



## REPORT

### 2014 HIV/AIDS EDUCATION COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

#### PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE:

##### **Addressing HIV and AIDS in the higher education curriculum**

Members of the Steering Committee of the HIV&AIDS Education CoP met at mid-day on Sunday, 11 May, to make preparations for the annual CoP event due to take place later on the same day. On



Figure 1: Dr Janet Frohlich giving a key-note address

Sunday afternoon, several members of the HIV & AIDS education CoP gathered at Kopanong Hotel, in Boksburg, for the annual event with the theme, *Partnerships for Change: Addressing HIV and AIDS in the higher education curriculum*.

Prof Naydene de Lange, chair of the Steering Committee of the HIV & AIDS Education CoP, welcomed the audience made up of 27 representatives from 20 HEIs, many of whom were attending for the first time. The chair also introduced the theme of the event, setting the tone for the rest of the deliberations. As an ice-breaker, individual members made brief introductions of themselves.

The first session focused on situating the teacher education curriculum within the national context of HIV. Dr Janet Frohlich gave a key-note address on *Partnering to reach zero New Infections*, and outlined in statistical detail, HIV infection rates. Universities and other higher education institutions were challenged to partner in addressing these infections.

The second session dealt with *the Department of Basic Education as partner*. In the absence of Dr Faith Khumalo from the Department of Basic Education, Prof Lesley Wood reported on the DBE project on scripted lesson plans, in which she is also involved. During this session, Dr Ramneek Ahluwalia (HEAIDS) outlined the role of the CoP within the context of the DBE and the Department of Higher Education. In particular, he called upon the CoP to focus on national challenges as a collective of the 23 universities, and not individual institutions, in order to bring about change in the sector.

Session Three, the last session of the first day, addressed issues of *sexuality education, international funders, and the CoP*. Managa Pillay led this discussion, outlining the various funding calls, in particular USAID and UNESCO.

On Monday morning, Prof de Lange again welcomed the members and set the tone for the day's sessions. Session Four was about *technology in partnerships*. Prof Rona Newmark presented on *Responsible Social Behaviour*, highlighting the need for Education students to specialise in Sexuality Education. She emphasized that Education students should also understand their own sexuality, values and beliefs, so that they are able to make responsible choices and guide learners. Her presentation was followed by that of Prof Mandla Hlongwane, who spoke on the use of *technology and play in a lecture hall*. In his presentation, Prof Hlongwane referred to the use of cellphones, smart board, computers and other teaching materials to teach Sexuality Education and HIV&AIDS as a Psychology 1 module.

The fifth session dealt with *Community in Partnerships*. Dr Dipane Hlalele presented on the use of *sport in mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS in a rural community*. In particular, the *Football for Hope* initiative contributed to social development in children and young people, making the impact of HIV and AIDS more bearable through education, prevention and behaviour initiatives. Community children and youth were engaged by playing football. In the same session, Mr Alfred Modise discussed the *Understanding of HIV&AIDS by student teachers at the Central University of Technology (CUT)*. Based on his investigation, Modise recommended, among other things, that lecturers should be encouraged to integrate HIV&AIDS in their teaching of student teachers.

Session Six focussed on *Higher Education institutions in partnership with each other*. Dr Linda van Laren and Prof Naydene de Lange reported on how they formed a collaborative research team of three colleagues from different higher education institutions to focus on HIV & AIDS integration. By using participatory visual methodologies, this HIV & AIDS integration project showed that collaborators were able to learn from other higher education colleagues, as well as collaborating team members, to further HIV & AIDS integration in higher education.

The seventh session focused on *Picturing change, integrating HIV and AIDS into the academic curriculum*. Profs Claudia Mitchell, Naydene de Lange and Relebohile Moletsane presented on the use of pictures/photographs to illustrate personal and institutional changes regarding integrating HIV and AIDS into the academic curriculum. Participants at the CoP meeting had responded to the call to take photographs of what had changed for them in integrating HIV and AIDS into the curriculum. Some had sent their photographs before coming to the CoP, while others constructed their ideas and took photographs at the CoP. Each person then wrote captions for their photographs, and set up an exhibition. This collection of photographs, with a curatorial statement, will be prepared for a travelling exhibition.

After lunch, Session Eight followed. In this session, the focus was on *Reflecting on progress made in the Higher Education institutions in integrating HIV and AIDS into the academic curriculum*. Members of the CoP shared their own institutional experiences with the group. The issue of sexuality education was again raised and Dr James Lees took us through drafted letters to the DBE, USAID, and UNESCO, highlighting the dilemma of them not having engaged with the higher education sector education faculties (where the teaching of sexuality

education is located) collectively on the issue of scripted lessons and an online sexuality education course for teachers.

The last session (Session Nine) was the *Annual General Meeting*. At this meeting, the chair (Prof de Lange) reminded CoP members of the agreement to provide feedback about the CoP meeting to the Deans and to Education faculties and to promote the integration of HIV and AIDS into the academic curriculum at every opportunity. Several members indicated that they had done so after the 2013 CoP. Prof Claudia Mitchell discussed the issue of TVET representation in the CoP, now that they are part of the HEI structures. Like other HEI institutions, TVETs are included in the NSF grant to strengthen the integration of HIV and AIDS in the academic curriculum. Managa Pillay would invite TVETs to send a representative to our CoP meeting. As CoP, we would also like representation in their CoP. Other important issues discussed at the Annual General Meeting included: Online collaboration forum – Prof de Lange indicated that the OCF had been re-launched at the 2013 CoP and that CoP members should use it to their advantage; CoP 2015 - Prof de Lange reported that the Steering Committee had agreed in their 2014 Steering Committee meeting to have the next CoP in Port Elizabeth. Dr Jim Lees also offered to host the CoP in Cape Town; Life Orientation was mentioned as a possible theme for the next CoP and then inviting the DBE Curriculum Directorate to the CoP; and the bi-annual HEAIDS conference will be held in 2014 and the exhibition could possibly be unveiled/launched at the conference.

The chair thanked all CoP members for their presence, enthusiasm and commitment to HIV and AIDS integration into the HEI curriculum. The Annual General Meeting closed at 1515 and the delegates departed for their various home destinations.

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*Figure 2. A collage of activity at the HEAIDS HIV and AIDS Education CoP*

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