

**Conference: The Call to Action on Sexual Health:
Science and Belief, Seeking Common Ground:
Sexual Health and the Training of Service Professionals:
Health, Social Services and Religion/Theology
May 24, 2004**

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MALE SPEAKER: Have a seat. Excuse me! Can I get everyone's attention because I don't want to do what Armstrong did but we really, in the interest of time, need to pull everyone, get everyone's attention, come to the front of the room, if you'd like, we don't have as many people, but we really need to start this so we can get everyone's voices heard from these small breakout groups. Thank you very, very much.

MALE SPEAKER: Yes?

MALE SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

MALE SPEAKER: All right. Thank you very much and thank you all for hanging around. We're going to go—All of the facilitators have an order that they're going by. The first breakout group is the forum breakout group and Judy will be presenting for them, first with the compelling new ideas and then the priority actions items. They're projecting from the back and they're trying to make sure that it's fit on right and so that's what Judy will be reading from and we'll go to each one in the order that the facilitators are listed at.

Judy Young: Good Afternoon. My name is Judy Young and I'm from San Francisco State University and that's the National Sexuality Resource Center and I'll do my best to read what I wrote.

On the first question of what are the most compelling

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new ideas and concepts that came across our group was amazed to see that there was common ground amongst our differences. So that was one of the things that was repeated, that there was common ground even though there were differences of opinions and thoughts, there was common ground. And they were impressed by the communication amongst the panelists and even amongst the group that they were impressed that we did have communication amongst our differences that we were able to actually engage in a dialogue. And the third one, the third compelling thing was that there's a need to use a broad approach to deal with our issues and talk about our issues and our ideas to not go so narrow that we leave people out, that by using the broad approaches to the way we think about doing our work, we can include as many people as possible and not leave anyone out.

Okay? The next—For the steps, let's see if I can remember this one, the group recommended that we use greater use of evidence to inform our dialogues that we use greater use of our evidence data and the dissemination of the evidence, increase the dissemination of the evidence so that when we engage of dialogue we all have accurate, informed information and that will drive our dialogue. The second one; the group recommended that we talk more openly about our deeply held beliefs and that we talk at the beginning of these types of dialogues. That we start off talking about our deeply held

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beliefs and that we continue to bring that into the conversation, to set the context so that it will increase our level of respect and our ability to respect each other across differences if we understand the beliefs. The need for more qualitative research reporting; more story-telling so that we can understand the research in a different way by hearing the depth, and the stories. And the need for a youth presence, specifically a youth conference, the need to replicate this process with young people where they have a space to go through this same process of finding common ground or talking about common ground, beginning the dialogue. And specifically, allowing youth, young people from whatever ages, to provide evidence from their life experience today. To help those of us who would not fall into the young people category, understand what today's life is for young people, not necessarily what I remember of my experience to be. I think that's it. Okay, that's it, that's it.

MALE SPEAKER: All right, thank you to forum one and Judy. Thank you very much and she did the first one. Erica, number two and Executive Room, right?

Erica Blueheart [spelling?]: Yeah. My name's Erica Blueheart, I'm with Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. First the learnings, these are just three examples of all the things that were shared. The first was, wow, okay regardless

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of people's views, this is a room full of passionate and energetic people and that was awesome so somebody reflected on that. Somebody else said that their compelling learning was they're still looking for common ground. They expected to come here and find it and they're still looking for it. And lastly, that a combined approach is important such as the one spoken about the ABC model, the person from the Alan Guttmacher Institute spoke that we have to use all components, a comprehensive approach. And then in terms of action ideas, three emerged as a priority for our group; the idea of taking on the media, partnering with the media; helping them come up with specific definition and language to use in programming. Second was we need an online forum to keep us all connected after this conference; some way that we can continue to share dialogue and ideas. And last; foster regular learnings and dialogues, meaningful dialogues in our communities at all different levels in small groups. We thought that the small group idea was really important and that listening happens in a different way in small groups than it does in large groups.

MALE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Erica and Executive Group. The next group will be from Empire One, Brenda?

Brenda Green: Hi, I'm Brenda Green, I'm with the National School Boards Association. We had an awesome group in

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Empire One. Compelling new ideas; the importance of both and all, both and all sides being represented. That was like a, you know, a light bulb going off; how valuable that is. Up please. The challenge of hearing a wide perspective of youth voices; that we didn't capture all the youth voices today and that's a challenge, and we need to strive towards that. Next. The compelling new idea, the new information that was so compelling was the data around the problem stemming from widespread contraception promotion and use. That was the compelling new idea. That was presented by Dr. Paddy?

Paddy Jim Baggot: Paddy, Dr. Baggot.

Brenda Green: Baggot? Baggot. And the SAR training, hearing about the SAR training from Bill Stayton; that was a compelling new idea and something that has legs. Okay, those were the new ideas and now for action steps. Educate parents about how to talk to children and help parents to not be afraid to provide sexual health information to their children. Raise this issue, this issue around promoting sexual health in other venues; with family and churches, at workplaces, and with the media. In the future have more representation from youth with diverse perspectives. Educate legislators about the definition of abstinence, clarify that definition for them and also educate legislators to value the effectiveness of abstinence until marriage. So we had quite a diverse conversation going

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on in our group. And I—Was there one more paper? Was that it?
Okay.

MALE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thanks a lot
Brenda; Empire One. And Bill; Empire Two.

Bill: In terms of compelling ideas, having so many
diverse issues for dialogue that were represented here today.
Another one was using the same language with different
definitions was an important one. And then, finally, they
thought the idea of emotionally charged beliefs, rather than
deeply held beliefs, was a really helpful input by Dr.
McJunkin. Regarding furthering the dialogue, we need to
dialogue about curriculum from different points of view in
terms of ideology, world view, and philosophies. We need to
have community dialogue. Because so much has just been
individual organization dialogue, we need community dialogue.
Three; there needs to be critical thinking about both science
and deeply-held beliefs. Four; we do need to have more voice
from our young people and their parents. And, five; publishing
articles in *local* periodicals with a balance of views.

MALE SPEAKER: Thanks a lot. Thank you. Susan, Empire
Three. And Joe, you're on board.

Susan: Thank you. Well our first compelling idea that
was held by the majority of people in our group was that
Jennifer Tamayo's presentation rocked and everything she said

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was fabulous. And, also, from that and from other statements was that youth's abilities to deal with things and understand things have been underestimated and undervalued. The second compelling idea, and it was interesting because they all kind of grouped together, was, in fact it was my favorite too, deeply held beliefs are really emotionally charged. And that, you can move it up if you can, it was the polarization of viewpoints and the emotional charge of viewpoints was compelling to many people. And the third item was, eh pretty bad with the handwriting, was that the ABC was a really good beginning and a good approach that could be used to work with many different groups. On raising the dialogue, they thought it was very important that whatever group you were working with, there was no one-size-fits-all and you needed to listen to the group and, that you were working with so that you understood what their needs were and where they were coming from. We also thought it might be important to get the silent majority talking and there was a program that went around the country in the past on other issues called "Plain Talk" and to us that format in the local communities. And thirdly, to talk about sex positively instead of, it seems like; all the talk is negative. And, lastly, that wasn't on there was that we ought to have a clearing house for all the different possible curriculums and programs so that if you were looking one for a

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particular population, you could go to one site and find what you needed.

MALE SPEAKER: Thank you. Empire Four; Joe.

Joe Zanga: Hi, I'm Joe Zanga; I'm a pediatrician now at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. Since I'm a pediatrician, I write small. We had, it looked like on the assignment page, about seventeen people in the room, but we had nineteen comments. So I've must have gotten a couple of people twice. But twelve of them, interestingly, related to the same thing that they related in various ways to whether science does inform belief or vice versa. And can we separate science from belief? And, obviously, we're just taking ideas so nobody tried to answer the question, but I thought it was an interesting question. Going ahead, the things that we thought that we should do or, more particularly that the National Center for Primary Care should do, should be to develop policy and action agenda based on the suggestions that are being presented through this dialogue right now, or this course right now. To explain whether a state of, or, explore whether a state of emergency exists with respect to HIV/AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections. With 500,000 people dying of AIDS in this country over the course of the disease in this country, more than died in World War II, that question takes on some significance.

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Three; encourage and involve parents in sex education. Four; they felt that we really needed to define our goals and strategies better than we have. Five, other traits; objective evaluation of comprehensive sex education versus abstinence education.

MALE SPEAKER: Joe, thank you. Gil, you're next, and Eli on board.

Gil Herdt, Ph.D.: Hi, I'm Gil Herdt; I'm Director of Human Sexuality Studies in the National Sexuality Resource Center in San Francisco. We're in Congressional, our group is Congressional Room A. There were three primary learnings, or compelling ideas, that we came up with. First that in order to create trust, you need to have the whole message communicated to young people in particular so they understand the context and the wholeness of what is being conveyed. Secondly, what creates success in diverse communities is common purpose and common messages to overcome differences. And in the cases of Wisconsin that were mentioned, and Uganda, seemed to be important validation of that. And third, again it's been already said, deeply held beliefs are different from emotionally charged attitudes. In terms of our action steps, the group overwhelmingly believed that the most important thing that the council and the primary center care could do is to go into the question of the rights of young people, in particular

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the sexual rights of young people, to talk about what is being talked about in other parts of the world and is not currently being—is on the agenda in the United States. Secondly, to create talking circles, or common means of people talking together in their local communities that continues the process of consensus that we've begun here. And third, to find the right processes for communities to bring diverse people together even when the circumstances are not ideal, which means finding the social circumstances where people can really feel comfortable to talk about sexuality. Thank you.

MALE SPEAKER: Gil, thank you. And thanks to all of those in Congressional A. Eli; Congressional B.

Eli: Well we had an awesome group as well. And there were—These were the compelling things that came out in our group. Again, I think we were very touched by this issue of unraveling the emotionally charged and deeply held beliefs. And that being a key to getting to the common ground, we need to unravel that. There was a lot of people that learned something from the Uganda thing, different thing for different people. And I think there was a lot of talk about that the ABC is comprehensive but we need something even more and we that we need to talk about pleasure. Okay? And then the suggestions, now there was some buying and selling of dots that went on in our—But, no I'm kidding. But here is how it came out, I think

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this other mention that we've got to take this to the local level, we're probably have more success if we bring this dialogue down to the community level. And so we need to do that. To move the dialogue and educate towards well being and not just about problems. Okay? And to identify powerful, recognizing the power of media, identify powerful media people to join the quest for common ground, and to support and maintain federal funds for sexuality research, and to call on our nation's leaders to discuss healthy sexuality. How's that?

MALE SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you. All right, that's great Congressional B. And now we've got Cabinets, Shannon.

Shannon Colestock: Thank you Eli. My name is Shannon Colestock; I'm a sexuality educator, trainer, and consultant. And we had a wonderful group as well. It was difficult for me to have to select three compelling ideas out of all of the great ideas that we had but I tried to choose three that had a common theme for our group. One interesting observation was that people tended to be talking near one another to convey their ideas to the other group, like in the hallway or what not. It wasn't actually directly with one another. Number two, there seemed to be some kind of difficulty balancing emotional and intellect, science and faith, and that seemed to be kind of a theme that ran through our compelling learnings.

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Okay? How much we have used sex as *the problem*. That it's a negative thing that needs to be fixed, or repaired, or changed, or controlled. Okay? Our action steps, there were five, the one that by far won was involving youth at all levels of this process. Having them be involved in the process, the creation process, of an event like this, organizing an event like this with them, possibly even having presentations by them. And, I think Jennifer really articulated the point of involving youth and that they can be involved in this process very well. Number two, involve parents, so our first two were involve youth and involve parents, so I thought that was great. Get those involved in all the processes of educating youth. Number three, we had three, four, and five were all ties, use different approaches and study successful models, know yourself, know your biases, know yourself sexually. Number five, have the dialogue include everyone, especially traditionally marginalized populations. And I think that just went to inclusivity.

MALE SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

Shannon Colestock: Thank you.

MALE SPEAKER: Good work Cabinet. Isaac; for the Senate Group.

Isaac Alvarez Cardos [spelling?]: And then thank you to my group, a very compelling—My name is Isaac Alvarez Cardos

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[spelling?], I'm the Director of Programs with the American Image of Texas at the Spanish Correlations Center in Texas. Some of the things, wow, some of the things that were compelling were we were surprised by the opposition to the ABC model and that it seemed that our society, we don't trust or understand our, I think it's our youth, yeah. More difficult to talk about those issues today than twenty years ago, and that was very compelling for everyone. Youth should have to be respected also as decision makers. And the actions were to talk more about sex, well, to talk about comprehensive sex education that is biblically based. Keeping the dialogue open, talking with each other instead of talking at each other. My group, Bob and I's group, it seemed like, like my elders say sometimes, I consider us all healers, we need a lot of healing probably during this work and probably after so it was healing process that we were going through. Talk to listen to youth, of what they need, and create a format of comprehensive sex education versus the other systems that are out there. That's it.

MALE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. And Deb, the last, of course but not the least group, thank you.

Deb: Yeah, our group was fair. That was a joke. That was a joke. No, we had a wonderful group too and I appreciated their honesty and openness, I truly did, so thank you for that.

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Penny and I sort of double-teamed so I'm going to ask Penny to deal with the first issue up here.

Penny: So to reinforce what others have said, the comprehensiveness of the subject of sexuality and sexuality education, people felt compelled to emphasize that. The Uganda story was compelling although there was sentiment that the ABC approach was too limited and could be expanded. And then there was emphasis on the importance of attributes, of, you're going to have to help me, exploring attitudes and beliefs and how they inform our working sexuality, well and how they inform our work; positively or negatively. Is that it? Is that? Good. Okay. And then, oh, this is fairly important, interesting comment; we need agreement on common datasets. And then the last one, there was a desire for a more interactive format. A lot of energy that people felt could have been brought together for expanded discussion, etcetera.

Deb: And the three, there were three clear winners here, and there was a number that had two after that so we only selected three. This was the one that got the most dots was move to the state and regional local level with this kind of dialogue modeled after today's meeting, which I thought was, you know, a good statement also about today. Identify, evaluated best practices, in other words, you know, what are the best practices out there, we know they're best because

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they've been evaluated, and then move to promote them on a national level so that we can have some uniformity around how we go about reaching people. And there was a strong feeling that we needed more emphasis on the hope part of ABC Hope and that we would have loved to have heard more about that today and all of it's dimensions.

MALE SPEAKER: Thanks so much Deb and Penny and the Council Room. Just a couple of closure items from me; number one, the facilitators and the folks who assisted them, as I said, came Saturday, went through a training planning process, facilitated for you and did this presentation for you, how about a hand for them. And none of the items that where have been written down will be lost. In addition to the disk that you can get, and if you want, as you sign up for it, we will produce a report of this conference. And we will try to make sure that we get it to all of those who have been here by E-mail, if that works. If that doesn't work for some people, then let us know. And we'll try to get that out to you within a very reasonable time so that it doesn't just contain the information you just saw but the complete input from each of the breakout groups. We, again, we will review and evaluate your evaluations closely. I urge you, if you haven't, to fill those out, to use the back if you have additional comments. I hope all of you have had at least a decent chance for input

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today, I hope you've learned something today, it was my pleasure to work with you today and I'm going to turn it over to Dr. Satcher to close for us.

David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D.: Well first I want to thank all of you who have spent this day with us and say how much we deeply appreciate your participation, why don't you give yourselves a hand. Well, we made a tremendous effort to attract people with different points of views, different deeply held beliefs to this conference and I think we had a chance to hear a lot of viewpoints. I'm not sure everybody's going to leave here happy that their position received as much attention as they would have liked for it to receive. But I think what we've achieved this, we have gotten together, we've not necessarily gotten along but we've gotten together and I think it's something that we should continue to build on. I was a little concerned about the youth who felt that their positions were not represented but, and I gave them an opportunity to say something but they didn't want to do it at this time, so I'm going to say that we're going to close the meeting and I want to close on a story just as I started. Or with a story in terms of where I think the potential common ground is and I think it would be unrealistic to think at the first meeting like this we would reach common ground. But I sort of, the thing that I sort of hear coming through is that there's a lot

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of caring about the issue of sexual health and human sexuality. There's a lot of caring about what's happening to our children in this country and in the world. A lot of caring about the AIDS epidemic, and other things that are just devastating, of people throughout the world. A lot of caring about sexual abuse, especially child sexual abuse and it's sort of what sort of brings us together.

One of my favorite stories, and I'll close with this story, is, it's a biblical story about King Solomon, and most of you probably have heard that story. But according to the story, as you know, he was the son of David who was such an outstanding king of Israel, and Solomon was chosen to be king after David. And according to the story, he got this opportunity to pray to God for what he wanted. And I guess everybody assumed that, you know, he was going to pray to be rich and famous and powerful like his father and instead, when it came his time, he prayed for understanding, said he really wanted to know the difference between right and wrong, and good and evil. And he just—He didn't ask for anything more, he wanted to understand life and the difference between good and evil, or right and wrong. And God looked down at him and said, you know, because you've come to me and asked for understanding, didn't ask for money, didn't ask for fame, I'm going to give you all of those things. I'm going to give you

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wisdom, understanding, and wealth and fame. And so many people think that Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived because of some of the things that he did. You remember when the Queen of Sheba came to visit him and she met with him, and she herself was rich and powerful, and after she met with him, they had a little press conference, and the press asked her, "What do you think about this guy, is he really all that?" And the famous statement was, "You know, the half has not yet been told about Solomon." And that was her response, the half has not yet been told.

But the story that stands out in my mind was the story of when the two prostitutes who lived in the same home became pregnant about the same time and they delivered, they each had their babies while in the same house. And one night, somehow, I don't know whether the mother rolled over on her baby and suffocated it or what, you know how it is with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, but the mother woke up and her baby was dead. And she was devastated, as you can imagine, but then what she did next was really unfortunate. She decided to take her dead baby, put into the arms of the other baby and take the living baby as her own. So the next morning when the mother was awakened and decided to breastfeed her baby, she realized the baby in her arms was dead, she was devastated. And then she realized it was really not her baby. So that started a long,

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legal procedure, they went through all kinds of courts trying to decide who the mother was of the living baby. And finally it ended up with Solomon, the king. And Solomon had to make a decision about who was the mother of this baby and he didn't have lie detector tests, such as they are, didn't have it. He didn't have blood typing that we've used for years to, I guess, rule out paternity, at least. He didn't have DNA, which allows us today to go back and determine, you know, who committed a crime twenty years ago, and determine with almost a hundred percent certainty that Thomas Jefferson was indeed the father of Sally Hillman's children. He didn't have any of that, no lie detector tests, no blood typing, no DNA, so what did he use? Well he told them to bring him a sword and he said, "I'm going to cut this baby in half and give half to each mother since we can't decide who's the mother." So they brought in the sword, he raised it, and the mother who's not the baby's, she stood there pouting, and the other mother said, "Please, wait, wait. Don't, don't kill my baby, give it to her, I don't want my baby to die." And Solomon said, "You are the mother of this baby." And he gave the baby to the mother and sent the other mother to jail for fraud.

So without technology, without lie detector tests, and blood typing, and DNA, what did he use, he used caring. And I think it's sort of where we are today, these are some very

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difficult issues and sometimes we almost, we not only divide communities, but we almost cut people in half trying to decide what to do about sexual health. But I think in this room there are a lot of people who care, they might be angry at me because they didn't feel they were adequately represented, or angry at somebody who said something. But I get the impression that the people in this room are here because they really care about this issue; and I commend you for that caring. And that's, I think, the common ground, that's what brought us here is that we really care about the issue of human sexuality and sexual health. I hope somehow we can translate that caring into more common ground and some really strong messages and programs that will help people, especially young people in this country. So, again, I thank you for being here, I thank you for your commitment to this issue and I hope we can continue to work together. Thank you.

MALE SPEAKER: If this is still on; so long and have a good trip home, it was nice to meet you.

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