

**Minutes of  
DoD Sexually Transmitted Diseases Prevention Committee (STDPC)  
Meeting of 9 March 00**

**Attending**

LCDR Josephine Brumit, BUMED  
Bill Calvert, NEHC, Chairman  
Joel Gaydos, MD, WRAIR  
Steve Heaston, NEHC  
Maj. Steve Niehoff, AFMOA/SGOP  
LCDR Sharon Ludwig, USPHS/USCG  
MAJ (P) David D. Peterson, USACHPPM  
Maj. Steve Vieira, AFMOA/SGOP

**Attending by Phone**

Bob MacDonald, NEHC  
CDR Richard Shaffer, Naval Health Research Center (NHRC)

1. Bill Calvert convened the meeting at 0930 at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) in Silver Spring, MD.
2. The minutes of the 17 February 00 were reviewed and approved.
3. Bill Calvert will be attending the PSHPC Executive Council meeting on March 17, 2000. The STDPC Charter and Action Plans are still being coordinated for approval by Health Affairs.
4. The STDPC members reviewed the list of STDPC participants previously distributed by electronic mail. The group requested the list be posted on the STDPC Home Page by name, title, and organization of each member. Individuals accessing the STDPC Home Page who desire to make contact with the committee can make contact through the Chairman. The Chairman's contact information is available on the home page.
5. The US Military is sending a HIV prevention team to Africa. This action is resulting from \$100 million of White House funds, of which 10% is to support prevention among the African military. It is believed that CDR Rick Shaffer, Naval Health Research Center, and Donna Ruscavage, Henry M Jackson Foundation, will participant in a team visiting Africa later this March to discuss what prevention activities might work and be done in the African military.
6. Mr. Calvert stated that Donna Ruscavage called him prior to today's STDPC and requested he inform the group about some tentative plans. The Henry M Jackson Foundation and WRAIR are scheduling a meeting in San Diego in May, 2000. This meeting will bring together individuals involved in their clinical trial activities and is

tentatively scheduled for May 18-19. As part of this meeting , HMJF/WRAIR are considering a prevention component meeting scheduled for May 16-17. Ms. Ruscavage anticipates that the STDPC membership will be invited to attend. As a result of this, the STDPC members decided to schedule a tentative STDPC meeting for May 15. CDR Rick Shaffer is considering hosting this meeting. More information regarding these tentative meetings will be forthcoming.

7. Dr. Joel Gaydos initiated a discussion regarding the use of non-DoD federal funds for prevention activities within the DoD. For instance, Chlamydia screening of recruits is not uniformly performed. There may be a hesitancy to screen new recruits because they may have limited active duty time. The committee noted that identifying and partnering with other federal prevention programs might enhance DoD efforts and this is worth further discussion. It was suggested that subcommittees consider this issue when recommending policy.

8. Continue action items: Reports from the two active STDPC Subcommittees.

- Epidemiology/surveillance

The epidemiology/surveillance committee has not met since the last STDPC meeting. The Joint Preventive Medicine Policy Group (JPMPG) will be meeting soon. They will be addressing surveillance activities. LCDR Ludwig, subcommittee chairman, is also a member of the JPMPG.

Bill Calvert stated the need for Epidemiology/Surveillance subcommittee recommendations in order to obtain baselines to measure impact resulting from STDPC recommendations and program changes.

Dr. Gaydos discussed the CDC's Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Program's (GISP) recent video teleconference where the CDC participants indicate they would like military participation. LCDR Ludwig indicated she would raise this issue at the next JPMPG meeting.

- Health Promotion/education

At the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, Maj. Vieira reviewed how the Air Force HIV monitored STDs and who was responsible for coordinating and providing HIV/STD education. Major (P) Peterson confirmed that HIV prevention is conducted at basic training sites and is optional in leadership schools, but usually offered by the local Army Community Health Nurse. A representative from the Coast Guard will be asked to inform the Working Group on the Coast Guard program. Members were asked to forward their further comments and program recommendations to the group chairman before the next meeting.

9. Roundtable discussions:

LCDR Brumit advised the group that there is a Women's Health CD-ROM available. For information, or to obtain a CD-ROM, contact HM2 Shawn Anderson (FMF), USN, Naval Operational Medicine Institute, (850) 452-2350 (DSN 922-2350), Code12d@nomi.med.navy.mil.

LCDR Ludwig advised the group the she and Ms. Vickie Brannon are revising the USCG Wellness and Medical Manual. One change is to mandate HIV/STD prevention.

The issue of condoms and their availability was raised. One issue discussed involved the objection to promotion of condoms by a few commands. Some thoughts were that individuals have the right to be informed about options for contraception and prevention of diseases. Perhaps there needs to be a reaffirmation by health care and line leadership that promotion of barrier protection, for individuals who choose to be sexually active, is appropriate for avoiding unwanted pregnancy and STDs. Mr. Calvert stated that similar problems have arisen at NEHC's Sexual Health and Responsibility Program. He has been preparing a discussion paper which supports condom use and availability. He will share this paper with the STDPC in the near future for the STDPC to address further.

Mr. Calvert stated he had been reviewing the DoD World Wide Survey of Health Related Behaviors and was interested to see if there was a relationship between alcohol consumption and condom use. This might be an area for further research.

Dr. Gaydos has recently returned from a meeting with the American Social Health Association (ASHA) where he serves on an advisory committee. Dr. Gaydos believes Linda Alexander, Ph.D., ASHA President and CEO, is interested in the military's prevention activities. Dr. Gaydos suggested the Chair write a letter to Dr. Alexander to invite her to meet with us and give us an idea of their agenda and how we can collaborate.

Dr. Gaydos shared a memorandum (AFEB [15-1a] 99-1) from the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board regarding Armed Forces Epidemiological Board recommendation for chlamydia screening. Dr. Gaydos suggested we invite representatives from each service to address recruit screening services to see if we can identify variables associated with success, to see how to get programs started, and to consider recommending support for these projects. Dr. Gaydos will contact appropriate staff on the Epidemiological Board to consider further discussion at the June 2000 meeting of the STDPC.

MAJ (P) Dave Peterson advised the group that BG Martinez is the new Commander of CHPPM. MAJ (P) Peterson is working to obtain/develop an HIV/STD prevention product within 6 months.

10. Presentation: Bill Calvert presented, "Developing a Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Prevention and Control Program for the US Department of Defense (DoD)" The presentation will be presented at the Prevention 2000 Conference in Atlanta.

The conference will be held on March 23-26, 2000, with the presentation scheduled on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The conference is sponsored by the American College of Preventive Medicine and the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine. The presentation was co-authored by Mr. Calvert, Dr. Gaydos, and Col. McKee.

11. The STDPC confirmed the next meeting date and location (April 11<sup>th</sup>) at USACHPPM at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Additionally, the STDPC set May 15<sup>th</sup> as a tentative date to meet in San Diego, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 1245. The Health Promotion/Education subcommittee would convene thereafter.

Minutes taken by: Bill Calvert, Chairman, STDPC