critical win for the HIV community.
- The new health care act will mean comprehensive health care coverage for thousands of PLWHAs in many states who currently are on ADAP or are struggling to pay for HIV primary medical care.
- For the first time eligibility for state Medicaid programs will not be connected to an AIDS diagnosis; merely income levels will determine eligibility.



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### *Marla Blunt-Carter is the new Director of Community Planning and Policy Development*

Marla Blunt-Carter has been selected to be the new Director of Community Planning and Policy Development, replacing Rita Devlin Salvo who is retiring from the position she has held since 2008.

Marla Blunt-Carter earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Delaware in 1995 and a Masters in Social Work from Rutgers's University in 2003.

From June 2005 to July 2008 Blunt-Carter worked for then Senator Joe Biden as Director of Constituent Services and Projects Manager. She was responsible for constituent outreach activities, managing projects related to housing, education and health in the state of Delaware. Her dedication to the state of Delaware as the State Director for the 2008 Obama/Biden Presidential Campaign set the stage for her



work as a Senior Agency Liaison in the Executive Office of the President in the White House.

"I'm so excited to be back in Delaware working with the people I know so well," said Blunt-Carter. "I'm glad to be back doing community organizing in our great state and I love the Consortium staff. I'm looking forward to working with friends in the community and elected office, as well as friends I am sure to make through engagement in the critically important initiatives of the Delaware HIV Consortium."

Marla Blunt-Carter will be starting the position on February 1, 2011 and will be facilitating the Delaware HIV Planning Council meeting on February 22, 2011. All are encouraged to come meet Marla for yourselves at the next meeting which is always free and open to the public.





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## Prevention News: Recent Study Shows Promise in Reducing Infection Rates

AIDS and health advocates were thrilled with the findings of a new study released in November that showed that healthy gay men who took an anti-HIV pill (Truvada) every day were significantly protected against contracting HIV. The study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, found that the men taking Truvada, which is a combination of two anti-retroviral drugs currently on the market, were 44% less likely to become infected with HIV than an equal number of men taking a placebo.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the infectious diseases division of the *National Institutes*

*of Health*, said that the pill was more than 90% effective for the men whose blood tests showed that they had taken their pills faithfully every day. These results are even better than this summer's exciting announcement that a vaginal microbicide gel protected 39% of all women testing it and 54% of those who used it faithfully. These forms of protection are known as pre-exposure prophylaxis.

Although the CDC would prefer that doctors wait for the results of more studies before prescribing Truvada for prophylaxis, more will probably prescribe the drugs now that the study is out, said Dr. Kevin Fenton,

director of the CDC's *National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention*. The CDC will soon release guidelines that will likely suggest that the drug be prescribed only with close medical supervision and used only with safer-sex practices. "The results are encouraging, but it's not time for gay men to throw away their condoms," Dr. Fenton said.

In the U.S., Truvada costs about \$12,000 a year, or more. Truvada is made by Gilead Sciences. Insurers and Medicare normally pay for anti-retroviral drugs, but none of these payers have policies on supplying the drugs to healthy people yet.