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opportunity for positive change, and of course I would like to be able to say I have made a difference."

OREGON'S AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FACES DEFICIT

A shortage in federal funding for the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program is expected to continue and could result in a \$1.2 million deficit in 2003, according to the Oregon Department of Human Services.

"We are not the only state facing this situation," state epidemiologist Mel Kohn said. "But Oregon's severe economic situation has created an additional impact. Enrollment is up 68 percent over the past two years, and we've had a yearly increase of 18 percent in drugs and health insurance costs."

HIV program staff are looking at ways to continue activities within the current fiscal constraints. An external advisory group has been convened to help identify strategies for reducing costs, and an internal review is under way to look for other cost efficiencies, Kohn said. "We expect to have that work completed by mid-May."

National funds have not kept pace with costs because more people infected with HIV are getting new treatments and living longer,

Kohn said. "Other states are projecting similar shortfalls and may need to limit or close new enrollment into their drug assistance programs."

Kohn added: "All states are struggling to balance budgets while tax revenues have declined. Meanwhile, the repercussions of the Sept. 11 attack have shifted funding priorities toward public safety and emergency preparedness. This means that we'll be looking at every creative idea we can find in order to continue these critical services."

"We are not the only state facing this situation. But Oregon's severe economic situation has created an additional impact."

—Mel Kohn

Public health officials estimate 5,200 people in Oregon are living with HIV and AIDS. ADAP has served about 1,100 clients in the funding year that ended March 31. The program has an approximate annual budget of \$3.8 million, 92 percent of which comes from federal sources.

PROJECT OFFERS WORKSHOP

The Hambleton Project will hold a financial planning Workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 11 at Friendly House, 1737 N.W. 26th Ave. The nonprofit organization offers networking and direct services to lesbians with cancer and other life-threatening conditions.

Certified financial planner Madeline Moore will cover basic topics as well as specific concerns that are brought up by illness and possible end of life, including insurance, estate planning

and tax concerns. The workshop costs \$20 a person or \$35 a couple.

To register call 503-335-6591.

PORTLAND HAS A LESBIAN MAYOR?

The Rose City is the subject of a glowing article in this month's issue of *W Magazine*.

"Singin' in the rain: Artists, designers, restaurateurs and style mavens are making once-sleepy Portland a city to celebrate," the headline reads. Writer Kimberly Cutter mentions almost every local queer trendsetter: Gus Van Sant, Kristi Edmunds, Bruce Carey, Thomas Lauderdale, Walt Curtis and Vera Katz.

Vera Katz? Oops.

Furniture designer Tom Ghilarducci, explaining Portland's welcoming character, told *W*: "I mean, we have a lesbian mayor, the last mayor was a bartender, and the governor goes everywhere in jeans and cowboy boots. Where else are you going to find that?" Katz joked to the *Portland Tribune*: "That was



Portland Mayor Vera Katz (left, receiving an award April 12 from Tracy Whelan, Northwest Gender Alliance president) might be queer-friendly, but she isn't queer

a big surprise to read that. And it will be a big surprise to my ex-husband and son." □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA, SUSAN DETROY and SUSAN VOGT

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