

Let's Kick ASS

AIDS Survivor Syndrome



Social Connection, HIV & Aging Education and Advocacy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOTES FROM USCA 2019 (U.S. Conference on AIDS, Washington, DC, September 5 – 8, 2019)

Jax Kelly, president of Let's Kick ASS Palm Springs (LKAPS.org) attended the 2019 U.S. Conference on AIDS (USCA 2019) as a HIV 50+ Strong and Healthy Scholar at the Marriott Marquis, Washington, DC, September 5-8, 2019.

Thurs., Sept. 5: "ENDING THE EPIDEMICS"

Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the CDC stated, "Housing is a medical issue" and "We need to build an appropriate community workforce to end the epidemic." His key phrase was, "Disruptive Innovation."

A protest followed Dr. Redfield's presentation. Protesters demanded a moratorium on molecular HIV surveillance. Activists are concerned about the ways in which this could be used in states where HIV remains criminalized. "Intentional Inclusion" of trans people, native Americans, and others by AIDS service organizations and community-based organizations in employment and leadership was called for. CDC's patent on PrEP must lead to the immediate availability of low-cost generics.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of NIAID stated, "We have the tools we need" and the plan to end the epidemics is "implementation science."

Fri., Sept. 6

HIV 50+ scholars met with Dr. Laura Cheever, Associate Administrator for HIV/AIDS Bureau at HRSA which implements Ryan White programs. Dr. Cheever was asked about reauthorization by Congress of the Ryan White Act. Could it focus on HIV 50+ people? (Those living with HIV and over 50 years of age.) She stated the local and state levels has the power to implement RW programs and expressed concern that "Rockville (her HQ) could get more power in a reauthorization" – presumably a double-edged sword. Advocates should partner at the local and state levels with groups like NMAC, NASTAD and AIDS United to affect change to benefit HIV 50+.

The plenary luncheon included a timeline from 1981 to the present to highlight significant events in the history of HIV/AIDS. Presentations by individuals representing milestone groups or events provided stories about education, motivation and inspiration.

Sat., Sept. 7

Plenary luncheon was titled “Celebrating U=U and Its Critical Role in Ending the HIV Epidemic. Panelists included Bruce Richman and Murray Penner. Richman stated, “There was a lot of fighting and a lot of rage” in the first three years and added “Let’s focus on education.”

Sun., Sept. 8

Plenary luncheon was titled “Getting Your House in Order: Systematic Approaches to Addressing Fundamental Issues to Ensure Success of Biomedical Prevention Efforts. In a mini-talk by Rocky Bloch, MPH he cited two resources: *Undoing Racism*, by the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond (Michal C. Ronald, 1997) and *Deconstructing Homophobia and Transphobia* by the California Prevention Training Center and The Center of Excellence for Transgender Health (a two-day training program).

Challenges for future discussion

- Writing Standards of Care for healthcare providers that address the needs of HIV 50+. Start with Ryan White planning councils and distribute broadly.
- Demand that our members of Congress become members of the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus (<https://HIVAIDSCAUCUS-lee.house.gov/membership-0>) Congressman Raul Ruiz is a member, but missing from the list are Senators Kamala Harris and Diane Feinstein.

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