

## AVP/California Steering Committee Minutes 4/26/10 Conference Call

In attendance: Eric Moon, Stephen Matchett, Ann Boone, Joan Cowan, Gary Wolff, Vicki Rumbaugh, Pat Hardy, Joyce Banzhaf, Linda McCue, KathySmith  
Clerk of this meeting was Gary Wolff. Pat Hardy recorded it.

Minutes of March 8, 2010 meeting were accepted as distributed by email on April 22.

### **Financial report-** Stephen

FY 2009 Year-end Report was sent out prior to meeting. Individual contributions were back up to the level received in 2007, prior to the 2008 economic downturn. We generated a \$13,000 surplus (total income \$49,000, expenses \$34,000) and ended the year with a \$19,000 balance. Stephen researching how much we should keep in reserve.

### **Fundraising**

Thank you to Gary for securing a \$600 grant from the Southern California War Tax Alternative Fund, and to again to Hands of Peace in San Diego for their donation of \$500.

Pat reports that she is in a research and evaluation period in terms of writing grants and raising funds, including conversations with CDCR.

AVP/CA is still listed with CSECC (state employees donation program administered by United Way) and the income from that, though yet to break \$1,000 a year, is slow but steadily increasing.

### **June Steering Committee Retreat** – June 1 evening- June 3 til noon, Santa Barbara

Gary not able to arrive until Wed., Eric can't commit due to his mom's situation, Joan has to leave Wed evening, Kathy is checking her return from the national conference.

Purpose: Revive us, get to know each other, look at AVP/CA in a fresh way

Who possible to facilitate: Katherine Y., Toby, Diana, Alex, Alice

ACTION: Pat will call Katherine and present these suggestions.

**Challenges at Local Prisons:** (This item has not been included for privacy reasons. Full minutes are available.)

### **ILTAG: Inmate Leisure Time Activity Groups**

These inmate-based groups have been brought up at CMC and RJD as ways to expand the AVP workshops including having the paid staff run the workshops. When this has been suggested we have responded that these groups are great for support groups but not as the primary support of the workshops and that our Steering Committee has said we cannot operate AVP workshops under ILTAGs. Over the years ILTAGs (involving NA, AA etc) have been funded and not funded causing them repeatedly to stop and go depending on the funding of the day. We really cannot offer an AVP program that stops and starts, however a support group started by former participants in an AVP workshop can readily work. This makes it possible to have support groups without requiring an AVP facilitator to be present, about which we don't have a problem. However workshops cannot be offered without on outside person, non-staff, present.

Pat will post on the website the ILTAG Bylaws created by the Chuckawalla group which is the most true to AVP philosophy including anyone who has taken the Basic as members.

CTF also has Bylaws, which are particularly hierarchical and limit the group to only facilitators, which you are welcome to see, however are not recommended.

Solano has Bylaws which we rejected as a Steering Committee which were not initiated by the prisoners and are a lengthy, detailed description of how to run an AVP workshop. Pat has communicated to the CDCR Directors of Program and Community Partnership that these have been rejected by the Steering Committee.

**CTF is inviting the Steering Committee** to come to a gathering on the inside on one day between July 14-17. The agenda for this meeting is likely to hear again their request of making everyone team

coordinators rather than picking one person out and apprenticing them. They don't feel they should have to do this because they are so experienced.

**Meeting with Department of Juvenile Justice.** Stephen, Pat and Vicki presented a mini-workshop in the context of explaining what AVP is and can accomplish. The "big takeaway" was re-opening research conversations with the department and rediscovering familiar allies in the section.

**Pat has been invited to speak at the quarterly Warden's Meeting** held by the director. It will be at San Quentin and Stephen has agreed to join her. Topics suggested to include:

Assessment review and getting the director to recommend AVP meeting with Wardens on a regular basis

Brown cards released for AVP Facilitators on the statewide list to be able to remove the card from the prison of origin

Cooperative funding by prisons for Outreach Coordinators in an area. For example, each of four prisons (eg. San Joaquin Valley, Desert, Riverside) in an area contribute \$10-20,000 to hire a coordinator who would recruit for them all.

ILTAG

Ask about the changes wardens have seen at their prisons with AVP.

**Assessment** is completed, now it is up to the local coordinators to make appointments for follow-up meetings with wardens go over the assessment and to establish an ongoing relationship.

It is recommended that the person who interviewed the inside liaison at prison remind the coordinator at prison to make that appointment. After this meeting prison coordinators are asked to write a memo to the warden copying all in attendance plus Vicki, Pat and Gary so we can track whether and how those meetings went.

**Next meeting:** June 1-3 Retreat. Date for follow-up meeting will be set during the retreat.