

**Ryan White Planning Council of the Philadelphia Part A EMA
Positive Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2016
12:00-2:00p.m.**

Office of HIV Planning, 340 N. 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Present: PH (20), PA (2)

Guests: David Griffith (LGBTEI)

Staff: Nicole Johns, Jennifer Hayes

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Introductions: K. Carter called the meeting to order at 12:10p.m. He read the mission statement.¹ A moment of silence followed. Those present then introduced themselves and participated in an icebreaker activity.

Approval of Agenda: K. Carter presented the agenda for approval. **Motion: D. Gana moved, L. Way seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed: All in favor.**

Approval of Minutes (February 8, 2016): K. Carter presented the minutes for approval. **Motion: D. Gana moved, L. Way seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed: All in favor.**

Report of Chair:

- **Participation Acknowledgments**

K. Carter recognized people attending their first Positive Committee meeting with a token of their participation.

K. Carter noted that the Integrated Executive Committee had met earlier this month with representatives from each planning body and subcommittee. He said they discussed Medicare and Medicaid and peer support programs as possible areas of focus for the Positive Committee..

Report of Staff: N. Johns reminded the group that next month there would be no Positive Committee meeting. She stated that the LGBT Elder Initiative (LGBTEI) would holding a workshop She asked people who planned to attend the workshop to RSVP to the LGBTEI. She added that the next Positive Committee meeting would be held on May 9th.

Discussion Item:

- **LGBT Elder Initiative (LGBTEI) Presentation (David Griffith)**

K. Carter stated that David Griffith would be talking today about upcoming LBTEI programs. He said the LGBTEI was hosting an event on March 19th.

¹ Mission statement: The Positive Committee supports and enhances the role of people living with HIV/AIDS to empower their participation in the decision-making process of the Ryan White Part A Planning Council and the HIV Prevention Planning Group.

D. Griffith explained that the LGBTEI hosted programs for people with HIV who were getting older. He said that they had been planning a new series of presentations with input from the community. He stated that the LGBTEI would be hosting a panel on Saturday March 19th called “Let’s Talk About Sex.” He explained that it would cover communicating with sexual partners, including HIV disclosure. He stated that legal and medical representatives would be at the meeting. He noted that the program was free, and registration information was available on flyers he had passed around the room.

D. Griffith stated that the program at the OHP would be held on April 11th from 12-2. He said the topic would be “Healthy Mind, Healthy Body.” He noted that the importance of caring for one’s health increased with age. He reported that the presentation would cover nutrition and exercise. He said a nutritionist and a personal trainer would be present. He added that a social worker would talk about grief, loss, and mental health. He said that a reverend would also attend to talk about spirituality.

D. Griffith invited the group to sign up for the event on a registration sheet he was passing around the room. He said there would be snacks and translation services provided at the event.

- **Report from Integrated Executive Committee**

K. Carter noted that earlier this month the co-chairs from all the Planning Council and HPG committees had met to talk about issues in care and prevention. She said they discussed consumer education around Medicaid and Medicare as well as peer support.

N. Johns encouraged the Positive Committee to talk about future presentations they’d want to hear about Medicaid and Medicare.

K. Carter asked if everyone understood the recent changes in Medicaid and Medicare. D. Gana asked what the difference was between Medicaid and Medicare. N. Johns stated that Medicaid and Medicare were both government programs to provide healthcare for people. She explained that Medicaid, or Medical Assistance, was state-run. She said each state had to follow specific rules about who was covered. She stated that the ACA had made more people eligible for Medicaid. She explained that Medicare was a federal program that was for seniors and other people who met the eligibility requirements. She noted that some people were eligible for both programs. She explained that the group could make a brochure or invite a speaker to answer their questions.

K. Carter informed the group that anyone with a Medicaid card could use it to get a discount on SEPTA. R.W. stated that Medicare recipients who were 65 and older could get SEPTA transportation for free, though they’d have to pay \$1 to take the train. D. Gana noted that SEPTA was getting rid of their token system. He urged the group to visit the SEPTA office at 12th and Market to get their picture taken for a card system that would be implemented in the future. N.V. asked if the new card system would apply to her, since she is not 65. D. Gana responded that it would. N.V. asked if tokens would still be available. N. Johns replied that tokens would be phased out slowly and would still be accepted for some time.

M. Coleman stated that there were long waits for dental appointments at the city health centers. N. Johns said there was a lot of demand for dental services and a limited number of appointments. K. Carter noted that Ryan White dental care was available at a few other providers like Penn Dental. He reminded anyone seeking Ryan White dental care to bring their Ryan White certification card to their appointments.

R.W. noted that he had some copays for his medications. K. Carter asked if he had a Special Pharmaceutical Benefit Program (SPBP) card. R.W. responded that he did not. K. Carter suggested R.W. talk to his case manager about getting an SPBP card so he would not have copays. K. Carter stated that the SPBP program would ask for proof of residency, proof of income, and a social security card. He said there was a form he'd fill out to get enrolled. He noted that Ryan White recertification and SPBP applications could be completed at the same time.

A community member said that some insurance companies had copays and others did not. A separate participant said that medication prices varied by pharmacy. N.V. asked if she could have SPBP and Medicaid. N. Johns explained that Ryan White was supposed to be for people who were uninsured and underinsured. She stated that people who had insurance through Medicaid or Medicare were not supposed to be getting SPBP help. However, she suggested that everyone apply for SPBP to check their options and account for any changes in their situation.

N.V. asked if all Medicaid benefits were the same. N. Johns stated that because of Medicaid expansion, everyone who qualified for Medicaid should receive the same coverage of services. She noted that someone could become ineligible for Medicaid if their income changed. She said that these individuals may then be eligible for subsidies on ACA plans. She noted that Medicaid sometimes made mistakes, and anyone who thought they shouldn't have been dropped should go to Legal Aid for assistance.

K. Carter asserted it sounded like the group might benefit from talking to someone about Medicaid or Medicare. N. Johns stated that they could have a representative from the AIDS Law Project come in.

A community member stated that a relative from the Health Department gave him a list of what Medicare covered. K. Carter reported that Medicare and Medicaid sent out a booklet every year saying what was covered and what had changed. E. Campbell added that the booklets were sent out at the beginning of each year. Another participant noted that most insurers had a 1-800 number that clients could call for answers to their questions.

K. Carter noted that SPBP would be paying for Hepatitis C treatment. He explained that the treatment was being paid for by a short-term pilot program, so he encouraged anyone who was interested to sign up quickly. However, he stated that anyone who started treatment would be covered through their whole course of treatment. He reported that the program would end July 31st. A community member stated that he just started Hepatitis C treatment. He suggested that anyone who was denied for the treatment apply again. He noted that the price of the treatment was \$163,000 for an 8-12 week course. K. Carter noted that the Hepatitis C treatment did not prevent people from getting Hepatitis C again, and the pilot program would not cover a second treatment.

A participant asked if pharmacy representatives could come in to talk about copay assistance programs. K. Carter said they'd bring in a speaker who could talk to the group about pharmacy programs. N. Johns noted that different kinds of pharmacies had different programs. R.W. noted that some pharmacies worked by mail order, and provided several months' supply of medications at once. However, they were not able to provide medications quickly if they were needed.

N.V. asked if SPBP was only for PLWHA. K. Carter replied that it was. He stated that it was part of the Ryan White program. N. Johns explained that SPBP covered many medications aside from HIV medications.

K. Carter said the group would talk about Peer Support programs at their next meeting.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: M. Coleman stated that SILOAM was having a mindfulness program on Wednesdays in April and May. He said a flyer for the series was available on the bulletin board.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by general consensus at 1:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer Hayes, Staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- February 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes
- OHP Calendar

Monday, March 14, 2016

12:00-2:00pm

Office of HIV Planning 340 N. 12th Street Suite 203
Philadelphia, PA

Mission Statement: The Positive Committee supports and enhances the role of people living with HIV/AIDS to empower their participation in the decision-making process of the Ryan White Part A Planning Council and the HIV Prevention Planning Group.

- Call to Order/Moment of Silence
Introductions
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Report of Chair
 - Participation
 - Acknowledgements
- Report of Staff
- Discussion Item
 - LGBT Elder Initiative (LGBTEI) Presentation
 - Report From Integrated Executive Committee (Keith Carter)
- Old Business
- New Business
- Announcements
- Adjournment

AGENDA

POSITIVE COMMITTEE

**PLEASE TURN ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS TO
SILENT OR VIBRATE.**

*The next meeting of the Positive Committee is
April 11, 2016 from 12:00-2:00PM at 340 N. 12th Street, Suite 203,
Philadelphia, PA 19107. Please refer to the Office of HIV Planning calendar
of events for committee meetings & updates (www.hivphilly.org). If you
require any special assistance, please contact the office at least 5 days in
advance.*

**Ryan White Planning Council of the Philadelphia Part A EMA
Positive Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2016
12:00-2:00p.m.**
Office of HIV Planning, 340 N. 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Present: PH (12), PA (1), NJ (1)

Staff: Nicole Johns, Jennifer Hayes

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Introductions: D. Gana called the meeting to order at 12:05p.m. He read the mission statement.¹ A moment of silence followed. Those present then introduced themselves and participated in an icebreaker activity.

Approval of Agenda: D. Gana presented the agenda for approval. **Motion:** J.W. moved, L. Way seconded to approve the agenda. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

Approval of Minutes (January 11, 2016): D. Gana presented the minutes for approval. **Motion:** J.W. moved, J.M. seconded to approve the minutes. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

Report of Chair:

- **Participation Acknowledgments**

D. Gana acknowledged those who were attending their first Positive Committee meeting with a token of their participation.

Report of Staff: N. Johns reminded participants to RSVP in advance of each month's meeting so she could order the appropriate amount of lunches. She announced that a Planning Council social would be held on Thursday from 3-5pm.

Discussion Item:

- **PrEP Documentary**

N. Johns explained that she had found the PrEP documentary on Vice Magazine's website. She said the documentary was 3 parts and the group would pause to discuss them in between each part.

The group watched Part 1 of the documentary.

D. Gana noted that the main character in the movie did not take his pill with enough water. He said it was recommended that people take PrEP with a full glass of water. J.W. noted that many people didn't have side effects from PrEP. M. Coleman said it was important for the CDC to develop effective messages and education about PrEP, especially for affected groups like Black gay men. N. Johns said that the CDC had started developing more marketing campaigns, but there definitely was room for improvement.

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N. Johns asked the group what they thought of the main character saying that he didn't use condoms. J.W. said that she wouldn't have sex with a partner who didn't use condoms. D. Gana pointed out that people who didn't use condoms were still at risk for other STIs. N. Johns added that people who had STIs were at an increased risk of getting HIV. She said it was important to have honest conversations about PrEP and sexual behavior. She noted that people on PrEP had regular contact with their doctors and were tested 4 times a year for STIs and HIV.

A community member asked how doctors knew that PrEP worked. N. Johns said that randomized controlled clinical trials with men who had sex with men, serodiscordant couples (where one person was positive and another was negative), and other high risk groups had shown that Truvada as prevention of HIV was effective.

N. Johns showed Parts 2 and 3 of the documentary.

A community member asked how much PrEP would cost. N. Johns said that insurance covered PrEP. She added that Gilead, the company that made PrEP, had a patient assistance program that covered the cost of medication and copays. Another participant noted that his partner didn't have insurance. N. Johns reiterated that people without insurance could apply for Gilead's patient assistance program. A community member said that many people believed PrEP was very expensive. N. Johns said that most people would not need to pay the full price for PrEP.

N. Johns asked if the group thought anything was left out of the documentary that should have been there. M. Coleman said there should be more older advocates for PrEP.

Old Business: None.

New Business: D. Gana reminded the group that there were HIV and Aging workshops with the LGBT Elder Initiative coming up soon. He said that there would be a workshop on March 19th with the topic "Let's Talk About Sex." He stated that the AIDS Law Project will be there to talk about disclosure. Other visitors will talk about strategies for talking about HIV with your partner and PrEP and STIs. Finally, a guest will talk about his personal experience with Hepatitis C.

Announcements: M. Coleman said Philadelphia FIGHT was doing an oral history project. He encouraged anyone who was interested to stop by Philadelphia FIGHT for more information.

M. Coleman reported that it was Dental Awareness Month.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by general consensus at 12:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer Hayes, Staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- January 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes
- OHP Calendar