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**Name:** David S

**Title:** CAC Member

**How long have you been a client of Open Door?** I began my relationship with Open Door in April of 2011 I had just moved to Aurora from Chicago I had fallen ill. At that time I had no insurance and the ER Doctor told me to go to the Open Door in Aurora and not to worry. I walk in to Open Door the first person I met was Perry Maier. I told him my story, I had no money or insurance he told me not to worry Open Door would take care of everything - which they did. I don't know where I would be today without Open Door.

**How long have you been a CAC Member?** Almost a year!

**What types of things do you want to see done on the CAC?** I would like to see more clients get involved in their

## Look Who Joined the CAC

health and the social community that the CAC provides.

**Describe your family (define family however you want)?**

My family and friends are my main support and they have been since day one. Thank God I have them to call on when I need something or just someone to call and talk to. My parents live in North Aurora and I have one sister in Montgomery and a niece and two nephews that help me around my house with the lawn work in the summer since I now live alone. I love them to the moon and back.

**What are some things you like to do?**

I enjoy dinner parties with friends and family. I really enjoy cooking for other people. I enjoy planting my flowers in the summer and sitting out on the patio playing my music and watching my dog Luckie running in the yard. I love going on vacations and really enjoy just sitting out at the beach

**Where is the farthest place from home you have ever been?** I was in the travel industry for over 20 years. I have traveled and lived in many places. The farthest place I have been is the Caribbean. I lived in St. Martin for five

years. I've also lived in southern CA, Las Vegas and East Coast. Some of my favorite places are Puerto Rico, Toronto, Canada and Arizona

**What is your favorite food?** There is just not one kind! I really like Puerto Rican food. Sushi is also one of my favorites. A nice steak on the grill; I enjoy many nationalities of food.

**What one thing do you want to do that you haven't done yet?** It's been a dream to travel all over Europe especially Italy, Spain and the south of France

**Who is the most impactful person in your life or most impactful person on humanity (dead or alive)?** I can say there is only one person and that would be my late husband Larry Geer may he rest in peace and Open Door and all the wonderful staff there without each and every one of them they have encouraged me supported me and taught me and they have helped me be healthier. They are just like family.

**What have you learned since being on the CAC?** I have learned I and everyone count's. I really enjoy being a part of the CAC group.

*News & Views* is a publication of the Open Door Client Advisory Committee (CAC) - developed by clients and staff together to provide up-to-date information on health issues, HIV advocacy and health center events.

*The CAC's mission is to act as advocates for the clients of Open Door by promoting and providing feedback and suggestions in order to improve or enhance continuity of care & client services. Taking action with compassion to address issues of isolation, stigma and misinformation often associated with HIV/AIDS, working to improve overall health and the lives of Open Door clients and the community at large.*



**When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights & Open Door has responsibilities. Every month we will help you learn about them!**

Open Door is required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.

- We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.
- We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.
- We will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

For more information see:  
[www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html)

For a complete copy of how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information, please ask the receptionist at Open Door Health Center.

## Notes from the CAC

### CAC Annual Family Picnic

Hosted by  
First Congregational Church Of Geneva UCC  
**August 13, 2016**

- **Activities for All**
- **Activities for the Kids**
- **Fun, Food and Drink**

321 Hamilton Street Geneva IL. 60134  
Please RSVP via [rsvp.odcac@outlook.com](mailto:rsvp.odcac@outlook.com) or call  
one of the Centers ext. 375

## Come and Join

## The CAC needs YOU



**The Client Advisory Committee is looking for clients that want to make a difference and help other clients. If you are interested, please talk to your case manager or email your contact information to [rsvp.odcac@outlook.com](mailto:rsvp.odcac@outlook.com)**

## Activists Convince Washington Post That Pfizer Lowers Prices: Global Action Highlights Fairer Alternatives — “This Story Has Been Removed!”

The dominant market structure where pharmaceutical drug pricing blocks access to otherwise cheap-to-manufacture life-saving medicines from the people who most need them, was highlighted by international activists on Friday.

This was a coordinated action linking community-based organizations from seven countries and directed against several large international pharmaceutical companies including Pfizer, Gilead and Roche.

In New York, the release of a press release on 31 March 2016, linked to a mirror website for the pharmaceutical company Pfizer, was picked up and reported by several leading new outlets including the *Washington Post* and the managed market journal AJMC.com.

The Pfizer-like document detailed how, after such profitable years, the company were announcing a new model for pricing that would enable their drugs to be more widely used:

"For many years we have calculated our initial drug prices by linking them to high research and development costs or to their market value. We have also had a policy of increasing prices over what is needed to stay above inflation" said Pfizer CEO Ian C. Read. "Our new analysis reveals that these price increases have made many of our products inaccessible so we are planning to walk prices back toward a more reasonable figure."

Following recommendations found in PhRMA's "A Sustainable Pricing Plan for the 21st Century" Pfizer will reassess its pricing calculation

method. Referring to Pfizer's recent campaign to raise awareness about the disputed cost of research and development Mr. Read continued "The figure of \$2.87 billion quoted by DiMasi et al. in a recent paper was so out of line with our own actual costs that it led us to reconsider our entire pricing process."

Given this echoes widely held views by people who want fairer access to medicine, it is understandable how the story was easily reprinted.



Outside Pfizer offices in New York, more than 100 vocal and lively protesters, many of them from ACT-UP, were met by "an official company statement from a Pfizer representative" who announced "a plan to enable global access to life-saving medication by lowering price, called a sustainable pricing structure for the 21st century".

Following cheers from the crowd, the spokesperson continued: "This plan ties the price of drugs to the real research and development costs, while still guaranteeing a reasonable profit for our investors. Medication will now be priced so that every patient who needs them can get them."<sup>3,4</sup>

Although, the original articles were removed within a few hours and the official spokesperson was an actor - the believability that prices

could be lower and companies could still make profits - accounts for the original rapid reporting.

The *Washington Post* website now has "article removed" messages and the AJMC story remains only as ghost google traces.<sup>5,6</sup>

The "fake" press release is actually very believable in showing pricing policies that would work for people and still provide profits.

April Fool's day was an appropriate choice for action against excessive drug pricing and lack of transparency for development costs. Coordinated by activists in seven countries, who realized that this is far from a joke for people whose lives depend on medicines that are held out of reach.

The action demanded an end to:

- Unfair medicine pricing.
- Corporate tax inversion.
- Deception about research and development costs.

Other actions took place in London, Johannesburg, Tokyo, San Francisco, Delhi, New York, Boston, Washington, Paris, Ahmedabad, Rio and Brazilia.

In London, members of ACT-UP UK protested inside



offices of Gilead HQ wearing only painted letters on their back to spell out pharma greed. Reported widely, including in the *Guardian* and *thecbody.com*.

In Johannesburg, members of the Fix the Patent Laws campaign, including Advocates for Breast Cancer, the Cancer Alliance, CANSA, Doctors without Borders, People Living with Cancer, SECTION27, the South African Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance, the Treatment Action Campaign and Wings of Hope picketed outside pharmaceutical company Roche to highlight the excessive price of a life-saving breast cancer medicine.

In Boston, AIDS activists and medical students protested the research from Joseph DiMasi at Tufts University over industry funding disclose relating to DiMasi's estimates of development costs used by drug companies to justify astronomical prices.<sup>1</sup>

In India, activists highlighted drug pricing in a country where more than 70% of people live on less than \$2 a day and health insurance is inadequate. India contribute roughly 1% of its total gross domestic product to healthcare, which is arguably among the lowest levels of funding in the world.

In Paris and Tokyo, activists protested against Gilead for their pricing of drugs to treat hepatitis C demanding this should be closer to the cost of production.

By coincidence, a genuine press release by GSK, also on 31 March 2016, expanded policies for greater access to medicines drugs in low income settings to include cancer in addition to HIV drugs.



## Case Manager Corner

**Please remember to schedule an appointment if you need to see your case manager. If you just “drop by” they may be with other clients and will not be able to see you.**

### **Call Ahead!**

Aurora | 630.264.1819  
Elgin | 847.695.1093

## Help Us, Help You!

Open Door wants to offer you groups to help you most. Please let us know which group or groups you are interested in by completing the form seen below (they will be in the reception area at each Center) and turning it in to an Open Door staff member today.

**Thanks for your help!**

**opendoor**  
Health Center of Illinois

**CIRCLE the Group or Groups You Are Interested In:**

- Thinking About Quitting
- HIV+ Support Group
- Substance Abuse Recovery Group
- Transgender Support
- Health-Esteem Group
- Self-Care Group
- Pain Relief Support
- LGBTQ Support
- Nutrition Group
- Managing Depression & Anxiety

You will be contacted with information about each group you have circled.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write any other topics you would like Open Door to offer a group on: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Behavioral Health



## Your Voice is IMPORTANT!

Open Door knows that keeping our lawmakers up-to-date about how important they are in supporting HIV/AIDS. While it may seem intimidating to talk to politicians, it's easier than you think!

### **Learn how to advocate!**

Open Door will be hosting two Advocacy Trainings to teach you how to tell your story in a meaningful way, how to contact legislatures and what information is important to include when writing or visiting your local politicians. Both trainings will be held at Open Door's Elgin Health Center and will include dinner. Contact Bryan Gooding (info below) to register or for more info.

Thursday, April 28 from 6-8 in Elgin  
Friday, April 29 from 4-6 in Aurora

### **Advocate in Springfield**

Join other Open Door clients, staff and stakeholders for HIV/AIDS Lobby Days of May 10th from 6am—8pm (it's a day trip) to visit Springfield and lobby for HIV/AIDS support. We will visit legislative offices and help educate our law makers about the importance of support for HIV/AIDS.

**Contact Bryan Gooding at 847.695.1093 ext. 223 or email [bryang@odhcil.org](mailto:bryang@odhcil.org) to register or for more info.**

**Come out and Join us in Advocating for a Positive Budget!!**

## Contact the CAC

The CAC welcomes your comments and suggestions at any time. You can contact us three ways:

**via Telephone**  
630.264.1819 ext. 375  
847.695.1093 ext. 375

**via E-mail**  
[rsvp.odcac@outlook.com](mailto:rsvp.odcac@outlook.com)

**via Comment Box**  
Located in the reception area

## With So-Called HIV 'Super-Spreader' Case, Are Both Ahf and Porn Film Industry Responsible

From TheBody.com

Three decades ago, I was living in NYC. I was eighteen, and I was co-habituating with a gay porn star named David Connors. He was hung, star of The Biggest One I Ever Saw. And when we walked down Christopher Street, every passerby eyed his bulge -- his cock was a magnet stroking the iron filings from men's eyes.

David made one last film while I was with him: One, Two, Three. The production of this film in the mid-eighties destroyed the company that created it.

Its reputation was ruined because it was rumored to have known that David was sick and to have paid players to have sex with him anyway, at a time when our community's majority was just coming to the conclusion that sex had something to do with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. There was a lot of cocaine involved in the production, and the drugs fueled the filmmakers, who took incredible risks with their cast. Not long after the shooting stopped David Connors died, very quickly.

One would hope that in the thirty years since that film's debut performers would be safe from the industry's bottom line, but that isn't the case. With everything we know about protection, prevention, counseling and treatment for HIV, the health of the industry's self-employed workers in 2016 should be a lot better than it is.

It Had Gotten Better

The odd thing is, for over a decade in California it was better: The porn indus-

try had a proven, sex-positive and healthy public strategy to fight sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Statistics bore out the success of its methodology, as during that time there was no incidence of HIV transmission.

Porn is one industry in which zero HIV transmission is a reasonable goal. Since you "construct" the risk, and you know when transmission is likely, the possibility for innovative prevention is exponential.

The industry once fought against transmission. But these days, too many producers have excuses for failed safety standards, and the industry is caving to the enemy: AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) CEO Michael Weinstein and his shrill inquisition on prevention policy. And he's a serious threat.

Weinstein's War

Michael Weinstein supports condom laws, and for a decade he's poured millions into the fight to force condoms on players. He worked tirelessly to discredit and close AIM, a health clinic that once served industry performers, and his current prevention policy demands are crippling an industry that employs over ten thousand workers every year.

AHF sponsored L.A. County's Measure B, which requires players to wear condoms, and Weinstein is responsible for the California Safer Sex in the Adult Film Industry Act, which tried to make this a statewide requirement.

AHF would say otherwise, but Weinstein is arguably the worst thing to happen to the

health and welfare of the porn industry since the arrival of HIV/AIDS. His tactics have forced the industry to migrate, and migration has consequences.

AHF chirps in a recent press release: "[C]ondom use is -- and very much remains -- required in all adult films made in CA." This was in response to Cal-OSHA fining actor James Deen and his production company \$78K for condom and safety violations. Weinstein has been using AHF's gigantic legal fund to battle the porn industry and reform Cal-OSHA workplace safety standards. By Weinstein's own admission, the money AHF has spent on litigation and the fight to mandate condoms in porn could have provided health care services for over a thousand HIV-positive people. Michael Weinstein will waste a generation to prove he's right even when he's wrong.

AHF's prevention page still ignores pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) -- further indication, if you needed any, that Weinstein and AHF should be immediately disqualified from participating in any public discourse about how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Weinstein will ignore the science to his peril, and the porn industry should seize on this. It should seize on the fact that workplace transmission was virtually non-existent in the decade before he drove the industry out of California. Where Is the Porn Industry's Prevention Innovation?

The porn industry still sees little-to-no HIV workplace transmission in any given

year; it is safe to say that sex workers in pornographic films are at no higher risk than anyone else of contracting an STI such as HIV. So why is AHF spending millions imposing condoms-in-porn laws when black men who have sex with men and transgender women nationwide are facing HIV transmission rates many times higher than sex workers in film?

The porn industry should be taking an innovative approach to HIV prevention. Instead, they created Free Speech Coalition, which fights condom use in porn. It's also moved the studios and backdrops to Las Vegas, where safety laws, if enacted, are even less likely to be enforced.

Witness the rise of the "super-spreader." When porn moved to Nevada, so did HIV. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a routine case of HIV transmission, with one caveat: For the first time in over a decade the incident occurred on a gay porn set. This seems almost purposefully crafted to support AHF's thankless position on condom laws and almost certainly to have been driven by Weinstein's obsession with porn -- an obsession that brought subpoenas to three HIV-testing facilities in California in a dangerous violation of patients' right to privacy.

If you marginalize a group and push them away from health care the way AHF and Michael Weinstein have pushed sex workers by closing the clinics that served them, it is likely to face a higher risk of infection.

*Continued On Page 6*

**Make sure you understand when and how to take your medications. This will help YOU be**

## April Support Groups

05	HIV Positive Support Group	4-5pm	A*
05	LGBT Group	6-8pm	G
06	HIV Health & Wellness Changing Habits & Patterns of Substance Abuse	10am- noon	A
06	HIV Positive Support Group	12-1pm	E*
07	HIV Health & Wellness Changing Habits & Patterns of Substance Abuse	12- 1:30pm	E*
08	HIV Psychosocial Group	4-6pm	A*
12	HIV Positive Support Group	4-5pm	A*
13	HIV Health & Wellness Changing Habits & Patterns of Substance Abuse	10am- noon	A
13	HIV Positive Support Group	12-1pm	E*
14	HIV Psychosocial Group	4-6pm	A*
19	HIV Positive Support Group	4-5pm	A*
20	HIV Health & Wellness Changing Habits & Patterns of Substance Abuse	10am- noon	A
20	HIV Positive Support Group	12-1pm	E*
21	HIV Health & Wellness Changing Habits & Patterns of Substance Abuse	10am- noon	A
22	HIV Psychosocial Group	4-6pm	A*
26	HIV Positive Support Group	4-5pm	A*
26	Transgender Group	6-8pm	G*
27	HIV Health & Wellness Changing Habits & Patterns of Substance Abuse	10am- noon	A
27	HIV Positive Support Group	12-1pm	E*
28	HIV Health & Wellness Changing Habits & Patterns of Substance Abuse	10am- noon	A
29	HIV Psychosocial Group	4-6pm	A*

\* Snacks will be served.

## With So-Called HIV 'Super-Spreader' Case,...

*Continued From Page 5*

AHF generates nearly a billion dollars in revenue from HIV/AIDS services worldwide, much of which comes from its pharmacy business. Weinstein believes his reward for success in the boardroom should be a right to confer public health policy in California statewide. But Weinstein should be disqualified from this due to his Prep alone.

These days, Weinstein isn't arguing for increased PrEP, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and treatment as prevention (TasP) -- the new basics of HIV prevention. Instead, he's demanding goggles, dental dams and condoms, and losing the battle.

A young HIV activist friend with the group ACT UP described Weinstein this way: "Michael Weinstein is the Mbeki of HIV prevention." He is referring to the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, whose denial of HIV caused 365,000 additional deaths from AIDS.

He added, "One has to wonder how many gay men have become infected with HIV because of AHF's multi-million-dollar scheme to obfuscate and oppose the single most rigorously researched and effective HIV-prevention intervention ever developed."

My activist friend stands among a chorus of people denouncing Michael Weinstein and AHF for their stance on PrEP. Weinstein's denial of Truvada (tenofovir/FTC) de-

mands attention. He has no place shaping public health policy, and state voters should reject outright any proposed initiative from AHF. Scientifically speaking, Weinstein's vigorous lobbying against PrEP is the equivalent of an anti-vaxxer spear-chucking California's anti-whooping cough initiative.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans have died of AIDS since David Connors' death. But today we know that PrEP prevents HIV transmission in a healthy body and that TASP reduces the infection until it's virtually impossible to spread. And we know too that PEP, taken right after unprotected sex, can avert infection. That anyone seroconverts on set today is a direct result of an exodus from a land of the known to a desert of ignorance.

Weinstein is playing with fire in Mbeki's bone-yard, and AHF should remove this threat to public health before he destroys another life. Barring this, a full court press to disqualify his many attempts to shape health policy is the job of every gay activist and the porn industry. But the industry has to do better if it plans to survive -- the science and data are in its favor. Today, the industry's strategy is less apparent, and that has to change if it wants to remain viable in California. Porn remains an excellent place to get the science of prevention right. Unfortunately, what we're seeing, in large part due to AHF, is the destruction of best practices.