

XVI International AIDS Conference

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

March 21, 2006



Time: 12:00 – 2:00PM

Attendees: Maulik Baxi, Mwansa Njelesani, Lia De Pauw, Brandy Svendsen, Maxwell Mark, Stephanie Lodge, Shahmeer Ansari, Mila Gorokhovich, Nichole Downer, Alex McClelland, Thabo Sephuma

Time: 7:00-9:00PM

Attendees: Henry Luyombya, Nicci Stein, Alischa Ross, Sarah Stumbar, Ben Houghton, Piyoo Kochar, Alex McClelland

Regrets: Ricardo Baruch, Chrystal Nicholson, Samia Omar, Joya Banerjee, Olga Aleksandrova, Qaisar Ismail, Sarah Hendricks, Ryan Tucker, , Rachel Ong

Absent without regrets: Mandisi Manqele, Justin L. Hill, Paulo Jorge Vieira, Ginelle Yearwood-Macdonald

Minutes from both meetings are combined below.

Co- Chair Discussion/Election Process

Alex discussed role of co-chairs:

- co-chair would assist in meetings
- Assist in developing agenda
- Be able to touch base with Alex couple times a week
- Three people have indicated their interest in the position
- YAC members will vote via email
- Will email bios of those who are interested in the Co-Chair positions

Committee liaisons to PLWHIV/AIDS Lounge Committee

Alex discussed the need for youth representation on the PLWHIV/AIDS Lounge Committee to assist in the planning of the People Living with HIV/AIDS Lounge. The Lounge is space for PLWHIV/AIDS to relax and network during the conference. Committee would like to have a youth representative from the YAC on the Lounge Committee, preferably someone who is living HIV/AIDS. Alex will contact a few individuals to identify their interest.

Youth age range for participation

Alex thanks all those who advocated for having the age restriction removed from the conference. The COC has decided that youth under the age of 18 can now register and participate in the conference.

- Parents/guardians will have to sign a 2 page waiver and consent form. The form will have information regarding what young people attending should expect to see such as images and discussions related to sexuality, people engaged in sex work, people who use injection drugs ect...
- Local Host and IAS would like to get a draft form of waiver as soon as possible. Alex is working with the Local Host lawyer on developing this.
- Waiver will be available for youths on the website upon registration.

Discussion

Brandy asked – How many spaces are available for youths under 18 to register??

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Alex reminds us – As many young people can register as are willing to pay. BUT international young people under 18 have missed the deadline for international scholarships. This is unfortunate, but with this change we are hopeful that people under 18 will be able to register for scholarships for Mexico 2008.

Letter to Abstract reviewers

The Main Conference Taskforce has developed a letter encouraging the co-chairs of all the scientific tracks to consider youth related abstracts during the Marathon meeting. The Marathon meeting is a four day long event where all the tracks will be choosing abstracts. It is the final meeting where the conference programme and agenda is decided.

Discussion

Mila asks- Are there any young people reviewing abstracts? Can members of the YAC review abstracts?

Alex replies- There are approximately 5 young people involved in the scientific tracks that are helping review abstracts. These people have already been selected and members of the YAC will not be part of the process unless they have been contact by the IAS to do so.

Youth Rapportuer

Lia gives us an update on the Youth Rapporteur positions. The Chief Youth Rapporteur needs to be chosen by April 20th and two Assistant Rapporteurs will be selected shortly after that date.

- 2 assistants will support the Chief Rapportuer
- Should be someone who is involved, but isn't going to be doing a lot during the Conference as it will be a full time position during the week long hours
- This is the first time the conference will have a Youth Rapportuer team, so it is essential to get someone who is reliable because it's a lot of work. Great writing skills are also a must.

Discussion

Alex reminds us- We do not have capacity to do an open call internationally but we can nominate people and target individuals we think are qualified. YAC is encouraged to recommend people.

Lia suggests- It would be a great idea if the Youth Rapportuer wasn't from Canada, U.S or Europe.

Maxwell mentions – As this will be a challenging job, can we give the Rapporteurs templates to follow for their reporting.

Alex suggests- Refer to the Bangkok Rapporteur summaries and see what the Rapportuers did there, perhaps this will be a help?

Alischa mentions- We will need to ensure that the person selected also has good public speaking skills as they will be presenting to many thousands of people at the Closing Session.

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Mentorship

Alischa gave us an overview of what is planned for Mentorship. She is the co-chair of Main Conference Taskforce who is developing the mentorship plan. Youth delegates wanting to connect with Mentors can connect through the website Discussion Board on new website. Discussion Boards will have different topics such as navigating the conference, how to successfully network, traveling to Canada, linking people who have been to Canada, help preparing presentations and others.

YAC members are encouraged to be mentors. The Main Conference Taskforce needs 5 YAC members who could act as mentors to youth conference delegates. YAC members are to identify their interest to Alex.

Nicci reminds us- The Mentor Programme for developing abstracts was very popular and AIDS 2006 could not keep up demand. Although that initiative was not youth specific, we should expect that the YAC mentor programme will be very successful.

Youth website

Mwansa gave us an update on the youth website. It will hopefully be launched by April 10th. Taskforces are responsible for different components and will be sending content into Alex and Mwansa.

Communicating Youth Sessions in the General Programme

Alex gives brief overview of Bangkok and the "Y" that indicated youth related sessions in the Programme book. Feedback from adults was that they thought they couldn't be apart of sessions with the "Y". As we are looking to engage adults in the Youth Programme Alex suggested to the IAS that the "Y" be removed for AIDS 2006 as they were planning to do the same thing this time. The IAS has suggested that it may look strange if it is removed, as other sessions are identified with symbols. Youth related sessions are now called "Youth-focused Sessions"

Ideas/Feedback about the "Y" being removed

Lia suggested- What if we said Youth Focus: Adults welcomed

Overall there is consensus that there needs to be a symbol that encourages adults to attend the youth-focused sessions.

Piyoo suggests- The symbol could be WWY, which would stand for Working With Youth/Youth-Focused Sessions. This way the symbol is inclusive and not just youth specific, but encompasses adults who are working with youth.

Alex will take this to the IAS as a recommendation from the YAC.

Budget/Funding Update

Alex gives a brief budget update

- Core conference budget has been filled
- Lost Host working with IAS to see where the new money is going to be placed.
- GlaxoSmith Klein-Positive Action is funding Global Village and Youth Pavilion
- Confident most of the budget will be filled for Youth Programme
- End of April will review budget to see what we can and can't do

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Global Village/Youth Pavilion

The deadline for applications was March 15th and Youth Pavilion received just over hundred applications. As co-chair of the Youth Pavilion Taskforce, Mwansa gives a brief overview of the process so far. There will be a meeting on April 20th using the criteria developed by the YAC and a minimum three people evaluating each application.

- 2/3 more applications came in than expected
- Approximately 360 Global Village applications
- Approximately 250 Cultural Activities Program applications

YouthForce and Youth Programme Coordinating Committee Meeting

Alex reviews briefly that 2 weeks ago co-chairs of all taskforces had a meeting to update everyone on what's happening with all the different planning bodies. The YAC will not be just another meeting to do updates. It was discussed that at YAC meetings we will not do general taskforce updates unless there was a very important issue.

Decision

Taskforce co-chairs will make all taskforce minutes available to everyone on the YAC therefore everyone is on the same page as to what's happening.

Other Business

Alex reminds everyone that the Youth Bulletin is out on March 21 – Contents about website, red ribbon reward, and tips on fundraising. YAC members are encouraged to distribute to their networks.

Alischa mentions- If there are corporate sponsors being looked at for funding the Youth Programme, the YAC should be informed to ensure that everyone is aware. Alex assures that this will happen.

Henry mentions-Recognizing youth leadership at the conference and what is planned. Discussion about ways to recognize youth leaders, those we have lost and those who are active. Perhaps there could be peoples names in the Youth Pavilion.