

PROVINCETOWN POSITIVE PEOPLE WITH AIDS COALITION

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Press Release: Please Post

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Provincetown Positive To Create A "Coalition Without Walls."

The Provincetown Positive/People With AIDS Coalition has announced that it will close its offices on Commercial Street this month and create a Coalition Without Walls. In addition to eliminating a specific office site, the Coalition will no longer employ a full-time office manager. The Coalition will continue with its projects, but will operate its functions in different locations throughout town. The money saved by decreasing fixed overhead expenses will be used to increase services to clients and others affected by HIV and AIDS.

The Coalition will maintain and enhance its role as a advocate for People with the virus, its Coalition Arts Project, its quarterly newsletter, *Provincetown Positive*; and its resource library.

Pasquale Natale, the new president of the Coalition's board of directors, said that this "new structure would increase the flexibility of the Coalition and therefore increase the services we provide to clients." He added, "We are working to maximize the involvement and empowerment of all PWAs and we believe that these changes will help move us even further in that direction. We are also moving to increase cooperative collaborations with other AIDS service agencies, especially the Provincetown AIDS Support Group."

The Coalition Arts Project reimbursement fund will operate in the same way as before. However, there will be changes to its Complementary Reimbursement program. Clients are encouraged to contact their case managers or the Coalition for more information as to these changes.

The Provincetown Positive/PWA Coalition Library and Resource Center will be moved to the Provincetown AIDS Support Group. The library is being expanded and all interested individuals are invited to use and expand the use of this important library, which includes information on: treatment options, therapy information, policy and political questions, experimental protocols, care concerns, spiritual awareness, laboratory procedures and more. The PWA Coalition believes that this resource center is unique on the Cape and is dedicated to adding any useful or needed information for People Living with HIV.

Bruce de Ste. Croix has agreed to serve as resource library coordinator and brings extensive library and HIV knowledge to the position. If anyone has any materials—newsletters, books, journals, tapes or videos—that would be useful to others, please consider donating or lending them to the library. You can still reach the Coalition at (508) 487-3998.

The highly respected and occasionally controversial *Provincetown Positive* newsletter will continue to publish as before. In addition to local distribution, the newsletter has a mailing list of over 1200 individuals and organizations throughout the country and the world.

Sean Current, who has served as office manager for the Coalition for the past three years, is leaving Cape Cod to move to San Diego. Jim Rann, outgoing president of the Coalition's Board commented that, "The Coalition will seriously miss the work and dedication of Sean Current. He has made a significantly positive contribution to the development of Provincetown Positive and to the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS throughout the region and the state. We will deeply miss Sean," Rann said. "We are truly pleased that Sean has agreed to continue to serve as co-editor with Victor D'Lugin for our newsletter and will be a regular contributor to future issues."

The Coalition Board remains, as ever, dedicated to the continuation of the Coalition's mission of empowerment for People Living With AIDS through information dissemination and advocacy. Victor D'Lugin will serve as the Coalition's new Vice-president and co-editor of the newsletter. Jim Rann will be serving as the treasurer; Billy Forlenza will be serving as the clerk; John Perry Ryan will continue to serve on the committee of Drug and Treatment Advocacy. Other board members include Sinan Unel and Ken Russo.

Natale added that, "It is our hope that as we begin our changes, we will be able to increase the work we do to empower all of our lives. We are excited by the spirit and reality of joint cooperation between the Coalition and the Support Group and will keep everyone informed as new things emerge."

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