



THE **AIDS** INSTITUTE

USCA Workshop Strengthening Public Policy Advocacy for Gay Men

Speaker Biographies

A. CORNELIUS BAKER: National Policy Advisor, National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition, Washington, DC. Cornelius Baker has been a committed advocate at the local and national level for over two decades. He serves as the National Policy Advisor for the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition which is dedicated to addressing the exceptionally and unacceptably high rates of HIV infection among black gay men. He is also a Senior Communications Advisor at the AED Center on AIDS and Community Health. From 2000 to 2004, Cornelius served as the Executive Director of Whitman-Walker Clinic, the leading provider of prevention, treatment, research and social services to people living with HIV in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. From 1996-2000, Cornelius served as the Executive Director of the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA). He joined NAPWA in 1992 as the organization's first director of public policy. His experience in government includes appointments at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under President George H.W. Bush and as an aide to Washington, DC City Councilmember Carol Schwartz. In 1994, Cornelius co-chaired the U.S. Public Health Service Minority AIDS Conference. He serves on the boards of the Black AIDS Institute, Us Helping Us, Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the Washington, DC Center for Nonprofit Advancement. In February 2010 he was appointed to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. His accomplishments in advancing gay men's health have been honored by the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association, American Foundation for AIDS Research, Human Rights Campaign and the Washington, DC Gay and Lesbian Activist Alliance. Mr. Baker is a native of central New York and received his undergraduate degree at Eisenhower College/Rochester Institute of Technology.

FRANCISCO RUIZ: Manager, Racial & Ethnic Health Disparities, National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, Washington, DC. Francisco Ruiz joined the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) as a Manager in the Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Program in 2007. He provides guidance on how to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis among communities of color, particularly Latino communities. Francisco's experience in the HIV/AIDS field extends to work in the US, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He worked two years in Ecuador with the Peace Corps, two years in Washington, DC working on HIV/AIDS prevention at the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) and the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL), and for an extended period of time in the Dominican Republic with the Consejo Presidencial del SIDA (COPRESIDA). Francisco received a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies from Loyola University Chicago and an M.S. in Urban Policy Analysis and Management from Milano The New School for Management and Urban Policy in New York City.

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NATHAN SCHAEFER: Director, Public Policy, Gay Men’s Health Crisis, New York, NY

Nathan Schaefer is Director of Public Policy for Gay Men’s Health Crisis. Based in New York City, GMHC is the nation’s oldest AIDS service provider and serves over 12,000 clients annually. In previous roles, Nathan’s directed education and policy efforts at the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, and served as a Government Affairs Associate for AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families in Washington, DC. Nathan received his Master’s degrees in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University and currently teaches at Columbia University’s social work school.

LANCE TOMA: Executive Director, Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center, San Francisco, CA

Lance Toma is the Executive Director of Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center, an HIV/AIDS and health services, education, research, and policy organization located in San Francisco, CA. Over the past 10 years, Lance's vision of holistic models of health and wellness has fostered tremendous growth for all programs and services of A&PI Wellness Center. Lance also serves on the board of the National Minority AIDS Council and the advisory board of the National Minority AIDS Education & Training Center. Prior to re-locating to San Francisco, Lance worked in Chicago and directed programs targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth and adults. He also served on the Board of Directors for the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, the only national organization focused solely on improving the lives of LGBTQ youth through advocacy, education, and information. Lance also co-founded an organization serving the homeless and marginally housed in Chicago, providing food, case management services, and a positive, affirming space for clients to make positive changes in their lives. Lance was born and raised in Hawaii. He received a Master's degree in social service administration from the University of Chicago and is a licensed clinical social worker in California. Lance lives in San Francisco with his partner and son.

CARL SCHMID: Deputy Executive Director, The AIDS Institute, Washington, DC (moderator)

Carl Schmid was named Deputy Executive Director of The AIDS Institute in June, 2009. Prior to that he served as the organization’s Director of Federal Affairs, a position he held since February 2004. Prior to joining The AIDS Institute, he served as a consultant to a number of HIV/AIDS and civil rights organizations. He has worked in Washington for over 20 years, and began his public policy work in the energy arena, which continued through 2003. Mr. Schmid is co-convenor of AIDS In America, a coalition of national AIDS organizations; co-chair of the AIDS community’s HIV Prevention Action Coalition; and former co-chair of the AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition and the Ryan White Reauthorization Work Group. He remains active in those coalitions along with others that advocate for Medicaid, Medicare, and Healthcare Reform; the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), HIV testing and Hepatitis issues. Mr. Schmid currently serves as a member of the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health’s Alliance for Research Progress. He was a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS from 2007 to 2009, and Chaired its Domestic Subcommittee. Mr. Schmid earned a B.A. in Public Affairs and a M.B.A. in International Affairs from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.