

A Multicultural Caribbean United Against HIV/AIDS

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
March 5–7, 2004

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

This form is required for submitting abstracts for consideration as either oral (concurrent session) or poster presentations. Please complete and return this form in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. If an additional envelope is required, please mail to the following address: **A Multicultural Caribbean United Against HIV/AIDS, c/o Social & Scientific Systems, Inc., Conference Secretariat, 8757 Georgia Avenue, 12th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA.** In addition to mail, the Abstract Submission Form can be returned via fax to **1-301-628-3101**. The form can also be completed and submitted online at the conference Web site at <http://www.caribbean-march-2004.org>. Additional forms can also be obtained online.

The Abstract Submission Form must be received by **November 5, 2003**.

Notification of acceptance or rejection of submitted abstracts will be made by December 1, 2003. If your abstract is not accepted for presentation, will you still be registering for the conference? Yes No

1 PRESENTING AUTHOR INFORMATION (ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET TO LIST ADDITIONAL NONPRESENTING AUTHORS.)

Please print in black ink. Place "N/A" next to items that are not applicable to you.

First Name: _____
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2 PRESENTATION INFORMATION

Title of Abstract/Presentation: Development of a Community Program of Visits and Companionship for People Living with AIDS in the Borinquen Neighborhood

Submitted for Consideration for: Oral (concurrent session) presentation

If selected for an oral presentation, please indicate the language in which you would present: _____

Poster presentation (Presentations not accepted for oral presentation will not be considered for poster presentation unless this box is also checked.)

Type of Research: Biomedical Science Behavioral Science Other

Conference Track for Presentation (must be designated for consideration for oral presentation):

TRACK

(Select track from list on pages 6–11 of the Conference Announcement.)

ABSTRACT CATEGORY

(Select category from list on pages 14–15 of the Conference Announcement.)

3 BODY OF ABSTRACT

Background / Introduction:

The levels of stigma and marginalization of people living with AIDS in our communities has continued to increase throughout the 20 years of the epidemic. Despite increasing knowledge about the disease, we can find family members, neighbors, employers, and health professionals who marginalize AIDS patients because of fear of infection and because of moral judgments regarding the behavior of these patients. For these reasons, many patients are scared to go out and face the community, especially when the disease has deteriorated them and such condition is evident. These patients are socially isolated; fear for their lives; receive little community support; and have greater symptoms of depression and other manifestations of mental health issues.

Method / Experience:

The Grupo de Apoyo organization (Support Group, by its English translation) has established a program of visits to AIDS patients in the Borinquen neighborhood. These visits are done by volunteers. A training program was developed for home visits, support for bedridden patients, and emotional support and counseling. The families in the neighborhood were visited during the 2002-2003 year to identify new families with persons living with AIDS, and the network of outreach and support was increased.

Results / Best Practices:

During the year 2,880 visits were made for a total of 60 cumulative patient visits. A total of 7,760 hours of emotional support were invested in home visits to these patients and their families. Another project achievement was patient visits by other patients serving as models for the management of the disease.

Conclusions / Recommendations:

The home visits model can be a low cost alternative and a great benefit to people living with AIDS in the community. The model presented by the Grupo de Apoyo organization proved itself useful, involved volunteers, and offered support to an important group of patients in the community.

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I accept all conditions for abstract submission and presentations as stipulated on page 12 of the Conference Announcement.

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