



# Chemung County AIDS Task Force

Raising awareness and educating our community

## Chemung County AIDS Task Force minutes 5/17/16

**Attendees:** Anthony Novakowski, Roger Laughlin, Bob Bennett, Linda Swarthout, Barb VanDine, Dawn Bush

ATF members discussed **National HIV Testing Day** which is June 27<sup>th</sup>. Promotion was discussed including Facebook and flyers. Anthony will create a flyer. Dawn said the Health Dept. will have walk in testing available the 27<sup>th</sup>, but Planned Parenthood and the Ivy Clinic both wanted testing done by appointment due to being short staffed. She will check with them to see if that is still the case and see what hours CCHD will be open for testing. Possible television coverage was discussed. We discussed the need to educate young people. Bob agreed to tell his story if the local stations were interested. Roger will touch base with Marcie Daniels and Barb will contact Renata Steel. Linda said they also used to have a reporter actual get tested to show how easy it was. Testing is now done with a swab and results are known within ten to twenty minutes. It used to be done by blood test with results not known for two weeks.

**Red ribbon pins** – Roger distributed pictures and explained various red ribbon pin options available. He had information on silicone cause wristbands that he thought might be a better choice. The group discussed and agreed to purchase the wristbands for the time being. Anthony suggested a vendor he had used in the past. Roger will do a little research and order.

**AIDS Ride for Life** – Dawn wondered if there was a local event. We don't believe there is. We will work to promote the ones that are nearby. There is a very large, active group in Tompkins County. Their event is Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**LGBT Safe Zones** – There is currently no program for this in Chemung County. Anthony said he had done this previously at the YWCA with a focus on youth. They had asked Planned Parenthood to lead the program, but they declined. A mailing campaign was suggested, but Anthony said it was important for those offering a safe zone to be educated and aware of exactly what that entailed. There are many people, including transgendered, coming out heightening the need for these. Dawn will ask STAP and PPSFL what they offer. Linda explained there had been changes at STAP due to funding requirements.

**Cuomo** – Roger told the group Governor Cuomo announced new initiatives yesterday to help end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

**Coaster distribution** – Dawn explained the Cancer Services Program was having some success with their coasters for colorectal cancer screenings. She wanted everyone to know there were aids coasters available if anyone wanted them.

**Syringe exchange** – There is nowhere in Chemung County that does this. We believe the closest place is Tompkins County. Law enforcement and county support must be involved for it to be successful as it is heavily regulated. Dawn will call STAP to see if they do it. Linda doesn't believe there is local support for it.

**PREP campaign** – Many of the group have seen the local ads for PREP. Anthony explained there are many hoops to jump through, mainly regarding insurance, to be on the program. He also said there is a stigma attached to being on PREP. Those on the program are tested regularly too. Many times it is couples where one of them is positive and the other isn't.

**Raise awareness with personal stories** – As discussed above - Bob We will meet in June, but tentatively skip the summer meetings.

2016 Meeting Schedule	
6/21/2016	9:15 – 10:45 am
7/19/2016	9:15 – 10:45 am
8/16/2016	9:15 – 10:45 am
9/20/2016	9:15 – 10:45 am
10/18/2016	9:15 – 10:45 am
11/15/2016	9:15 – 10:45 am
12/20/2016	9:15 – 10:45 am
1/17/2017	9:15 – 10:45 am

**Our next AIDS Task Force Meeting will be June 21st at 9:15 at the Health Dept.**