

**Ryan White Planning Council of the Philadelphia Part A EMA
Positive Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2016
12:00-2:00p.m.**

Office of HIV Planning, 340 N. 12th Street, Suite 320, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Present: PH (19), PA (1), NJ (1)

Staff: Antonio Boone, Jennifer Hayes

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Introductions: D. Gana called the meeting to order at 12:07p.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: L.W. moved, J.M. seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed: All in favor.**

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

Report of Chair:

- **Participation Acknowledgments**

D. Gana recognized participants who were attending their first Positive Committee meeting.

Report of Staff: A. Boone stated that the Positive Committee would be nominating co-chairs at their next meeting. He explained that this co-chair needed to be a standing member of the Ryan White Planning Council. He stated that applications for Planning Council membership were due on August 22nd. He noted that co-chair elections would take place in September and October, and members could nominate themselves or others.

A. Boone noted that some youth from the community would be attending future Positive Committee meetings. He stated that several providers had also been sent recruitment emails. Therefore, there would be more people attending meetings in September and October.

Discussion Item:

- **Review Positive Committee Brochure**

A. Boone reminded the group that they'd discussed revamping the Positive Committee brochure at their past meeting. He displayed a draft of the new Positive Committee brochure on the projector. He invited members to give feedback on the brochure.

A. Boone noted that the group had suggested using symbols on the front cover of the brochure. He stated that the symbols he'd chosen for the front cover of the brochure represented wellness, knowledge, ideas, and activism.

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.

M.W. suggested adding the Positive Committee's mission statement to the brochure. A. Boone pointed out that the inside of the brochure had more content and information. He displayed the inside of the brochure on the projector. He noted that 3 sections on the right panel of the brochure covered educational workshops, skill building activities, and community outreach. He said this information would give prospective members more of an idea about what the Positive Committee and Planning Council did.

A. Boone noted that Positive Committee members had been asked to share some thoughts about the Positive Committee in the last version of the brochure. He stated that he'd take quotes from participants at today's meeting to include in the new brochure.

G.T. pointed out that the phone numbers on the brochure needed to be updated. She suggested that a reminder to RSVP for meetings be included in the brochure. A. Boone asked the group for feedback on the "If you have ever asked yourself..." section of the brochure. He noted that a similar section had been included in the last version of the brochure. G.T. noted that the sentence "How does where a person lives impact their HIV risk?" was written in a confusing way.

A. Boone asked members what kind of information they'd like to see included in the brochure. M.W. suggested writing that the Positive Committee was "Breaking down barriers to care and helping eliminate stigma." J.M. suggested adding "Stand up to stigma." L.E. asked if the questions listed on the outside of the brochure would be answered inside the brochure. A. Boone noted that some of the questions were answered at Positive Committee meetings. G.T. asked if the public could be invited to make suggestions over the phone. A. Boone stated that the purpose of the brochure would be to encourage people to attend meetings.

G.T. stated that many of the questions on the left panel were difficult to answer. A. Boone said the group may choose to eliminate the question section. He asked participants to look at the inside of the brochure. He asked if they would like to list any specific activities from the Positive Committee. M.W. suggested adding "making your voice heard." J.M. added that the Positive Committee represented the voices of those who couldn't participate. M.W. pointed out that Positive Committee meetings were a safe space. D. Gana noted that the question section could ask "what services are available to me?" He pointed out that the Positive Committee's Ryan White FAQ answered many of the questions that were written on the front cover of the brochure.

J.M. suggested writing "if you want to know more about HIV and AIDS come to our meetings." M.W. noted that the Positive Committee was a good place to meet other people with HIV and AIDS. J.M. noted that presenters sometimes came to meetings to share information. She suggested the group pass around pieces of paper and write down inspiration and messages for new members. She pointed out that outreach to youth might be difficult.

A community member, referencing last month's minutes, asked for more information on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). A. Boone noted that preliminary results from the YRBS were released in July. He said the survey was given in high schools and asked about risky behaviors among youth. L.E. said a survey had been done in West Philadelphia, covering the area from 48th and Woodland to 70th and Woodland. She stated that the survey included Woodland, Greenwood, and Elmwood in zipcode 19143. She noted there were high rates of HIV in West Philadelphia. She stated that stigma in these areas prevented people from coming out about their status. She noted that many PLWHA in these areas were young.

A. Boone distributed slips of paper to the group. He asked them to write feedback to be included in the brochure.

- **Brainstorming Activity**

D. Gana asked the group to discuss topics they'd like to hear about or activities they'd like to do in the next year. A. Boone suggested they start with topics. He noted that some examples of topics were PrEP and housing. G.T. asked for more information on HIV cure research. L.E. suggested they discuss housing. J.M. added Affordable Care Act/insurance/Medicaid to the list. A. Boone added transportation to the list. M.C. added homelessness among youth. J.M. added stigma. M.W. suggested adding relationships to the list. L.E. said the group could discuss dating or having a relationship with a person who's HIV-positive. M.W. added disclosure to the list.

A. Boone noted that the group had heard presentations and watched documentaries in the past. J.M. suggested that the group do a drawing activity to express themselves. M.W. and G.T. suggested inviting representatives from MANNA to come to a Positive Committee meeting. J.M. suggested talking about life insurance. M.W. stated that that the committee could discuss building their resumes or preparing for employment. L.E. suggested they do a writing activity about their experiences. M.C. said the group should talk about PrEP.

D. Gana suggested a physician or other medical clinic worker come in to talk about linkage to PrEP. L.E. stated that some HIV-negative people did not want to take PrEP because they were concerned about side effects of the medication. A. Boone noted that a speaker could also answer questions about PrEP from participants.

M.W. suggested the group make a newsletter. A. Boone said he'd pull out old copies of Positive Committee newsletters for the group to review. J.M. stated that members could contribute articles to the newsletter. A. Boone noted that they'd continue talking about the newsletter at their next meeting.

M.C. suggested the group discuss organ donation. M.W. added activism to the list.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: J.M. stated that Philadelphia FIGHT's Institute for Community Justice (ICJ) was hosting a Cool Down Day. She stated that water ice and hoagies would be served at the event, which would be from 12-5pm on August 8th.

M.C. noted that August was Organ Donor Awareness Month.

M.W. stated that Philadelphia FIGHT would be having their anniversary celebration. He said more information on the celebration would be coming soon.

Adjournment: Motion: J.M. moved, G.T. seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:13p.m. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer Hayes, Staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

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

Monday, August 8, 2016

12:00-2:00pm

Office of HIV Planning 340 N. 12th Street Suite 320
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 Items
 - Review Positive Committee Brochure
 - Brainstorming Activity
- Old Business
- New Business
- Announcements
- Adjournment

AGENDA

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

The next meeting of the Positive Committee is September 12, 2016 from 12:00-2:00PM at 340 N. 12th Street, Suite 320, 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.

POSITIVE COMMITTEE

**Ryan White Planning Council of the Philadelphia Part A EMA
Positive Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2016
12:00-2:00p.m.**

Office of HIV Planning, 340 N. 12th Street, Suite 320, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Present: PH (11), PA (2), NJ (1)

Staff: Nicole Johns, Antonio Boone, Jennifer Hayes

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Introductions: K. Carter called the meeting to order at 12:12p.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:** L. Way moved, D. Gana seconded to approve the agenda. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

Approval of Minutes (June 13, 2016): K. Carter presented the minutes for approval. **Motion:** L. Way moved, M. White seconded to approve the minutes. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

Report of Chair:

K. Carter reminded the group that Antonio would now be the staff member responsible for the Positive Committee. He asked that members with questions or RSVPs to contact Antonio. A. Boone said he could be reached at 215-574-6760 ext. 105 or antonio@hivphilly.org.

K. Carter noted that the group had written letters and cards to an incarcerated individual. He said OHP staff had sent out the letters.

Report of Staff: N. Johns reiterated that A. Boone would be transitioning into her former role with the Positive Committee. She stated she'd still attend some of the meetings. She said she'd enjoyed working with the group for many years and thanked members for their continued participation.

Discussion Item:

- **Real Education for Healthy Youth Act (REHYA)**

A. Boone stated that the Real Education for Healthy Youth Act (REHYA) promoted comprehensive sexual education for youth. He directed the group to the fact sheet in their packets for more information (*see-attached sheet*). He asked them to brainstorm ways to engage youth around sexual education.

A. Boone noted that the group had previously discussed the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), a survey of Philadelphia high school students that was conducted in 2015. He stated that they could use the information from that presentation in today's discussion.

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.

M. Coleman asserted that more outreach should be done with youth at places like recreation centers in high-risk communities. He suggested that the Positive Committee consider how they could conduct outreach. K. Carter noted that there were many summer day camp programs in the Philadelphia area. He stated that events at camps and other places like public libraries could be good locations for outreach around sexual health.

A. Boone asked the group what they would say to friends or acquaintances who were interested in attending Positive Committee meetings. M. Coleman noted that some individuals fear being identified as LGBTQ or HIV-positive. M. White stated that organizations should have sensitivity training so they can learn how to deal with youth effectively. A. Boone said the REHYA required programs seeking funding to present a holistic approach to sexual health education, addressing gender identity and sexual orientation, along with other topics like healthy relationships. D. Gana asked who funded the program. A. Boone replied that the program would be funded by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) if the act passed.

N. Johns explained that each state determined whether or not sexual health education was required in high schools. Then, it was up to each district to decide how individual schools would teach sexual education. She informed the group that Philadelphia high schools taught about HIV risk, but did not take a comprehensive approach to sexual health. She noted that the REHYA took a more positive approach. She stated that New Jersey had recently adopted a more comprehensive sexual education program. She suggested the group consider doing advocacy around changing Pennsylvania state law to encourage more comprehensive sexual education.

M. Coleman asked why New Jersey changed their laws to require comprehensive sex education. N. Johns responded that she was unsure. M. Coleman said that Pennsylvania could see how NJ passed the law. N. Johns noted that many organizations in Philadelphia like AccessMatters advocated for more comprehensive sexual education.

D. Gana asked if agencies were applying for funding under REHYA at this time. A. Boone stated that they were not because the act had not passed yet. He said it was currently under consideration. K. Carter noted that social media didn't exist when he was in high school. He suggested using social media outreach to promote youth sexual health.

M. Coleman reiterated that HIV stigma was an issue among African American gay and HIV-positive men. He asked what role the church played in promoting sexual health in the community. A. Boone noted that churches and faith-based organizations could apply for funds under REHYA, if it was passed. M. Coleman noted that there were some faith-based LGBT and HIV awareness programs in the community.

M. White noted that there was information available about sexual health for Philadelphia youth. For instance, the Positive Committee recently heard about the YRBS. He suggested that the group review previous recruitment materials and presentations and consider how they could be used to spread awareness in the community or recruit for the Positive Committee.

N. Johns noted that anyone who supported REHYA could contact their state representatives and encourage them to vote in favor of it. A. Boone stated that attendees could search the Committee of

Seventy website² to find out who their state representatives were. K. Carter encouraged all members to register to vote. He said voting was one way to influence important policy decisions.

A. Boone distributed a pamphlet about the Positive Committee. He stated that, as M. White had pointed out, the group had already developed some recruitment and outreach materials. He asked them to review the pamphlet and suggest any changes they wanted to make. N. Johns noted that the pamphlets were usually printed in color, though today they were printed in black and white. J.M. suggested printing the pamphlets in yellow and black. K. Carter asked if anyone from the group was experienced in graphic design. M. White replied that he was. K. Carter asked if he had suggestions for the color palette. M. White stated that he'd like to have some time to work on the pamphlet. He said he'd make changes and bring it back to the next meeting. J.M. suggested putting some color at the top and bottom of the pamphlet. She recommended making the words on the cover larger and colorizing them as well.

D. Gana noted that the pamphlets were printed by the OHP. K. Carter suggested adding a reference to Positive Committee on the front cover of the brochure, and J.M. agreed. A. Boone noted that putting the words Positive Committee on the front of the brochure may compromise the confidentiality of the person who had it.

D. Gana said that, regardless, he'd prefer to have Positive Committee written on the front of the brochure. He noted that the back of the brochure had several references to the Office of HIV Planning and the Positive Committee. A. Boone said the brochure could be changed or recreated from scratch.

D. Gana suggested changing the word "others" in the first paragraph of the brochure to reflect that the Positive Committee was for people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. N. Johns suggested using the term "allies" instead of others. A. Boone stated that the group could use the acronym PLWHA (people living with HIV/AIDS) instead of HIV+ individuals or infected individuals.

A. Boone asked if there were any other suggestions for the content of the brochure. N. Johns noted that they had intended the brochure to make it very clear that the Positive Committee was not a support group. She asked members to think about how they'd describe what the Positive Committee does. D. Gana noted that the group helped speak for those who used Ryan White services and could not advocate for themselves.

A community member suggested using fewer acronyms in the brochure. R.W. said that Positive Committee was a way to "be a part of the solution." D. Gana stated that the brochure should encourage people to RSVP if they wanted to participate in meetings. He also suggested that the brochure note that translation was available with advance notice. N. Johns stated that they could say "special accommodations can be made on request" in order to include other ways meetings could be made accessible.

K. Carter stated that A. Boone would take the group's suggestions into consideration and apply them to the brochure. He also asked M. White to bring back the brochure with any changes that he made. Then the group would have an opportunity to give more feedback.

Old Business: None.

² <https://www.seventy.org/>

New Business: None.

Announcements: M. Coleman stated that 7-11 was offering free slurpees from 11am-7pm.

Adjournment: Motion: D. Gana moved, J.M. seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:15p.m. **Motion passed: all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer Hayes, Staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- June 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes
- The Real Education for Healthy Youth (REHYA) Act, Positive Committee Overview
- Positive Committee Brochure
- OHP Calendar

DRAFT