

RESOLUTION 044701

Recognizing December 1, 2004 as World AIDS Day and recognizing the need to address the complex issues relating to women and HIV/AIDS; urging increased communication, education, requisite funding and treatment services to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day is observed each year on December 1 st to strengthen global efforts to address the AIDS pandemic.

WHEREAS, since 1988, December 1 st has been a day commemorated with messages of compassion, hope, solidarity and understanding about AIDS to every country and community of the world.

WHEREAS, the number of reported cases of HIV/AIDS in the United States now approaches 1,000,000 infected men, women and children including over 3,600 cases in northeast Ohio.

WHEREAS, one-half of those cases worldwide are women and 30% of new diagnoses in the United States are women.

WHEREAS, in the past five years, the number of women living with HIV in northeast Ohio has increased by 38%. In the past five years, the number of women living with AIDS in northeast Ohio has increased by 86%.

WHEREAS, at least 25% of those individuals living with HIV/AIDS in northeast Ohio have no health insurance.

WHEREAS, the cost and complexity of treating women with HIV/AIDS often includes addressing homelessness, mental health issues, substance abuse, other sexually transmitted diseases, childcare and the prevention of perinatal transmission.

WHEREAS, this year's theme "Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS" recognizes the need to address the complex issues relating to women and HIV disease and therefore, the importance of strengthening prevention, education and treatment services for women.

WHEREAS, title I of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act directs federal emergency funding to urban areas hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

WHEREAS, the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners has established the Cuyahoga Regional HIV Services Planning Council to facilitate the determination of the community's service needs and coordinate service planning for uninsured and underinsured persons living with HIV/AIDS through the Title I Program.

WHEREAS, the Ryan White CARE Act funded programs provide free medical and social support services to more than 2,800 individuals in northeast Ohio living with HIV/AIDS.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga, Ohio, hereby commemorate December 1 st, 2004, World AIDS Day 2004, and reaffirm a commitment to allocate resources to increase and coordinate education, awareness, advocacy, prevention and treatment services to strengthen efforts to address the AIDS pandemic in northeast Ohio.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Rick Werner, Deputy County Administrator/Health & Human Services.

On Motion of Commissioner Dimora, seconded by Commissioner McCormack, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Ayes: Dimora, McCormack, Jones.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

Penelope M. Hughes,
Clerk of the Board

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