

EVALUATION of the 2008 Ryan White Grantee Meeting

Background

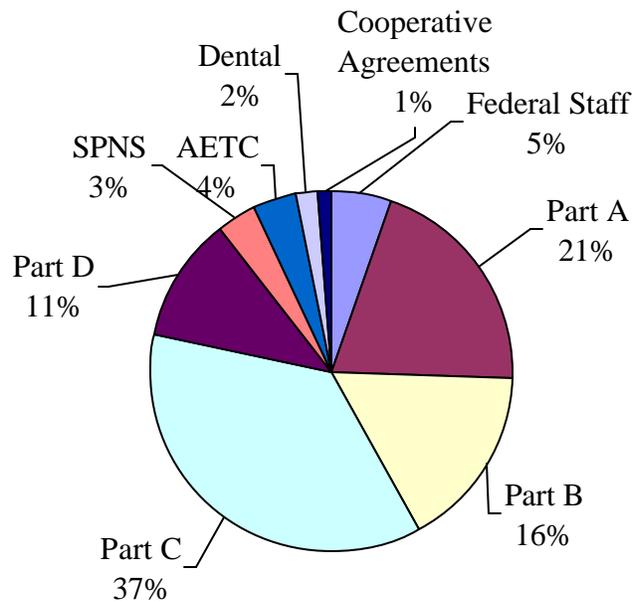
The 2008 Ryan White Program Grantee Meeting held in Washington, DC was the fifth biennial meeting of its kind hosted by the HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB). Over 2,300 Ryan White Program grantees attended, representing direct care providers, program/fiscal administrators, members of planning councils or board members, and federal staff. As in 2006, over 45 percent of the participants had not previously attended a National Ryan White Grantee Meeting.

There was a slight increase in the number of people who attended the 2008 meeting (2,375) compared to the number of people who attended in 2006 (2,324). Of the 2,375 participants who attended in 2008, 1,403 (59 percent) completed an evaluation form, up from 56 percent in 2006. This report includes the data from those evaluation forms as well as data obtained from the meeting's registration database.

Meeting Participant Demographics

Part C grantees made up 37 percent of attendees followed by Part A grantees (21 percent), Part B grantees (16 percent), and Part D grantees (11 percent). See Figure 1 for the complete breakdown.

Figure 1. Number of Attendees by Program and Federal staff. N=2,375



When respondents were asked to choose one category that best represents them, 40 percent chose Program or Fiscal Administrator and 39 percent chose Care Provider or Clinician. See Table 1 for a complete breakdown by position type for both 2006 and 2008 meetings.

Twenty-three percent (N=302) of all respondents indicated being a consumer of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program-funded services. In 2006, 20 percent (N=256) indicated they were consumers of CARE Act-funded services.

Table 1. Meeting Participant by Position Type, 2006, 2008

Position type	2008 N=1,403	2006 N=1,291
Care Provider / Clinician (primary care / support services)	39%	33%
Program / Fiscal Administrator	40%	41%
Planning Council / Board Member	5%	6%
Federal Staff	6%	9%
Other	9%	11%

NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

Reasons for Attending

When participants were asked to select the main reason they attended the meeting, the top responses were to receive technical assistance (23 percent) and to share models of care (22 percent). Table 2 highlights the Top/Main reasons individuals had for attending the Meeting.

Table 2. Reasons for Attending the Meeting, 2006, 2008

Position type	2008 N=1,371	2006 N=1,291
To receive technical assistance	23%	21%
To share models of care	22%	22%
To network with peers	18%	24%
To learn about legislative requirements	16%	23%
To obtain continuing education credits	11%	10%
Other	9%	

NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

Meeting Comparison: 2008 vs. 2006

When asked how the 2008 meeting compared to the meeting in 2006, 27 percent said the meeting was “As Good”, 22 percent said it was “Better”, and 4 percent said it was “Not as Good.” Forty-six percent did not comment, stating that this was their 1st Ryan White Grantee Meeting. This is similar to the 2006 meeting, where 47 percent of the attendees had not previously attended a National Ryan White Grantee Meeting.

General Feedback

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide feedback on any aspect of the 2008 Meeting, good or bad. The most common themes to emerge were related to workshops, food quality, and the distraction of food service during the Tuesday plenary.

The most common responses were related to workshops and most comments in this category were positive. Many respondents liked the categorization of basic, intermediate and advanced workshops; however, a few respondents commented that the categorization did not match the content. One respondent noted that “more advanced sessions are needed for those who have been in the field for more than five years” which echoed comments from others who found even intermediate and advanced sessions too basic.

Many respondents believed “the workshops were great,” and that there was “a wonderful mix of prevention and care and its interconnection.” However, several found the scheduling to be problematic. Sessions of similar topics overlapped and those who were interested in attending more than one session on the same topic were forced to choose.

The second most common theme to emerge was related to the type of food that was offered. Many participants felt that the options were either unhealthy or exclusive. One respondent commented “Please bring back yogurt, fresh fruit, granola bars, [healthier options] etc. as snacks at break times.” Similarly, one respondent wrote: “The opening breakfast was a heart attack waiting to happen.” Other respondents indicated they were allergic to shellfish.

The distraction during the Tuesday plenary was the third most common theme that emerged. One respondent noted that “it is very hard to hear the speakers due to people carrying on lunch conversations and plates banging.” Others echoed this sentiment.

Workshop Planning and Communication

Workshop moderators and presenters were asked if the instructions for planning their workshop were easy to understand. Of the 277 responses, 85 percent indicated that the instructions were easy to understand, while 15 percent of the participants felt that the instructions were unclear.

Meeting Goals

Participants were asked to rate whether or not the meeting objectives were met. Overall, the responses were positive. When asked about meeting goals, approximately 40 percent of respondents felt that that all three meeting goals were met. Table 3 depicts the meeting goals and how participants rated them.

Table 3. Meeting Goals Rated.

	Strongly Disagree	Some-what Disagree	Neutral	Some-what Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
I learned new strategies to improve access to culturally competent, quality HIV care for PLWHA. N=1,360	1%	3%	12%	35%	39%	10%
I learned about Federal programmatic and administrative requirements. N=1,364	1%	3%	14%	34%	38%	11%
I was able to share/learn models of care. N=1,365	1%	2%	14%	33%	43%	8%

NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Logistics

Participants were asked to rate certain logistical aspects of the meeting, such as the meeting Web site, program book, helpfulness of staff, and the number of breaks. Overall, the responses were positive. Table 4 depicts the meeting logistics and how participants rated them.

Table 4. Meeting Logistics Rated.

	Strongly Disagree	Some-what Disagree	Neutral	Some-what Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
The meeting Web site was easy to use. N=1,351	2%	5%	13%	29%	36%	16%
The Program Book was a useful resource. N1,364	1%	3%	8%	26%	61%	1%
On-site staff support was helpful. N=1,367	1%	1%	2%	14%	81%	1%
The number and length of the breaks were adequate. N=1,364	1%	1%	5%	22%	71%	--

NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Food Quality

Participants were asked to rate the *quality* of the food served during the meeting. Overall, the responses were positive ranging from good to excellent. However, of all the meals served, the award luncheon menu received the lowest marks. In addition, when respondents had an opportunity to provide comments on the LEAST enjoyable aspects of the meeting (see page 5), the *types of food choices* offered comprised the second most popular response. Table 5 provides a breakdown of responses to food *quality*.

Table 5. Food Quality Rated.

	Very Poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Excellent	N/A
Overall quality of the food during the Reception N=1,356	2%	4%	14%	34%	38%	10%
Overall quality of food during the Opening Breakfast N=1,351	2%	4%	15%	31%	39%	9%
Overall quality of the food during the Awards Luncheon N=1,350	4%	8%	16%	27%	40%	6%
Overall quality of the food during the Closing Luncheon N=1,196	0%	2%	7%	22%	34%	36%
Overall quality of the food during the breaks N=1,333	1%	3%	15%	36%	42%	2%

NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Evening Reception

More than fifty percent of attendees who completed an evaluation form attended the evening reception on Monday. Of those in attendance, 54 percent said that it was enjoyable, 4 percent said it was not enjoyable.

Most Enjoyable Aspects of the Meeting

When participants were asked what they enjoyed MOST about the meeting, the number one response continued to be ‘networking’ as in the 2004 and 2006 All Grantee Meetings. The second most popular responses were about the variety of workshops offered at the meeting. Below is a sampling of comments that fell into both categories:

Networking

“Networking-the meeting provides a forum to exchange ideas and improve your program.”

“Networking and putting things into perspective.”

“Ability to meet others in a similar field in a friendly, supportive manner.”

“Meeting with colleagues and honoring achievements.”

Workshops

“The variety of choices and diversity of topics and skill levels basic to advanced.”

“Discussions at the workshops following the presentations during the question and answer portions.”

“The quality of the workshops and the time-pace of the session.”

“The variety of topics covered and emphasis on engagement/retention in care.”

“The variety of sessions related to Admin/Fiscal management.”

“Variety of topics and focus on topics other than Admin/Fiscal.”

“Really liked that there were so many different options for the workshops.”

“Variety of sessions.”

Least Enjoyable Aspects of the Meeting

Respondents were also asked what they enjoyed LEAST about the meeting. The majority of responses were about the workshops and the types of food offered. Below is a sampling of comments that fell into both categories:

Workshops

- “Breakouts with two topics in the same session were often unrelated topics.”
- “Very basic for 15+ years experience in the field.”
- “Several key workshops occurred at same times forcing difficult choices.”
- “Several workshops covered content different than what I expected based on the workshop description.”
- “Not enough workshops for grantees who are not new.”
- “Some rooms were too small to accommodate the numbers of people attending. An online sign-up would be good so that a better estimate of participants could be available also useful in planning which rooms to use and how to set them.”

Food

- “Excess Pastries. I am diabetic.”
- “Lack of healthy food.”
- “Shellfish was a bad choice for lunch.”

Overall Meeting Evaluation

Finally, respondents were asked to rank the overall quality of the 2008 meeting, and 85 percent rated the meeting as “very good” or “excellent” compared to 80 percent in 2006. See Table 6 for a complete breakdown of both years.

Table 6. Overall Rating, 2006 and 2008

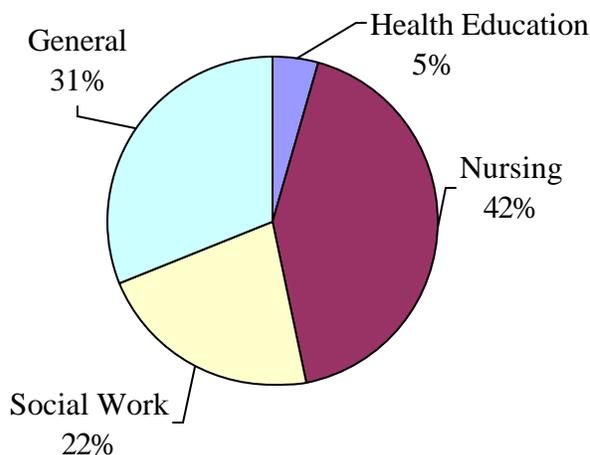
Rating	2008 N=1,349	2006 N=1,247
Poor	--	1%
Fair	2%	4%
Good	13%	15%
Very Good	50%	35%
Excellent	35%	45%

NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Continuing Education Credit and Workshop Evaluation

Thirty-two percent (N=774) of all meeting participants requested continuing education credit, up from 18 percent in 2006. Nursing credit was the most requested (42 percent) followed by general credit (31 percent), social work credit (22 percent), and health education credit (5 percent). See figure 3.

Figure 3. Continuing Education Requests by Discipline. N=774



Workshop Evaluations

Individuals were required to complete a workshop evaluation for each workshop they attended in order to receive continuing education credit. They were asked to rate the presenters, the content and overall quality and usefulness of the workshops. The results¹ from these evaluations will be representative of this select subgroup and may not necessarily reflect the views of all Meeting respondents.

¹ This data is still undergoing analysis and will be made available within the coming months as an addendum to this report. Workshop moderators and presenters will be notified when the evaluation results for their specific workshop become available and copies will be provided upon request.

About the Data

The Evaluation / Continuing Education Subcommittee were 1 of 7 subcommittees organized to plan the meeting and consisted of HAB staff, with support from Professional Scientific Associates (PSA). The overall charge of the Evaluation / Continuing Education Subcommittee was to oversee the meeting evaluation and provided continuing education credit to attendees.

Of the 2,375 people that attended the Meeting, 1,403 (59 percent) participants completed and returned the overall meeting evaluation form, a slight increase over the 2006 Meeting, which had a 56 percent rate of return. Such a large return for both years was most likely the result of offering an incentive (free t-shirt) for completing the questionnaire.

PSA staff completed data entry and cleaning. Analysis was performed by both PSA staff using Vovici EFM software and HAB's Division of Science and Policy.

Participants were asked to rate some items on a scale of 1=disagree to 5=agree and 1=poor to 5=excellent. For the purposes of this report, the committee interpreted those scales as follows:

Strongly Agree (response 5)	Excellent (response 5)
Somewhat Agree (response 4)	Good (response 4)
Neutral (response 3)	Neutral (response 3)
Somewhat Disagree (response 2)	Poor (response 2)
Strongly Disagree (response 1)	Very Poor (response 1)

Unknown responses were not included when calculating percentages.

The data related to meeting registration were taken from the Meeting Registration MS Access Database maintained by PSA.

Of the 2,375 people that attended the Meeting, 774 participants requested continuing education credit. It is a requirement that these individuals complete a workshop evaluation form for each educational event they attend. Other attendees completed workshop evaluations, but it was not a requirement. In total, 8,812 workshop evaluation forms were submitted. Of those, 7,687 (those submitted by the CE participants) will be analyzed. The remaining 1,125 workshop evaluation forms submitted by non-CE participants were outside the committee's scope and budget and were not included.

The information about specific workshops will be available within the coming months as an addendum to this report.