



February 2, 2010—Oakland, CA

Two U.S. Positive Women's Network leaders named to Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA)

Today the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) released the list of appointees to the prestigious Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Among them are Naina Khanna, and Dawn Averitt Bridge, two representatives from the U.S. Positive Women's Network, the only organized national membership body of HIV-positive women, including transgender women.

The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) was first established during the Clinton administration to provide recommendations on the U.S. government's response to the HIV epidemic. Under the Obama administration, PACHA will advise and monitor the progress of the U.S.'s first National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) currently being developed to address the President's three articulated goals: to reduce new HIV infections, increase access to care and improve health outcomes for people living with HIV, and reduce HIV-related health disparities.

The newly formulated PACHA is promising, and markedly different than previous iterations, say HIV/AIDS advocates. "The new Council is diverse, and reflects the changing epidemic. It is made up of long-term HIV practitioners, community experts, and people openly living with HIV committed to HIV prevention grounded in sound science, and to improving the quality of life for HIV-positive people," says Vanessa Johnson, Executive Vice President at the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), and a founding member of the U.S. Positive Women's Network.

"With representatives from the PWN on PACHA, I and others in the movement can rest assured that HIV-positive women will no longer be ignored," said Hadiyah Charles, community organizer at the HIV Law Project's Center for Women & HIV Advocacy.

Dawn Averitt Bridge, founder of The Well Project adds, “We are hopeful that this is a signal of the Administration’s commitment to make women, including transgender women, a clear priority in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.”

The PWN also hopes to see visible leadership from the White House on addressing HIV-related stigma and a clearly articulated role for community involvement beyond PACHA in the development and monitoring of the Strategy.

PACHA members will be sworn in Tuesday, February 2, 2010 in the White House complex, at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Information about the meeting and a complete list of PACHA membership is available at:

<http://www.aids.gov/federal-resources/policies/pacha/#membership-anchor>

###

The U.S. Positive Women's Network (PWN), a project of Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Disease (WORLD), is a national membership body led by and for HIV-positive women, including transgender women. We work towards a gender-sensitive U.S. HIV response by: 1) Cultivating leadership of HIV-positive women 2) shifting public perception and public will to promote a compassionate response to all people living with HIV 3) analyzing policy and 4) building capacity for collective action among women and HIV advocates. For more information on the U.S. Positive Women's Network please visit: www.womenhiv.org/positivewomen or call 510-986-0340 ext 316.