

HEALTH

BOSTON COMMISSION HEARINGS FOCUS ON HOUSING AND THE H.I.V. EPIDEMIC

The National Commission on AIDS will held hearings in Boston March 2 and 3 to review issues around the unmet need for housing for the growing number of people living with HIV.

Among the issues before the Commission will be the continuum of housing models for people in different stages of HIV infection, various private and public partnership options for developing housing, as well as the status of implementation of the federal AIDS Housing Opportunities Act.

June Osborn, M.D., Chairman of the National Commission, said, "For the general public, the issue of housing is something of a 'sleeper' in the AIDS epidemic, but it comes up in virtually every city and town that is touched by AIDS."

"Homelessness is only the tip of the iceberg of disruption for communities where AIDS causes people to lose their economic viability and therefore the stability of their living arrangements," added Dr. Osborn, who is also Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan.

Larry Kessler, a member of the National Commission of AIDS who is also Executive Director of Boston's AIDS Action Committee, said Executive Director of Boston's AIDS Action Committee, said, "We're thrilled that the Commission will study the national housing scene by looking at what Boston has accomplished."

"The city has already shown a strong commitment in pledging 501 housing units in the next three years and has developed unique models of partnership that will help bring that about. In addition we look forward to the expertise that other cities will bring both to Boston and the Commission hearings," Mr. Kessler added.

Among those participating in the hearing were AIDS and housing experts from Seattle, Wilmington, N.C., New York City, Boston and Washington, D.C.

Others appearing before the Commission include Mayor Raymond L. Flynn of Boston and Anna Kondratas, Assistant

Secretary for Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C.

The hearings were held both

days in the Copley Plaza Hotel, 138th St. James Avenue, Boston. A 30-minute period for public comment is scheduled to start at 11:30 on Tuesday.

Small groups of Commission-

ers were also invited to make private visits to several HIV housing facilities in the Boston area. However residents of these facilities have asked that the discussions be limited to

Commissioners and staff.

The National Commission on AIDS is an independent body created by Federal statute to advise Congress and the President's Cabinet are non-

voting members of the commission. They are the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

FAMILY HOME HOSPICE TO PRESENT WORKSHOPS ON HOSPICE CARE

Family Home Hospice (FHH), a subsidiary of Sierra Health Services, Inc., dedicated to treating the terminally ill members of the Company's insurance plans, announced today that it will hold a series of community-oriented workshops on hospice care. The series is comprised of eleven sessions which will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from March 5th through April 9th. All classes will be held from noon to 2 p.m. at the FHH offices located at 1701 West Charleston Boulevard. The course outline is as follows:

• Thursday, March 5
Orientation

• Tuesday, March 10
Overview of Hospice
• Thursday, March 12
Concepts of Death, Dying, and Grief

• Tuesday, March 17
Communication Skills
• Thursday, March 19
Care and Comfort Measures
• Tuesday, March 24
Understanding Diseases and Conditions

• Thursday, March 26
Psychosocial and Spiritual Dynamic of Death and Dying

• Tuesday, March 31
The Hospice Family
• Thursday, April 2
Managing Personal Stress

• Tuesday, April 7
Understanding the Bereavement Process

• Thursday, April 9
Opportunities for the Hospice Volunteer.

The class will provide the participants with an understanding of the philosophy of hospice and teach them how to serve terminally ill patients and their families. After completion of the course, participants will be invited to serve as volunteers for FHH. Continuing Education Credits are available for nurses or social workers who complete the course.

The hospice philosophy,

which is gaining acceptance throughout the country, is centered around the belief that the terminally ill have the right to make choices about their treatment and to be shown the dignity and respect they deserve during their final days of life. FHH recognizes that a decision to remain at home raises many physical, philosophical, legal, and sociological questions and challenges for the patient, his or

her family, and the caregiver and has designed this series of workshops to address those issues. The course will be taught by licensed health care professionals at FHH and professionals in the community. Pre-registration is required. Anyone interested in signing-up or obtaining more information should call Family Home Hospice at 383-0887 and ask for Kathleen Bruttomesso or Theresa O'Connell.

If Your Man Is Dabbling In Drugs...
He Could Be Dabbling
With Your Life.



This is a message from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Shooting up or skin popping, if your man is sharing needles he could get the AIDS virus and bring it home to you. So if he's running with the drug crowd, even if it's only on the weekends, you need to talk to him. Try to get him into counselling. Insist that he wear a condom every time you have sex. And if he's not listening to you—do something to save your life. Leave.

For more information about AIDS, call 1-800-842-AIDS. Nevada AIDS Hotline



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