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NW NEWS IN BRIEFS

tion Center (3701 E. Fourth Plain) in Vancouver, as usual. Daniel Schollaert, already Clark County Public Health's primary HIV Prevention Specialist, will continue to oversee testing and prevention, only now as a CAP employee. Additional staff from CAP will also work in the Clark County office.

CAP will then select a second site after weighing input from community members and Clark County residents, though they're unsure of what form the second site might take.

"It may be a floating outreach site, depending on community feedback, which maybe we'll rotate into different places," explained CAP's Director of Prevention and Education Michael Anderson Nathe. "We're not quite sure where the second site will be. But both will be in Clark County."

Nathe has been attending Clark County HIV Task Force meetings for over a year to build community relationships and gather input on the proper facilitation of the second testing site. Additionally, when Clark County was readying to put out their services for a bid, they conducted their own series of focus groups with community members, gathering feedback they then provided to those bidding on the contract. CAP, as part of their own strategic planning begun last year, also did a focus group with residents concerning the issue, as well as a small survey with some of the men who currently access testing sites in the county.

Schollaert has also been networking with various community groups in the county to gather feedback.

"I think there's many different levels of community input that we'll be gathering to make those decisions," reported Nathe.

In related news, CAP will be working in conjunction with the Multnomah County Health Department's STD, HIV and Hepatitis C Program, and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation's cross-country HIV testing tour on Saturday, January 9.

"Testing America" is part of a collaborative effort to raise local and national awareness about the importance of HIV testing and to challenge attitudes about moving toward a streamlined model of testing and counseling nationwide.

The mobile HIV-testing van will stop in Portland for the second time at Pioneer Courthouse Square from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The tour is part of a 6-month, 48-state tour.

For more information on CAP, visit www.cascadeaids.org. For updates on the "Testing America" tour, visit www.free-hivtest.net.

Williams Institute Releases Report on Ill Effects of Defeating Measures 66 and 67: CAP and OSBC Support Approval

Two legislative tax initiatives on the ballot for Oregon's Special Election on January 26 have the potential to substantially

decrease spending on social services and programs, reports a study from The Williams Institute at UCLA Law School. According to the report—drafted by Williams Institute Research Associate Christopher Ramos—those most negatively affected by this decrease would be individuals and families in Oregon's gay, lesbian, bi and trans community, particularly those who are poor, families with children, the elderly, youth in institutionalized settings, and those living with HIV/AIDS.

Oregonians have the opportunity to vote in favor of or against Measures 66 and 67. Measure 66 would increase the marginal tax rate on personal income above \$125,000 for individuals, and above \$250,000 for couples; Measure 67 would increase the \$10 minimum corporate tax, as well as increase marginal tax rates for businesses earning above \$250,000. If approved, these increases would assist Oregon in confronting its budget shortfalls by increasing revenues by as much as \$730 million. If defeated, the potential budget crisis faced by services and programs that assist the gay, lesbian, bi and trans community could usher in a significant threat to those services and programs.

The report unearths the economic diversity within Oregon's GLBT population, revealing that 1,200 gay, lesbian, or bi individuals living in the state are doing so in poverty. Surveys of transgender people also show a consistently high rate of unemployment and poverty. The Department of Human Services (DHS) responded to a request from the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office, listing programs most likely to see budget cuts should the measures be defeated, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Community Mental Health Program Contracts, Medicaid Personal Care Program, State Immunization Program, specific Medicaid optional services, and general education and outreach.

The same worrisome cuts appear in the budgets for HIV/AIDS programs. One proposed cut would eliminate \$753,000 from the state budget for HIV, STD, and tuberculosis treatment funding. This would result in lack of treatment for some 7,900 STD cases, and approximately 450 individuals would not be notified about STD exposure. Another potential proposed cut would take almost \$850,000 away from Oregon's AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which DHS says may result in waiting lists for people with HIV to get drug assistance.

These are just two of the reasons why Cascade AIDS Project, historically a politically neutral organization, has decided to take a stand and support the approval of Measures 66 and 67. Citing the 75 percent cut of all funding to HIV prevention and testing in California's legislature, CAP Executive Director Michael Kaplan outlined the "terrifying" impact in the long-term when decisions are made to balance the