

Evaluation Report:

CATIE/PAN Pacific Educational Conference

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CATIE/PAN Pacific Educational Conference

Summary

The CATIE/PAN Pacific Educational Conference held in Richmond BC brought together over 100 participants, 30 presenters, the PAN Board and staff. The conference was an outstanding success with participants rating almost all aspects of the conference extremely highly. PAN has clearly solidified its organizational foundation and role. It is poised to provide more requested training; policy review and leadership in the HIV/AIDS community for its member organizations.

Background

The Pacific AIDS Network is a provincial organization made up of 50 community-based organizations that are devoted to addressing the care, treatment, support and prevention-education needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and persons co-infected with HCV. PAN supports its member organizations as they work to respond to HIV and HCV co-infection in British Columbia – in particular, by providing training to member organizations' staff and volunteers.

The October 2010 conference agenda included a day dedicated to PAN member delegates and to organizational tasks. That day's highlights included an ED Summit, the PHA Forum, the PAN AGM and a key note address by Laurie Edmiston, Executive Director of CATIE, on the topic of Leadership.

The following two days addressed a variety of issues facing PAN members with a particular focus on STOP; testing and treatment; increasing understanding about working with Aboriginal Elders, Women, Youth and Cultural Competency and safety.

Specific sessions delivered at the conference were evaluated through a form distributed by CATIE. The information gathered by CATIE will be shared at a later date. This report covers an overall conference evaluation and includes information regarding participants' responses to questions about PAN itself. This PAN evaluation is based on information from the participants through two data- collection methods:

- ten face- to- face interviews were held in which participants were asked a series of standardized questions; and
- at the end of the conference, participants were asked to fill in written evaluation forms.

Conference Participant Responses

From the evaluation forms

There were 54 completed forms collected from conference participants. Below are the questions from the evaluation form and the analysis of the responses:

1. **What was your key reason for attending the meeting?**

The two highest scoring responses to this question were:

- Learning new skills to make myself more effective was rated highest by 30% of the respondents
- Gaining knowledge about HIV/AIDS, HIV/HCV co-infection was rated highest by 23% of the respondents

2. As a result of your attending this conference:

- 96% of respondents agreed that their knowledge about HIV/AIDS, HIV/HCV co-infection related issues increased
- 100% of respondents agreed that they made meaningful connections with my peers
- 100% of respondents agreed that they will use what I learned at this conference in my paid/volunteer work
- 96% of respondents agreed that they plan to use what I learned from this conference in my everyday life

3. When thinking about PAN:

Those participants who felt qualified to respond reported :

- 100% of respondents think PAN is a voice that represents BC ASOs
- 100% of respondents think PAN addresses issues facing BC PHAS
- 100% of respondents think PAN is meeting training needs of workers/volunteers

4. How satisfied were you with the following?

- 96% of the respondents were satisfied with how the agenda/ meeting was structured
- 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the atmosphere of the meeting

5. Overall, how would you rate this PAN conference?

- 100% of the respondents gave the conference a high rating with **61%** of the respondents giving the conference the highest rating possible

6. What other topics/subjects would you like to see presented at future PAN meetings?

There was a wide range of topics put forth by conference attendees. The PAN board and conference planners have been sent the complete list for future planning. Below is a sample of the suggestions:

- more info on issues facing women
- services or information on PHAS from chronic alcoholic populations; non MSM men; resources & educations for PHAS's children, family, friends. Education focusing on children.
- co-infection
- evolving "spiritualities" within our communities. How to create and sustain relationships in communities-tools to health.
- leadership training for EDs

7. Other comments/ideas you would like to tell us?

“Can we have on-going, effective, evolving, reciprocal relationships with government?”

“Excellent!! One of the BEST I have ever attended as a health care professional.”

“Thank you. Work with Elders was beautiful.”

From the Face-to-Face interviews

1. What are your thoughts about this meeting so far?

The responses indicated high levels of satisfaction in almost every case. Some comments included:

“Compared to what PAN meetings used to be like-she came 3 or 4 years ago, it was the best meeting with the talk focussed on relevant issues”

“The AGM was efficient and smooth. During the whole day people were very respectful. Evin’s and the Board’s leadership is at a very high level. An adversarial atmosphere is becoming a thing of the past. New members are very welcome.”

“Good, I met lots of people, opportunity to network and a chance to learn more about HIV and AIDS”

However, one person had a concern that although it was:

“Really good to get together to determine priorities, but felt harm reduction was “shuffled aside”. It (harm reduction) should be a priority because all communities, small, rural and aboriginal need harm reduction supplies.”

Was it successful for you?

All interviewees felt the conference was successful for them. Several aspects received special comments:

“The speech by Laurie Edmiston was inspiring and uplifting”

“The LPRC meeting was the first time to get together to help a community partner –It was a really good exercise for the group to undertake, although it is a sad source. Really showed how PAN has grown “

Was it relevant for you?

Most interviewees felt that the conference was relevant to them and cited an example. Some examples of relevancy:

“ED summit really useful-don’t often get a chance to discuss issues with other EDs”

“LPRC discussion was an eye opener around the role of a Board of Directors”

“Totally-because I’m HIV +. It is interesting to come to a mainstream function where Aboriginal people are involved; the determinants of health in the broader Aboriginal context includes-colonization, migration, poverty and culture”

2. Which part of the meeting was most useful to you?

Responses included:

“Networking, finding out what is going on in the other regions”

“ED summit; presentation on Epi 101 and the dialogue around STOP”

“PLRC –heartening to see most of the members and PHAs at the meeting, respectful atmosphere”

“The Forum- being able to engage in and openly discuss issues.”

3. Which part (if any) of the meeting was not useful to you?

There were some comments about particular sessions that will be shared with CATIE to possibly be included in the CATIE report. One thoughtful comment concerning the overall format of the conference and for future meetings highlighted the:

“Process around STOP- I’m throwing a question out to PAN, “How can we create a more conscious approach to talking with government representatives?” The barriers that exist include: communication, info available that wasn’t accessed. Once the community see their involvement is real it might work. “

4. What did you think about the way the meeting was structured?

The interviewees were satisfied with the structure. Several useful suggestions were made for even more effective conferences:

“PAN is still working out the best structure; ED summit and Forum are good. PAN might consider establishing long-term priorities and not do a priority setting exercise each year. Then PAN could address ad hoc and emerging issues as they arose”

“New people not clear on what PAN’s actual role is. Review and post mission statement “

5. What are your thoughts about PAN?

The comments about PAN were all very positive: They included:

“I think about the many aspects of PAN-the board, the membership-is cohesive, motivated and really seeking to develop its potential. “

“I think PAN is a group of extraordinarily organized and super knowledgeable people”

“I think it is a great organization. I’m enthused about representing PAN.”

“About two years ago, I was seriously discouraged about being involved. PAN has now moved to such a different place! Kudos to Evin, Stacy and the board!”

6. What should PAN focus on over the next year?

Major areas suggested were:

“Seek & Treat-there is still hope that PAN can influence it “

“Skills, PHA Leadership training (mentioned three times), continue ED summit and front line worker training”

“Promoting PAN to other people”

“Consolidating and growing the membership-diversify”

“On harm reduction, still huge gaps, erosion of services especially in Aboriginal and rural communities Abbotsford”

“Engaging the Aboriginal community; more info on HEALTHY sexuality-how to promote self esteem”

“CBR projects –homelessness and food security”

7. What specific topics for knowledge and skill development would you like to see presented at future PAN meetings?

Participants suggested:

More fundraising, especially expanding the funding sources

Board governance-for both Board members of ASO’s and staff EDs

Board development

Using media

Board engagement –include board members from ASOs

Access to health services for street entrenched people

More on harm reduction

Prison outreach; Aboriginal outreach

Front line workers-drawing from the sector; more leadership development for EDs.

Front line treatment adherence

8. Anything else you would like to say?

Several participants commented on PAN in general:

“PAN is great- a great opportunity to network, talk about the issues and work on strategies to deal with issues “

“Things are really working well/moving ahead”

There were particular comments on the positive development of PAN. One such comment is an exemplar for the others:

“Having been with PAN for so many years, I’m very pleased with PAN’s transition, and vision for going forward. I’m totally confident with the current structure, commitment and knowledge of the individuals now responsible.”

There were very laudatory comments about the PAN Board and staff. And as usual there were a number of small suggestions for improvements and the following expression of gratitude.

“I am grateful to PAN. It is a good place to be and a good place to interact.”