

**HIV Integrated Planning Council  
Positive Committee  
Monday, May 14, 2018  
12-2pm**

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

**Present:** PH(13), PA(3), NJ(3)

**Guests:** David Griffith, LGBTQ Elder Initiative

**Staff:** Nicole Johns, Briana Morgan, Stephen Budhu

**Call to Order:** K. Carter called the meeting to order at 12:09pm. Those present then introduced themselves and participated in an ice breaker activity. He reminded the committee to keep their personal electronic devices on silent or vibrate, to respect people while they are speaking, and to keep sidebar comments to a minimum.

**Approval of Agenda:** K. Carter presented the agenda for approval. **Motion: J.W. moved, D.G. seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Passed: All in favor.**

**Approval of Minutes:** K. Carter presented the minutes for approval. **Motion: J.W. moved, D. G. seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Passed: All in favor.**

**Report of Chair:** K. Carter reminded the committee the Prevention Summit is June 13, 2018 and to register visit [aidseducationmonth.org](http://aidseducationmonth.org).

**Report of Staff:** N. Johns stated the OHP will have a table at the Prevention Summit and will also host a workshop about community planning. Both OHP and Recipient staff will be present. The event begins at 8am and ends at 5pm, food and beverages will be provided.

N. Johns stated the annual allocations process will be happening soon. The notice of grant award has not yet been received but the expectation is the allocations meetings will take place in July.

N. Johns informed the committee the Integrated HIV/AIDS Planning Technical Assistance Group released their new Ryan White Part A Planning Council Primer. Copies of the Planning Council primer are available in the office or at [www.careacttarget.org](http://www.careacttarget.org)

N. Johns mentioned she will request the health department to give a Hepatitis C presentation on behalf of the Positive Committee.

D. Griffith stated the Elder Initiative would be attending the June 2018 Positive Committee. During the meeting the Elder Initiative will be talking about medication and treatment updates and new research surrounding them. He noted there were some pertinent clinical trials that will be discussed. RSVP is necessary for the meeting and he added members would be RSVP'ing with the Elder Initiative instead of with the Office of HIV Planning. Lunch will be provided, and the meeting will still take place at the Office of HIV Planning. D.G. asked if the Elder Initiative will be doing anything during AIDS education month. D. Griffith replied the Elder Initiative will be doing two workshops at the Prevention Summit. One will be about trauma for long term HIV survivors and the other about disclosure. For the long-term survivor workshop there will be 3 community members talking about their experiences as long-term survivors as well as 2 doctors and 1 therapist that will describe how trauma begins to manifest. The

disclosure work shop will be about communication, specifically ways to disclose your status to current sexual partners or future ones.

**Action Items:**

- **PLWH Representation**

N. Johns explained this action item comes from the Executive Committee's discussion in their May 2018 meeting. Within the meeting the Executive Committee discussed HIPC co-chair structure. She noted the Executive Committee has been discussing co-chair structure since the integration of care and prevention within the Planning Council. The Executive Committee recommended the definition of the term "consumer" should be expanded to include all persons living with HIV and those using prevention services whether it be a person using PrEP or someone who is Hepatitis-C positive, not necessarily HIV positive. Also, the Executive Committee recommended a 3 co-chair structure with one "consumer", one community member, and one governmental co-chair. The community member would have a one-year term, the "consumer" would have a 2-year term, and the governmental co-chair will have an indefinite term length. The terms would be staggered as well. N. Johns asked the committee for their thoughts about this recommendation. K. Carter stated he no longer feels the need for the PLWH mandate in the chair position. He stated having a PLWH in the chair position was important in the past, but that was not the case now. He felt the chair position(s) should be held by those who are best qualified for the position and most knowledgeable. That person does not necessarily have to be HIV positive.

B. Morgan stated the Executive Committee recommended the Positive Committee should talk about PLWH representation before a formal recommendation and vote afterward is presented to the Planning Council.

J.M. suggested PLWH should voice their opinions about this recommendation. Those who have been affected by the changes in the Ryan White funding, specifically housing, may have a strong opinion on this topic.

K. Carter encouraged the committee to share their feelings towards this topic. He shared a personal anecdote about being a long term HIPC member and urged the committee to share their comments. He stated anyone could be a co-chair. Often there is a perception that co-chairs must have formal educations and that is not necessarily the case. A co-chair should be willing to learn, listen, attend meetings, and guide discussion.

J.W. stated she attends Positive Committee meetings because she wants her voice to be heard. From voicing her opinion, she feels her thoughts are incorporated into the planning process.

J.H. stated she feels people should vote for anything that has the potential to affect them. She suggested people should vote in local government in their counties, vote about funding changes and obviously vote within the HIPC. Your vote is a powerful tool you possess that is used to advocate for or against something.

K. Carter encouraged the Positive Committee member to apply for HIPC membership. He stated many of the Positive Committee's members are not members of the HIPC and at the least don't attend meetings. If you're concerned about having your voice heard, you should become a HIPC member. As a HIPC member you can vote during Planning Council meetings.

N. Johns steered committee discussion back to the action item. She asked for the committee to share their feelings about PLWH representation in HIPC leadership.

J.H. stated she felt there should be PLWH representation within the co-chairs. PLWH have a unique view point that a HIV negative person does not possess.

J.M. stated PLWH representation is good but it is not a necessity. There are HIV negative persons who have the same view point as PLWH. The important thing is to make sure the best person for the role is in the role.

D.G. stated he feels as though PLWH representation is needed. Even though HIV negative persons may have strong feelings about HIV care and prevention, they do not have the experiences of living with HIV.

B. Morgan stated if members of the committee did not feel comfortable with sharing their feelings with the whole committee they can share them with either N. Johns or herself after the meeting. Also, the conversation did not have to be finished today, the Executive Committee has had discussion about this for months.

J.M. asked N. Johns what her opinion was on the matter. N. Johns replied, in her opinion, she was concerned how the committee will view the change, people may feel like PLWH are being excluded. She can see the use of the recommendation and she does not feel it will affect the work of the Planning Council if there is no HIV positive co-chair.

K. Carter asked if other Planning Councils require a co-chair to be HIV positive. B. Morgan replied it was not required by other Planning Councils from neighboring cities/states. Philadelphia is unique in that way and some of the other mandates within the bylaws have not been observed in other Planning Councils.

R.W. suggested that PLWH representation is important and we should not short change ourselves. There are plenty of PLWH who are well-educated, well-informed and well-suited for the position.

K. Carter asked the committee by a show of hands who wishes to table the conversation.

**Motion:** D.G. moved, R.W. seconded to table discussion until the July meeting of the Positive Committee. **Motion Passed:** All in favor.

#### **Discussion Items:**

- **Strengths Inventory**

N. Johns asked the committee to review the strength's inventory handout. She explained this handout was a starter list for areas of strengths and weaknesses of committee members. She asked the committee to underline their strengths, and to circle areas of weakness on the handout. The committee was allotted 5 minutes to identify their strengths and areas of improvement. After the 5-minute period passed the committee shared some of their strengths and weaknesses aloud and N. Johns recorded them on the white board. These findings will inform future committee work and leadership development activities.

Strengths include:

- caring
- able to ask for help
- listening
- confident
- ability to share
- reliable
- organized

- optimism
- tolerance (not judgmental)
- sense of humor

Areas of improvement include:

- confidence
- listening
- getting along with others
- patience
- organization
- laziness
- communicate
- pessimism

- **Finalizing Recruitment for Prevention Summit**

N. Johns reminded the committee in their last meeting they discussed recruiting at the Prevention Summit. From discussion the committee members moved to wear stickers that say, “Ask me about the Positive Committee”. N. Johns stated she made mock stickers and passed it around the committee. She stated one of the design has a name and the other does not. She asked the committee for their opinions.

The committee asked about a veteran member who has not been present lately. N. Johns stated that member has had some health issues that has prevented them from attending. She stated she a card for that member and asked the committee to share a note on the card and she will mail the card.

The committee stated they preferred the sticker with the name on it. N. Johns stated she would move forward with the design and place volunteering members on the sticker.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:** K. Carter announced that PLWH artwork will be displayed at the Prevention Summit. If artists wish to participate they can register online at [aidseducationmonth.org](http://aidseducationmonth.org).

J.M. stated the PHA has updated their waitlist and require people to re-register. Those already on the waitlist are still required to register. Call (215) 684-1200 to re-register for the waitlist by May 18, 2018. If those on the wait list do not re-register by May 18, 2018 your name will be removed from the list.

J. H. announced there is a HIV testing fair on June 27, 2018 in Delaware County.

**Adjournment: adjourned by consensus at 1:42pm**

Respectfully submitted by,

Stephen Budhu, staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes
- OHP Calendar
- Other Handouts