



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

November 8, 2010

Development of the Minnesota HIV Prevention Strategy

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is announcing the development of the Minnesota HIV Prevention Strategy. Its purpose is to serve as a resource to reduce the number and rates of new HIV infections in Minnesota.

The Strategy is intended to encourage and equip everyone - individuals, organizations and communities - to be involved in achieving the goals of HIV prevention.

Those already involved with HIV prevention work will find ideas and resources to support, enhance and improve their efforts. Those people and organizations new to HIV prevention can learn ways to join the fight against new infections.

The National AIDS Strategy, recently released by the White House, concentrates on three areas: new infections, linkage to care/services and health disparities. This HIV Prevention Strategy for Minnesota will focus specifically on prevention of new infections.

Testing, connection with care and services, STDs, hepatitis and other relevant issues will be addressed as they integrate with HIV prevention.

The critical issue of health disparities, for Minnesotans who face significant barriers to better health and preventing new infections, will be taken into account at every step of the process.

It is important to note that this Strategy is intended to be a state strategy, not a product of the Minnesota Department of Health. The MDH is coordinating the Strategy's initial development - the ownership is with everyone who provides input and utilizes the Minnesota HIV Prevention Strategy.

Input and ideas for the Strategy will be solicited and welcomed from a broad range of Minnesotans including: individuals, people living with HIV/AIDS, community groups, community-based groups and organizations that focus on HIV/AIDS, groups and organizations that do not focus on HIV/AIDS but wish to address it in their work, educators, legislators as well as local, state and federal governmental agencies.

The development process will include input gathered through community discussions, focus groups, key informant meetings and the internet. A timeline for this process including dates, locations and web links will be announced soon.

Your assistance in promoting this information and your input for the Minnesota HIV Prevention Strategy will be of vital importance as we work together towards the goal of reducing new HIV infections in our state.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Carr".

Peter Carr, MPH
STD and AIDS Director Minnesota