



# Positive Advocate

## Summer 2013

A publication of the Affected Communities Committee of the HIV Health Services Planning Council

### Who Was Ryan White

Ryan White was a boy born with severe hemophilia in 1971. In 1984, at the age of 13, Ryan was diagnosed with AIDS from a tainted batch of Factor 8, which was then, a new 'miracle' treatment for hemophilia. In 1985, Ryan had to fight for his right to attend school after being denied admission to Western Middle School in Kokomo, Indiana. Parents of school children signed a petition threatening a civil suite if Ryan was allowed to enter school. 50 teachers voted to keep him out of school. When classes began at Western Middle School, Ryan was linked by telephone hookup. Appeals were made by both sides, and a home school was even established by parents who didn't want their children to attend school with Ryan. The family relocated in 1987. Ryan began his freshman year of high school in 1987 without protest.

His fight gained international attention and support from professional athletes and actors from Hollywood. He appeared on the Today Show, CBS Morning News, Good Morning American, The Tonight Show, ABC's Nightline, CNN, Phil Donahue show, The Home Show with Howie Long, and Prime Time Live, as well as on the covers of USA Today, USA Weekend, People magazine, and LIFE Magazine. In 1989, ABC aired the Ryan White Story which celebrated the young man's short life as he fought for his rights to attend school.

Ryan died on Sunday, April 8, 1990, at the age of 18. Several months later, Congress passed the AIDS bill that bears his name—the Ryan White CARE (Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency) Act. The legislation has been reauthorized four times since, in 1996, 2000, 2006 and 2009. It is now known as the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

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### What is the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and the HIV Health Services Planning Council

The Ryan White Program works with cities, states and local community-based organization to provide HIV-related services to People Living with HIV/AIDS. The program fills the service gaps for those who do not have sufficient health care coverage or financial resources to get treatment for their HIV disease. The majority of Ryan White funds support primary medical care and essential support services to areas that are most severely affected by HIV/AIDS. The legislation created a number of programs, called Parts, to meet needs for different communities and populations affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Counties of Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Yolo and Alpine receive funding which is managed by the County of Sacramento's Department of Health and Human Services. The Sacramento HIV Health

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Services Planning Council conducts planning, decides how to use funds, and works to ensure a system of Care effectively services all eligibility People Living with HIV/AIDS in the region. Members of the Sacramento HIV Health Services Planning Council (HHSPC), appointed by the County of Sacramento’s Board of Supervisors, consist of volunteers from community-based organizations, health care professionals, consumers, and those affected by HIV/AIDS. One-third of the planning council must be People Living with HIV/AIDS who receive services and are not affiliated with an agency, meaning that they are not staff, consultants or Board members of a funded agency.

If interested in joining the Council contact Paula Gammell at 916-876-5548. Please feel free to attend a meeting. All meetings are open to the public. There are several committees that may be of interest including the Affected Communities Committee, the Needs Assessment Committee, Quality Advisory Committee, and Priorities and Allocations Committee.

The Sacramento HIV Health Services Planning Council meets the fourth Wednesday of every month, except for November and December which is combined and will meet on Wednesday, December 11, 2013. To verify that a meeting is being held, contact Paula Gammell at 916-876-5548.

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| HIV Health Services Planning Council       | 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, 10:00-Noon<br><br>Except Nov/Dec which will be held 12/11/13  | CARES Clinic<br>1500 21 <sup>st</sup> St., Sacramento |
| Affected Communities Committee (ACC)       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, 4:15-5:30PM. Except holidays and July. There is no July meeting. | CARES Clinic<br>1500 21 <sup>st</sup> St., Sacramento |
| Needs Assessment Committee (NAC)           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 3:00-4:30PM   | Primary Care Center<br>4600 Broadway, Sacramento      |
| Priorities and Allocations Committee (PAC) | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, 10:00-Noon  | CARES<br>1500 21 <sup>st</sup> Street, Sacramento     |
| Quality Advisory Committee (QAC)           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 2:00-3:00PM   | Primary Care Center<br>4600 Broadway, Sacramento      |

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2013 Upcoming Events:

June 20-23, 2013: Sunburst Projects One Love Conference. The conference is designed and led by young people living with HIV. It will be held at Dominican University in San Rafael.

June 26—July 5, 2013: Camp Sunburst for children between the ages of 6-18 affected or infected by HIV/AIDS. Register by contacting Zoe at [Zoe@Sunburstprojects.org](mailto:Zoe@Sunburstprojects.org) or calling 916-440-0889.

September 1, 2013: Sacramento Rainbow Festival Street Fair, 10-6pm

## Ryan White and Reauthorization

Reauthorization is a date imposed by Congress to review a program to make sure it is working as intended. On the date of reauthorizations, laws can either “sunset” (automatically cease to operate) or continued to operate with no change. Ryan White WILL NOT ‘sunset’ in September 2013. It will continue to operate without change.

The Obama Administration has indicated that they will not seek or push a reauthorization in 2013, as many Congressional leaders believes it is best to allow time to understand implications of the Affordable Care Act and how it intersects with the Ryan White populations, programs and services.

This means that programs will continue to operate in their existing state until new legislation is enacted. Members of Congress need to be educated about community process for visioning the future of Ryan White. There are approximately 108 new Members of the House since the last reauthorization in 2009.

Health reform from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will not be fully functioning nor will its impacts on existing programs be fully recognized for quite some time. As such, gaps will not be immediately visible as not all populations or services currently provided through Ryan White will be covered. There will be a need to provide care to those unable to access health insurance as well as “wrap-around” services to cover high costs of insurance.

It is unknown how benefits provided through ACA will compare to services provided through Ryan White. Transition for clients and provides is huge and will take a substantial amount of time.

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### How Far Have You Come? Submitted by Debra

I don't know how long you've been in this race for life, but I've been HIV+ for 25 years and in treatment for about 17 of those 25. So many things kept me out of care including shame, fear, and acceptance; but in those 17 years I've taken every class, group, and/or training there is and in learning I had to get an understanding of how what I learned was changing me and my health got better. I learned how to read lab results; I could talk to someone besides myself when I had a problem or thought I did when I felt weak. There is always some sort of group or class teaching me how to do L.I.F.E. (Learning Immune Function Enhancement). After teaching me LIFE, they gave me H.O.P.E. (Healing One Positive Energy) to make sure I got it, they made it C.L.E.A.R. (Choosing Life: Empowerment, Action, Results!) and told me to always have hope. I have to K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple Stupid) and if I ever wasn't C.L.E.A.R. about something in L.I.F.E. or felt I was losing hope. If I start to forget that A.O.D. (Alcohol or Drugs) is when my life gets out of control, I can always go learn 1 to 12. All I have to do is count them everyday, just one day at a time. So that's how far I have come. I do LIFE, keep HOPE alive and CLEAR in my heart and mind.

How far have you come? Write back and tell me about your journey.

Send articles to GammellP@SacCounty.net or bring it to the Affected Communities Committee, which meets the 1st Monday of every month at CARES, 1500 21st Street, Sacramento, CA. (There is no meeting in July.)



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The **POSITIVE ADVOCATE** Newsletter is a quarterly information and outreach project. We welcome submissions from the affected community. For additional information about the Affected Communities Committee (ACC), HIV Health Services Planning Council (HHSPC), or this newsletter, contact: Paula Gammell at 916-876-5548

[www.sacramento-tga.com](http://www.sacramento-tga.com)

The **Affected Communities Committee** addresses issues facing the HIV/AIDS community and advises the Planning Council on community affairs. The mission of the committee is to recruit, empower, and involve people living with HIV/AIDS in the strategic planning and advocacy of HIV/AIDS care and services. These goals will be accomplished with the assistance of the Council support staff toward the fulfillment of its mission. The committee encourages an environment of trust and safety in achieving its mission. The Committee meets the first Monday of the Month, except holidays, at CARES—Conference Room D, 1500 21st Street, Sacramento.

## RYAN WHITE CARE ACT SERVICE PROVIDERS

**CARES** - all-in-one HIV medical care and support services  
1500 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95811  
916.443.3299

**CommuniCare** - HIV medical care and support services  
500-B Jefferson Blvd, Suite 195,  
West Sacramento, CA 95605  
916.403.2970 \*\*\*\*Yolo County Residents only \*\*\*\*

**Harm Reduction Services** - Medical case management,  
Outreach and Testing  
2800 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95817  
916.456.4849

**Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation** - HIV/AIDS services  
serving both El Dorado and Placer Counties  
Main number: 530.889.2437  
*Placer County:* 12183 Locksley Lane, Suite 205,  
Auburn, CA 95602  
*El Dorado County:* 550 Pleasant Valley Road, Suite 1C,  
Diamond Springs, CA 95619

**Strategies for Change** - Medical case management and  
substance abuse outpatient services.  
4343 Williamsborough Drive, Sacramento, CA 95823  
916.473.5764

**Sunburst Projects** - childcare, mental health, and  
medical case management  
1025 19th Street, Suite 1A, Sacramento, CA 95811  
916.440.0889

**The Effort** - Medical case management, mental health  
services, and substance abuse—detox services  
• 1820 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 — 916.236.4700  
• 8233 E. Stockton Blvd, Suite D, Sacramento, CA 95828  
916.368.3080

**UCDMC Pediatric Infectious Disease** - HIV+ children  
2516 Stockton Blvd, Ticon II, Sacramento, CA 95817  
Phone: 916.734.7618