

Spring
2007

ANDREW ESCAJEDA CLINIC

New People, New Programs!

Spring is here and its time to unveil two new programs in HIV services here at the Pasadena Public Health Department. As clients of AEC, you will have an opportunity to enroll in our **Comprehensive Risk Counseling and Services (CRCS)** program. This is a great resource for those of you who may need that extra bit of help in living a healthy lifestyle. Read page two for more information.

If you are concerned about keeping your partner(s) safe, or if you have friends or family members that you think could benefit from a prevention program such as our **Health Education/Risk Reduction (HERR)** program, please read on!

But first, let us introduce you to the newest member of our AEC treatment team. Next time you're here, say hello to Edwin Graham, our new clinic manager. For information about Edwin and our new programs, keep reading...



Edwin Graham, RN



Please also welcome...

Cesar coordinates HIV and STD education and prevention programs, CRCS and HERR services, HIV rapid testing services and surveillance activities. He has worked in HIV services since 1989 in San Francisco, Hawaii and Los Angeles working with such populations as sex industry workers, queer youth, injection drug and other substance users, Gay and Bisexual men, and Asian and Pacific Islander populations. Cesar has also served on community planning groups in Hawaii and Los Angeles. Cesar is currently working to complete his Master of Public Health degree in Human Sexuality. Welcome, Cesar!

Cesar Cadabes
Coordinator of Pasadena Health
Department's HIV Education and
Prevention Programs



"Please take our survey!" See the enclosed announcements for a survey on HIV education needs and for information about our **art contest**.



Comprehensive Risk Counseling and Services (CRCS)

CRCS is designed for those living with HIV. It is specific support to assist in maintaining safer behaviors, reducing risks and keeping you and your partner(s) healthy. We offer:

- ❖ Short-term intensive counseling (5-sessions) tailored to your specific goal(s).
- ❖ One-to-one counseling, support and education to help you maintain safer behaviors and optimum health.
- ❖ One-to-one support to assist you in making the connection between safer sex, risk reduction and living healthy.

For more information, call **Angélica** at AEC or **Franklin Romero**, our CRCS counselor at 626-744-6157.

HIV Education & Prevention Team

Top, L to R: John Palomo, Cesar Cadabes and Franklin Romero



Seated, L to R: Gina Acuña and Elizabeth Russell-Fisk

John Palomo started working in the HIV Field in 1988. He received training from Los Angeles County Drug Abuse Program Office and from various other providers. John worked at El Proyecto del Barrio from 1988-1992 conducting surveys, radio and television interviews, distributing condoms, marching in parades, developing curriculum and outreach protocols, distributing bleach kits in skid row and testifying to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. In addition to working in HIV, John specializes in substance abuse issues. John is a prevention counselor in the HERR program. If you or your partner(s) would like to join his groups, call **John** at 626-744-6190.

Franklin Romero is a social worker with a Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Cal Sate Los Angeles. He has worked as an intern for the Los Angeles County Department of Probation. He has also worked for the Los Angeles School District as a learning coach for inner city children who have learning disabilities. Franklin is the HIV CRCS counselor. He works closely with the Andrew Escajeda Clinic team. If you think you can use some one-to-one assistance with figuring out how to live a risk-free or healthier lifestyle, call **Franklin** at 626-744-6157 or contact him via e-mail at fromero@cityofpasadena.net.

Elizabeth Russell-Fisk studied English Literature in Berkeley, CA, but was always more interested in health education, particularly around sex, drugs and alcohol. After finishing a Masters degree in public health, Elizabeth moved to England and worked for an HIV organization called Terrence Higgins Trust, first as a case manager, then as an educator. Elizabeth is a prevention counselor in the HERR program. You can contact **Elizabeth** at 626-744-6170.

Gina Acuña is a prevention counselor in the HERR program and is also an HIV test counselor. Gina started out working in HIV services with a focus on women and their families. For fifteen years, her experience covered various activities including HIV medical case management, HIV education and treatment advocacy, housing and public benefits assistance, administration and counseling. During the past couple of years, Gina has worked in the AEC behind the scenes of the mobile unit. Gina can be reached at 744-6037.

Health Education and Risk Reduction Services (HERR)

The HERR program offers a wide range of HIV education and prevention services for men who have sex with men and women who are sexually active. We offer:

- ❖ Confidential assessments to identify behaviors that might put you and your partner(s) at risk for HIV and STDs.
- ❖ One to one counseling and education to better understand HIV and sexually transmitted infections.
- ❖ Short term (3-sessions) individual level support and counseling to help manage safer behaviors.

- ❖ Structured groups (4-sessions) to share ideas with peers in an educational and encouraging setting to help manage safer behavior, reduce risk and support a healthy community.
- ❖ Referrals for testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.
- ❖ Referrals for other types of services as needed.



For more information or to enroll in HERR, tell your friends and/or partners to call 626-744-6170