



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

OCT 28 2005

The Honorable Tom Coburn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6200

Dear Senator Coburn:

Secretary Leavitt has asked me to thank you for your inquiry about the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) involvement in a Conference on Methamphetamine, HIV, and Hepatitis. He has asked me to respond directly to you on the portions of your inquiry that pertain to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The six CDC employees who attended the conference from HHS included: Dr. Elaine Flagg, Epidemiologist, National Center for HIV, STD, & TB Prevention (NCHSTP); Dr. Karen Hennessey, Epidemiologist, National Center for Infectious Diseases (NCID); Ms. Hope King-Lewis, Public Health Advisor, NCID; Ms. Danni Lentine, Public Health Analyst, NCHSTP; Dr. Gordon Mansergh, Senior Behavioral Scientist, NCHSTP; and Mr. Erick Seelbach, Price Fellow, NCHSTP.

Although CDC was not listed as a sponsor, a portion of CDC's cooperative agreement with Utah, \$13,500, was used to support the conference. While Utah informed a CDC project officer that Utah and the Harm Reduction Coalition were sponsoring the conference and shared a draft agenda with the project officer, Utah did not inform the project officer that CDC monies were being used for conference support, and the CDC project officer did not inquire about the particular source of funding for the conference. When CDC funds are used for conference support, CDC grantees are required to seek CDC's approval of conference agendas.

In light of this, CDC believes that all **HIV grantees** can benefit from greater emphasis on the requirements to which grantees must adhere. CDC responded to the issues raised by this situation by: (1) sending a letter on **September 2, 2005**, to all state health directors reinforcing the policies and procedures concerning the use of HIV funds for conferences; **and** (2) specifically addressing this issue at the **September 22nd** National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors Annual Executive Committee Meeting so that state AIDS Officials can reinforce the procedures and policies concerning using HIV federal funds to support conferences. In addition, CDC is scheduling a "refresher" training for all CDC **HIV** project officers to review and reinforce relevant procedures and policies.

I thank you for your dedicated work in stopping methamphetamine use in our communities nationwide. Please let us know if there is anything else to which we can

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lend our assistance. I am providing a copy of this response to your colleagues who co-signed your letter.

Sincerely,


Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director