

# *1<sup>st</sup> Annual African HIV/AIDS Clinical Update and Leadership Development Conference*

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10 July 2006

Ministry of Health  
NASCO  
Attn: Minister Charity Ngilu  
PO Box 19361-00200  
Nairobi, Kenya

Re: Final Findings from Post-Mortem

Honored Dignitary and Fellow Coordinators,

It is our pleasure to inform you regarding the post-mortem following the *1<sup>st</sup> Annual African HIV/AIDS Clinical Update and Leadership Development Conference*. The conference was held 15-16 June 2006 at the Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of the conference was: *“A disease without borders demands a partnership in spite of borders”*.

This document has been prepared via electronic means for mass distribution, but will be printed and properly sent by 31 July 2006. In addition, this document will be posted in its entirety at [www.valleyaids.org](http://www.valleyaids.org).

After a thorough review, the conference has been deemed by the planners and delegates a success given the fact that this was the first year of the initiative. Final audit indicated that there were in excess of 160 delegates present from 13 countries and 4 continents. The countries represented were: Australia, Botswana, Burundi, Germany, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Romania, Tanzania Uganda, and the United States.

A unique partnership between various organizations in Kenya and the United States (such as Valley AIDS Council, Harlingen, Texas, Calvary Baptist Church, McAllen, Texas, Pinnacle Relief Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, the Family of God Church, Nairobi, Kenya and many others) has resulted in the birth of this vision: *To unite Africans battling the HIV pandemic by providing an annual focal point for networking, strategy development, educational advancement, and culturally competent leadership training.*

A key characteristic of this conference was the **multi-sectorial, multiple-track approach** which brought practitioners and non-practitioners together from different fields fighting for the same cause. It developed from being simply an HIV clinical update, to a four-track culturally competent leadership development under one "roof".

The conference was divided into 4 tracks: HIV/AIDS Clinical Update, Women's Issues, Child Advocacy and Church Leadership Development. So while the major theme was still HIV, the emphasis on leadership included:

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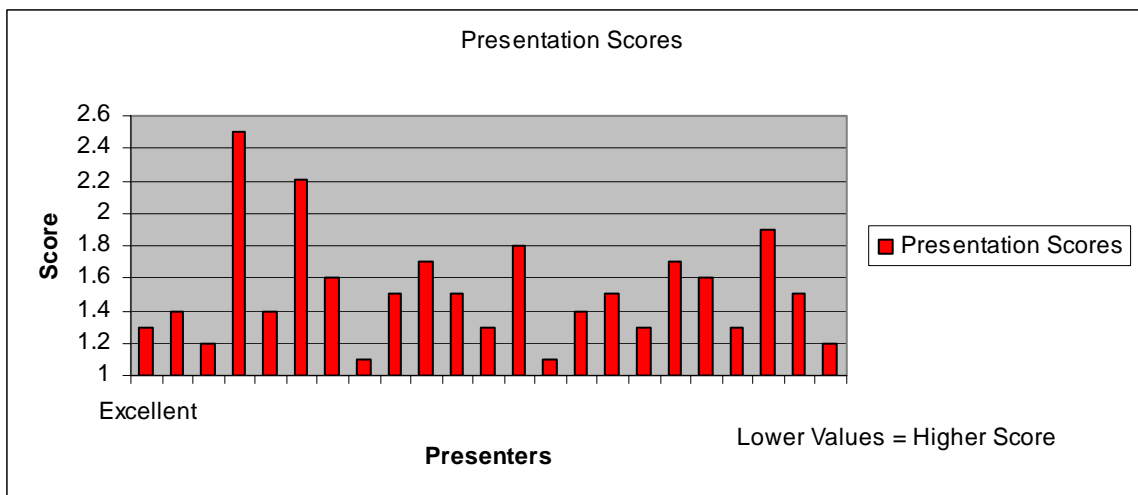
- Medical/clinical track merged practitioners and medical/social agencies treating patients with HIV/AIDS from Africa, Australia, Europe and North America.
- Church leadership track trained, encourage, and mobilized churches to develop a mechanism to implement care and prevention strategies.
- Children advocacy track helped connect orphanages with available resources within their country, train matrons and house parents in grief counseling and other child-development issues that transcend cultures, and advocate for the proper treatment and value of children at large.
- Women's issues track focused on topics related to women regardless of culture and addressed issues such as rape, FGM, wife inheritance, dealing with negative emotions as well as others.

In addition to the conference, participants from North America took part in "**field work**" **opportunities**. The purpose for this was to become exposed to real life experiences that will profoundly affect the participants' worldview while contributing to the work in Africa.

The post-mortem evaluation indicated high satisfaction with the weaving of the four tracks and the field work opportunities. Additionally, the conference attracted a large number of attendees from rural and underserved areas as did the field work experiences.

It offered Africans and Americans a networking opportunity they may not normally have. The conference initially involved American and Kenyan collaboration. The plan is to move progressively each year towards greater indigenous leadership. Our intention however is to **establish life-long relationships** that will enable us to exchange ideas, concerns, and experiences.

Presenters were from around the globe, each offering a unique and sometimes challenging segment to the conference. Presenters' were rated with a **1.0** being **Excellent** and **5.0** being **Poor**. Most of the presenters scored very well with the lowest score being 2.5.



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The list below indicates the presenter and the topic presented:

Chan/Omulubi: I.M.A.G.I.N.E	1.3
Garcia: CD4 Counts Without a Lab	1.4
Garcia: P.M.T.C.T.	1.2
Sanchez: Extraordinary Women	2.5
Hatton/Sosebee, R.: Child Development 1&2	1.4
Inzofu: Holistic Approach to HIV	2.2
Kibandi: Raising the HIV+ Child	1.6
Klumpp: Partnerships and Synergy	1.0
Garcia: Nutrition and HIV/AIDS: Infant Feeding	1.1
Matete: Relationships in Context of HIV/AIDS	1.5
Miuro/Paddy: When there are Drugs but No Food	1.7
Minnerly: Harm/Risk Reduction	1.5
Ndung'u/Seegars: The Practices of Wife Inheritance, FGM and Wife Beating	1.3
Ngumi: Contribution of Gender to the Spread of HIV: A Men's Perspective	1.8
Nwulu: Starting Over	1.1
Omulubi: Grassroots on Fire: HIV and the Local Church	1.4
Orozco: Tradition or Mission	1.5
Orozco: Love to Lead	1.3
Parsons: No Longer a Victim: Coping with the Impact of Sexual Abuse and Rape	1.7
Parsons: Taking Thoughts Captive: Coping with Negative Emotions and Self Esteem	1.6
Reed/Ahlenius: True Love Waits	1.3
Smith: HIV and Substance Abuse	1.9
Sosebee, S./Jones: Children and Grief	1.5
Sosebee, S.: Faith in Children	1.2

Comments on the conference varied but were generally positive. Recurring themes included: Good/Wonderful Conference, Longer conference needed to cover materials, Very enlightening and More African Speakers. It is the agreement that the conference should have more African Speakers and is in the actual design of the conference.

Below are two post conference emails:

*Dear Smith and Chan,*

*I now hope you've reached home and infact safely. I must commend your organization skills that made the first annual HIV/AIDS conference in Africa a success and for that matter allow me to express my conclusions about you which can be expressed in different paradigms:*

- *You are a good listener and you create time to attend to all.*
- *You are a team player facilitating others to fit in and feel at home.*
- *You are approachable.*

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- *You are a people person with total and impeccable commitment to your duties.*
- *You are accommodative and patient.*
- *You are a calm person how ever tough the situation may want to appear, you look out on the lighter side of the issue.*
- *You are a friend and a mentor, something that was exhibited during your opening remarks at the conference. You really set the pace upon which others should base their balance of probabilities to organize similar events.*
- *You have the capacity to withstand sustained pressure and was dedicated to fulfilling your tasks.*

*I saw a unique preparatory skill in you which made me to adduce one more thing about you-you enter a story and tell it from the inside.*

*It can be a lot more than this but in all, in the hierarchy of the HIV/AIDS struggle in Africa and the world at large, you have made your contribution felt. A wonderful hallmark in the system of operation in regard to exposure. You have been a good Samaritan in both blood and mind. You have enlightened the struggle's vision and I want to assure you that we shall endeavor to uplift the vision of valley aids council to an even greater horizon.*

*May God bless you.  
John Kaddu, Uganda*

and

*Hi Charles*

*I attended the conference and it was a total success. More especially church leadership development, relationships and AIDS/HIV, raising the HIV positive child, Harm/risk reduction and preventing child mother infection topics enlarged my scope and gave me even a much wider and modern approaches to fighting this menace-Aids.*

*Congratulations for a job well done. The skills I acquired will be very useful in my outreach endeavors.*

*David Ndungi, Kenya*

With regard to seeing the way forward, this committee has spent time analyzing the conference for ways to improve and they include adding a "disabilities" focus and attempting to secure a corporate sponsor or sponsors with the intent of eliminating fees for attendees.

We have concluded our evaluation of venues, airlines and evaluation as to whether or not each is handicap accessible. Negotiations continue with various airlines. The venue selected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, 7-8 June 2007 is the Sarova Panafric Hotel, Nairobi. With the permission of NASCOP, we will begin to proceed and secure venue space and finalize details by January 31, 2007.

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Additionally, we have agreed to finalize Memoranda of Understanding and evaluate the development of By-Laws for the collaboration and its partners. These documents will detail the following:

1. What is the nature and structure of this partnership,
2. What are the roles of the partnership,
3. What are the expectations and anticipated outcomes of the relationship,
4. Future working plans,
5. How will we evaluate conference achievement and how to gauge outcomes and
6. To detail each partners stake in the initiative.

It is our hope that the core team of Ngunjiri, Lasoi, Inzofu, Kiilu and Omulubi will some how is able to join us at the *14<sup>th</sup> Annual HIV/AIDS Clinical Update: An International Event*, 25-27 October 2006 on South Padre Island, Texas, USA. Following the event, the team will shadow the US team members for one week.

We have not committed to conference; but “A People and A Passion”. Thank you for your support and assistance in making the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference a success.

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact Charles Smith at the telephone number listed below Monday thru Friday between 8AM and 5PM, Central Time or via email at [crsmith.vac@tachc.org](mailto:crsmith.vac@tachc.org).

Respectfully,

*Charles Smith*

Charles R. Smith  
Executive Director  
Valley AIDS Council  
Harlingen, Texas

*Joshua Ngunjiri*

Joshua Ngunjiri  
Executive Director  
Pinnacle Relief Centre  
Nairobi, Kenya

*David Chan*

David Chan  
Global Impact  
Calvary Baptist Church  
McAllen, Texas

valleyAIDScouncil

CC: Valley AIDS Council Board of Directors  
EC: Calvary Baptist Church, McAllen, Texas  
Steve Shubin, ILF, Austin, Texas  
Ibrahim Mohammad, MD, MOH, Nairobi, Kenya  
Robert Ayisi, MB, ChB, MOH, Nairobi, Kenya  
Alice Natecho, NACC, Nairobi, Kenya  
Honorable Njoki Ndung’u, MP, Nairobi, Kenya  
Kenya Planning Team, Nairobi, Kenya  
Pinnacle Relief Centre, Nairobi, Kenya  
Honorable Ruben Hinojosa, US Congressman, Washington, DC  
Health Resources Services Administration, Washington, DC  
Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin, Texas  
Donna Anderson, PhD AIHA, Washington, DC  
Stanley Lewis, MD, Tanox, Houston, Texas  
Warren Buckingham, USAID, Nairobi, Kenya


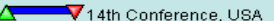

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# Global Impact: Kenya

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6/23/06

Start Date	End Date	TASK	2006												2007							
			Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
6/6/06	6/27/06	1st Annual African HIV/AIDS and Leadership	6/6 6/27																			
6/25/06	1/31/07	MOU, By-Laws and 2nd Conference Coordination	6/25 <span style="color: blue;">—————</span> 1/31																			
10/23/06	11/6/06	14th Annual Conference, South Padre Island and	10/1 11/6																			
1/10/07	1/15/07	Tentative dates for Nairobi finalization meeting, deliver	11/15																			
6/4/07	6/25/07	2nd Annual African HIV/AIDS and Leadership	6/4 6/25																			

 1st Conference, Nairobi	 Strategic Development	 14th Conference, USA
 Nairobi Visit	 2nd Conference, Nairobi	

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