



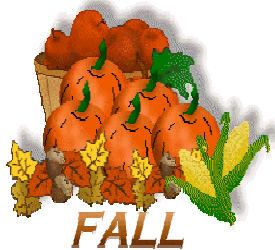
**North Jersey Community Research Initiative
a.k.a North Jersey AIDS Alliance**

Community First



Special points of interest:

- About NJCRI
- The North Jersey Community Research Initiative's 1st Annual Meet & Greet Fundraiser
- Neighborhood Family Care



About NJCRI

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.

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The North Jersey Community Research Initiative's 1st Annual Meet & Greet Fundraiser

NJCRI cordially invites you and your guest to attend our
1st Annual Meet & Greet Fundraiser on Thursday, October 15, 2009.
5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Come mingle with local community leaders and learn more about NJCRI's programs and initiatives. Bring your business cards and get ready to network with some of Newark's finest professionals!

Tickets are \$50.00 per person and it includes Hors d'oeuvres, Beer, Wine and Live Music. There will be a silent auction and 50/50 raffle.

To purchase tickets online, please visit us at www.njcricri.org or call Wanda Acosta at (973) 648-0347.



Recovery
is...
making progress.

Addiction, Prevention, and Education Department

Project Access - NJCRI's Syringe Exchange Program (SEP)

Since opening on February 19, 2008 Project Access has enrolled over 700 clients into the syringe exchange program (SEP). Presently the Project is open for 18 hours weekly (Monday and Tuesday 1-4 Pm and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.). We are open more days per week than any other SEP in New Jersey and hope to begin providing mobile SEP services shortly.

As required by the legislation permitting SEPs in New Jersey, each client completes a short survey on admission and at each visit. This survey, which takes less than 5 minutes, collects some basic demographics and other information such as frequency of injection. The program is anonymous and no identifying information is ever solicited. SEP clients are given a ID card explaining that they are legally entitled to carry needles, in case they are stopped by the police. Clients are offered assistance in obtaining drug treatment, HIV Testing and other medical and social services both at admission and at all subsequent visits.

The program is funded through grants from private foundations, no federal, state or local government funds are used for this project. For further information contact Bob Baxter at (973) 483-3444 x 132.

NJCRI's Community Outreach, Prevention & Education Project (Project COPE)

Project COPE, our NJCRI's SAMHSA HIV Targeted Capacity Expansion Grant, continues to enroll new clients at a rate exceeding grant requirements. To date NJCRI Project COPE have enrolled approximately 195 clients out of the 225 required by the grant.

In cooperation with Rutgers University (our project evaluator), we have developed the capacity to enter our survey data on-line which enables us to enter it faster and more accurately. We continue to contact clients and remind them of their six-month follow-up appointments through phone calls, letters and street outreach.

COPE outreach workers continue to work in tandem with the Access outreach team and conduct street outreach on a daily basis. For further information contact Bob Baxter at (973) 483-3444 x 132.

Continuing Education Program Coming Soon at NJCRI!

NJCRI will be offering a Continuing Education Program for people 16-yrs and older who are not currently enrolled in school. For more information, email Alex Williams at a.williams@njcri.org.

New Clinical Trials are starting Volunteers Needed!

NJCRI is looking for volunteers for a new Hepatitis C and HIV co-infection study. For more information, contact the Clinical Trials Department at (973) 483-3444 ext. 125/135.



Neighborhood Family Care Celebrates Grand Opening!

393 Central Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

Neighborhood Family Care at NJCRI celebrated its grand opening on June 22, 2009, opening its doors to residents of Newark, New Jersey and the surrounding communities. The immediate medical care practice delivers high quality, convenient care for many common medical ailments and minor injuries, including vaccinations and physical examinations for adults and school age children. Walk-Ins are welcome and fees are competitive and affordable, with cash and credit cards accepted as payment. The practice, staffed by Brian Blitz, PA-C, serves the medical needs of the community by offering treatment options at convenient hours and reduced waiting time, thereby improving access to urgent medical care.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday—Tuesday
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday-Friday
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturdays
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wednesdays and Sundays
CLOSED

For more information call
(973) 849-0115

“Receive the Right Level of Care, at the Right Time”

What a great success!!

Peer Leadership Training

NJCRI successfully completed the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP)—Peer Leader Training on August 5, 2009. The training produced six certified Peer Leaders who will lead Chronic Disease Self-Management workshops throughout the greater Newark area. The addition of six highly qualified leaders to the CDSMP program will help ensure that the workshops are accessible to people in need of chronic disease self-management skills throughout the Northern NJ area. During the month of August, NJCRI’s CDSMP was awarded a \$10,000 extension by the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health to continue implementing the CDSMP. Currently, the CDSMP is conducting workshops on Fridays at Newark NOW Financial Empowerment Center located at 103 Bloomfield Avenue Newark, NJ. The dates are every Friday from September 2 – Friday, October 16, 2009 from 2:00—4:30 p.m. For more information, please call Nimaako Brown at (973) 483-3444 x 184.

NJCRI Community Health Festival

NJCRI had our annual community health festival on Saturday, July 25, 2009 and it was lots of fun. We had a moonwalk, Dunk tank and carnival games. About 300 people attended the event, there were 17 agencies and vendors on-site providing health education/information. NJCRI tested 12 individuals for HIV/AIDS and STD.

National HIV Testing Day

On June 27, 2009 NJCRI held the National HIV Testing Day at 393 Central Avenue in Newark New Jersey. We provided live music and free food in addition to HIV/AIDS and STD testing. NJCRI tested 51 people with one positive.

What a great success!!

Continues...

Substance Abuse in New Jersey: Trends & Treatment Conference

By: Nimaako Brown
Assistant Project Manager

NJCRI's Community Health Expansion Technical Assistance Project (CHETA) has successfully sponsored our first annual conference. The Substance Abuse in New Jersey: Trends & Treatment Conference was held on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at the Hilton-Gateway Hotel in Newark, New Jersey. There were 154 attendees from various substance abuse treatment providers, HIV/AIDS and mental health providers, local graduate schools and state/local government agencies. The conference was an overwhelming success. The day featured morning speakers that gave an overview of substance abuse trends and treatment in New Jersey and three concurrent afternoon workshops that further explored programs and initiatives as well as the current treatment methods for substance abuse in New Jersey.

The morning began with opening remarks from Brian McGovern, LSW, the Executive Director of the North Jersey Community Research Initiative and Maria E. Vizcarrondo, MPP, Director of the City of Newark Department of Child and Family Wellbeing. After the opening remarks, Raquel Mazon Jeffers, MPH, MIA, the Director of the New Jersey State Department of Human Services Division of Addiction Services and Laurence E. Ganges, MSW, the Assistant Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Division of HIV/AIDS Services, provided insight into the substance abuse epidemic and the relationship between substance abuse and HIV/AIDS in New Jersey.

R. Douglass Bruce, MD, MA, MSc, Assistant Professor & Clinical Instructor at Yale University's School of Medicine opened the afternoon session with a dynamic presentation on current substance abuse treatment methods. Afterward, the conference attendees headed to the three concurrent workshops: Modalities of Drug Treatment, Syringe Exchange in New Jersey and Provider Networks & Initiatives. Each of the workshops included an expert panel of speakers.

Overall, the conference provided attendees with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of substance abuse trends and treatment, network with fellow professionals and learn more about how they can effectively reduce the substance abuse epidemic in New Jersey. Evaluations provided by the participants were enthusiastic and there were many requests that CHETA sponsor similar conferences in the future.

NOTE: Check out our feature article in the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence—NJ (NCADD New Jersey) journal of PERSPECTIVES. Available at <http://www.ncaddnj.org/2008/pdf/pers082009.pdf> !

United We Stand: Nights of Outreach

By: Vernon Thomas, Outreach Supervisor
Addiction, Prevention & Educational Services - Project PICH

We are pleased to announce that August 25th, 2009 was our best night of outreach this season. NJCRI would like to thank every agency and persons that participated. Special thanks go to Ms. Jessica Frenkian and The Hyacinth Counseling & Testing Unit. Because of them we were able to test 16 individuals that were at risk of contracting or spreading the HIV virus that causes AIDS. Out of the 16 individuals that were tested, 15 were negative and 1 was positive. We also outreached to 440 people that were in the area of Clinton Avenue & Stratford Place in Newark. This is a very dangerous and high risk area however we had no problems with the people from the community and many of them thanked us for doing what we do. Many of the people really wanted to learn as much as they could about HIV and how to stop its spread. Other residents also inquired about drug treatment and were happy to know that we could assist them with that as well.

Our next two outreach events will take place on Tuesday, September 22nd and September 29th. For more information call (973) 483-3444 x 203. Thank you once again because **You Are Making A Difference in Our Community.**

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

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*Seeking Cures For Tomorrow
Providing Support For Today!*

Newsletter created by:

Aura C. Caicedo

Edited by:

Bob Baxter, Nimaako Brown, Aura C. Caicedo, Caroline E.S. Harris

SAVE THESE DATES

Groups

NJCRI, 393 Central Avenue, Newark NJ. For information about upcoming group meetings, call (973) 483-3444

Curriculum Development Training

Thursday, September 24, 2009 from 9:30—4:00 p.m. at NJCRI,
393 Central Avenue, Newark NJ.

For information call (973) 483-3444 x 204 or visit us at www.njcri.org

Presentation and Communication Skills

Thursday, October 8, 2009 from 9:30—4:00 p.m. at NJCRI,
393 Central Avenue, Newark NJ.

For information call (973) 483-3444 x 204 or visit us at www.njcri.org

NJCRI's Meet and Greet Fundraiser

Thursday, October 15, 2009 from 5:30—8:30 p.m. at Aljira: A Center for
Contemporary Art,
591 Broad Street, Newark NJ.

For information call (973) 648-0347 or visit us at www.njcri.org

Strategic Planning

Wednesday, October, 28, 2009 from 9:30 —4:00 p.m. at CURA, Inc.,
47 Lincoln Park (1st Floor) in Newark, NJ.

For more information call (973) 483-3444 x 204 or visit us at www.njcri.org

World AIDS Day 2009

Tuesday, Dec., 1, 2009 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Newark Symphony Hall
1030 Broad Street, Newark NJ.

For information call (973) 483-3444 x 165 or visit us at www.njcri.org

Community Outreach Training

Thursday, December, 3, 2009 from 9:30 —4:00 p.m. at NJCRI,
393 Central Avenue, Newark NJ.

For information call (973) 483-3444 x 204 or visit us at www.njcri.org

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(973) 483-3444 x 191

Donate on our Website

www.njcri.org

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NJCRI

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Newark, NJ 07103