

**North Jersey Community Research Initiative
a.k.a North Jersey AIDS Alliance****Community First****About NJCRI****Special points of interest:**

- About NJCRI
- Message from the Executive Director
- Coming soon!! Neighborhood Family Care.

The North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI) is New Jersey's largest and most comprehensive HIV/AIDS community-based organization.

Our mission is "to help people with HIV/AIDS and those at risk for HIV/AIDS." We conduct state-wide HIV clinical trials, and HIV treatment, care and prevention services in the Greater Newark Area. Populations we serve include youth and adults, men and women, men who have sex with men, people who acquire or who are at risk for HIV through injection drug use, and others.

NJCRI also seeks to address the concerns and disparities of access to health care faced by minority populations. Some of the non-HIV related services we offer include behavioral research, chronic illness management education, street outreach, substance abuse treatment, transportation, food pantry, and technical assistance to other community-based organizations. Approximately 5,000 people avail themselves of our free and confidential services each year.

**Inside this issue:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Project ACCESS / Needle Exchange Program. | 2 |
| Clinical Trials: Volunteers Needed! | 2 |
| Neighborhood Family Care | 2 |
| NJCRI Care and Treatment Services | 3 |
| Save These Dates | 4 |

Executive Director's Message**Edward Martone, Acting Executive Director**

Greetings to you all. In my first, and perhaps last, message as the Acting Executive Director, I wanted to highlight some of the developments here while NJCRI progresses through this interim period of transition. I'm a member of the Board of Trustees and have been serving in this temporary capacity since early May. The Board expects to name a new Executive Director before the end of the year at which time I shall resume my role on the Board.

I want to express the gratitude of both the Board and staff to Bill Orr who led NJCRI for nearly twenty years. Bill founded this agency and, as its Executive Director, was mostly responsible for shaping it into the largest, community-based HIV service organization in the Garden State. Everyone in the NJCRI family extends their best wishes and thanks to Bill.

Just in the past few months, there have been a number of positive developments. We've retained the services of a grant writing firm in order to secure new funds and to assist the staff in renewing present funding. New projects are beginning and current one are being renewed or expanded. Our syringe exchange program, which began in February of this year, is the only one of its kind in Newark, and one of only four in the state. We have recently received permission and

Continued on Page 3

Addiction and Educational Department



Project ACCESS

Project Access is the only syringe exchange program (SEP) located in Newark. The program is authorized by the State of New Jersey and the City of Newark to distribute sterile syringes to injection drug users and to accept used needles for proper disposal. We have enrolled over 250 injection drugs users since opening in February 2008.

The program is anonymous and participants are provided with a card identifying them as a program participant which allows them to legally possess syringes. At present the project operates Monday through Friday except on holidays.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon & Tues
1:00—4:00 p.m.

Wed, Thurs & Fri
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturdays & Sundays
CLOSED

For more information call
(973) 483-3444 x 132

New Clinical Trials are starting in mid November. Volunteers Needed!

NJCRI is looking for African American women for a new clinical trial. Patients must be either naïve to HAART (Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy), currently on HAART and having medication side effects and/or multi-drug resistant.

If a person is at risk or currently has Hepatitis C, they may qualify to participate in a new clinical trial.

For more information, contact the Clinical Trial Department at (973) 483-3444 ext 125/135.

Clinical Trial Update!

Currently, our HPV and Herpes Zoster trials are closed to enrollment. We will continue to follow patients on our vaccine and medication studies until we are told to close them by the sponsors.

*Clinical
Trials Need
Volunteers!!!*

Neighborhood Family Care

The need for accessible, affordable, quality health care in the United States has never been greater. In response to this need, NJCRI is opening the Neighborhood Family Care, a convenient medical clinic, to help meet the basic health needs of the Newark, NJ community. The Neighborhood Family Care has highly qualified health care providers who will diagnose and treat common health problems, triage patients to the appropriate level of care,

advocate for a medical home for all patients, and reduce unnecessary visits to emergency rooms and Urgent Care Clinics. We serve as a response to many patients who are unhappy with the current conventional health care delivery system—a system that is challenged to provide access to basic health care services when people need it the most. The Neighborhood Family Care is primarily staffed by a nurse practitioner (NP).

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Saturdays
12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Sundays
CLOSED

For more information call
(973) 483-3444 x 135



Executive Director's Message Continued...

foundation funding to take the service mobile to cooperating public organizations throughout the City. After months of work, our website has been revamped and updated. Please visit us at www.njcri.org.

Counseling and testing had one of its busiest summers ever, promoting good health at nearly one hundred health fairs, schools, businesses, churches, mosques, synagogues, and public events throughout northern New Jersey. That community outreach effort continues throughout the year.

We have participated with other local agencies in Nights of Outreach during which we've set up shop for an evening at certain areas of the City that are noted for high risk behavior. There we distribute information and materials to assist our sisters and brothers in healing and remaining in good health.

A group of volunteers from the Legacy Project adopted our youth program, Project WOW, and generously carpeted, and painted the meeting area while also refurbishing its kitchen. We are so very appreciative of their hard work and thoughtfulness.

Our Annual Audit has been completed and documents a small surplus after a couple of years of loss.

NJCRI has been, and continues to be, a leader in HIV/AIDS research. However, we have recently conducted clinical drug trials in non-HIV related illnesses including HPV, Hepatitis C and herpes.

NJCRI has also strived to improve its appearance and become a more comfortable place for its staff and clients by making many upgrades to the physical plant. The exterior has been painted and the masonry and fire escape have been repaired. The basement got a new sump pump and was re-constructed as a storage area. A generator will soon be purchased to supply back-up power in an emergency.

None of this listing can begin to describe all of the important work that goes on every day at NJCRI. Even though I've noted some of these things in my Message, I have only overseen them. NJCRI continues its excellence wholly due to the dedication and talents of our staff, Board of Trustees, clients, volunteers and donors who truly make it all happen.

Sincerely,

Edward Martone

Interim Executive Director

NJCRI Care & Treatment Services

The care and treatment department of NJCRI consists of multiple medical services for persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS such as, outpatient primary medical clinic twice a week (Monday and Tuesday), psychiatric care (once a week), outpatient mental health therapy, outpatient substance abuse counseling, medical case management and medical nutritional care five days a week. This department also provides a myriad of supportive services such as access to our food pantry, medical transportation and an assortment of various support groups (Men's group, Addiction & HIV group, HIV & LBGQTQ group, Women's group). All of these groups meet once a week unless otherwise notified.

For more information, please call (973) 483-3444 x 121

393 Central Avenue
Newark, NJ 07103
Phone: (973) 483-3444
Fax: (973) 849-0117
www.NJCRI.org

Founder

William P. Orr, M.A.

Board of Trustees

Dwight Peavy
Chair

Thomas Flynn
Vice Chair

Carol Mori
Treasurer

Edward Martone
Secretary

Jeffrey Bomser
In Memoriam

Institutional Review Board

James M. Oleske, M.D.
Chair

Youth Advisory Board

Dwight Peavy
Chair

Directors

Edward Martone
Acting Executive Director

George Perez, M.D.
Medical Director

Brian McGovern, L.S.W.
Prevention, Treatment &
Support Services Director

Corey DeStefano, B.S.
Clinical Research Director

Compliance Officer

Robert C. Baxter, M.P.A.
Addiction & Education
Services Director

Freeman Palmer., M.B.A.
Finance Director

Newsletter created by:
Aura C. Caicedo

Edited by:
Bob Baxter, Aura C. Caicedo, Edward Martone

SAVE THESE DATES

Thanksgiving Dinner!

November 20th, 2008 from 12 - 3:00 p.m. at NJCRI, 393 Central Avenue, Newark NJ. Participants must be enrolled in the Care and Treatment Program at NJCRI. For information contact the Care and Treatment Services Department at (973) 483-3444 x 100.

World AIDS Day!

December 1st, 2008 from 4 - 7:30 p.m. at Newark Symphony Hall - Terrace Ballroom, 1020 Broad Street, Newark NJ. www.worldaidscampaign.org

Patient's Holiday Party!

November 20th, 2008 from 12 - 3:00 p.m. at NJCRI, 393 Central Avenue, Newark NJ. Participants must be enrolled in the Care and Treatment Program at NJCRI. For information contact the Care and Treatment Services Department at (973) 483-3444 x 100.

***Seeking Cures For Tomorrow
Providing Support For Today!***

