

**HIV Integrated Planning Council
Positive Committee
Monday, October 15, 2018
12-2pm**

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

Present: PH (17), NJ (2), PA (1)

Guests: None

Staff: Nicole Johns, Stephen Budhu

Call to Order: K. Carter called the meeting to order at 12:10pm. After calling the meeting to order K. Carter reminded the committee of a few ground rules. Those present then introduced themselves and participated in an ice breaker activity.

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: D. G. moved, J.W. seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Passed: All in favor.**

Report of Chair: K. Carter thanked the OHP staff for their hard work during the calendar year. He mentioned the epi profile was now complete and it would be available online soon. He explained the epi profile was a comprehensive document that gives a demographic overview of the 9 county EMA.

K. Carter informed the committee AACO notified the HIPC in its October meeting that there were 31 new cases of HIV were diagnosed in the PWID population, in the previous 12 months. This was a significant increase/ He added 57% of those new HIV infections were also co-diagnosed with HCV.

J.M. informed the committee that the New York Times has just released an article that addresses the opioid epidemic. He explained the article mentions Kensington, PA as an epicenter for injection drug activity in the east coast. The article goes into depth about hot button issues that surround the opioid epidemic and he encouraged the committee to read the article.

K. Carter thanked J.M. for sharing that information with the committee. He suggested the committee could discuss the issue in greater detail. The opioid epidemic is a multi-faceted issue and currently the best way to fight the epidemic is to inform people. N. Johns added the "Voices of America" did a series that goes in depth about the opioid epidemic in Kensington. You can find the series on YouTube.

M.C. referenced the discussion from the October HIPC meeting. He stated the council briefly discussed the efforts of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. He asked if there were any estimates for the scale of the opioid epidemic in Philadelphia. N. Johns replied it was difficult to estimate the number of the injection drug users and people with opioid dependency. The Mayor's Task Force has made formal recommendations to combat the epidemic, it's just due to the large scale of the epidemic it's difficult to coordinate and mobilize efforts.

The committee discussed the issues that surround the opioid epidemic. The committee stated housing and racial inequities spear head the issues that surround the epidemic. K. Carter stated he agreed with the

committee's points, however it is important to remember that the committee can only address for things that fall under the purview of Ryan White Part A. K. Carter urged the committee if they wanted to see change, vote on November 6th. N. Johns invited the committee to attend the Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting in November. She explained the committee is scheduled to discuss the opioid epidemic and how it relates to the HIV epidemic. Due to time constraints the conversation was tabled.

Report of Staff: N. Johns informed the committee the epi profile and the updates to the integrated plan are completed and will be available on the OHP'S website in the upcoming days. She reiterated the committee was welcome to attend the November Comprehensive Planning Committee, and she encouraged the committee to also attend the Comprehensive Planning Committee in October. In October, the Comprehensive Planning Committee will continue its discussion about medical case management.

Action Items

- **Co- Chair Elections**

K. Carter informed the committee his co-chair term has expired and after this meeting his term will be over. N. Johns suggested the committee could hold a nomination for co-chair. Also, if the committee wanted they could hold the election as well. N. Johns reminded the committee the criteria for being co-chair of the Positive Committee. To be a co-chair of the Positive Committee regular attendance is required. Unlike the other subcommittees, The Positive Committee does not require the chair to be a member of the Planning Council.

N. Johns invited the committee to begin its nominations process. She reminded the committee if they wished K. Carter could be nominated for a second term. G. T. nominated K. Carter for co-chair. J.M. seconded the nomination. K Carter accepted the nomination. R.W. nominated M.W. M. W. accepted the nomination.

After the nomination process the committee held a silent vote. Votes were recorded on index cards and collected and counted by OHP staff. While votes were being counted the committee took lunch. After lunch, the committee reconvened and N. Johns announced K. Carter was re-elected to a second term.

Discussion Items

- **Social Determinants**

N. Johns introduce the term social determinant to the committee. She explained health is not just comprised of the physical state of someone but it also includes demographic factors that affect people's over all well-being. Those factors are otherwise known as social determinants. Factors such as income, where you live and education all have major effects on a person's overall health. She explained almost everything can affect your health. She explained health can be affected by the following:

- Genetics
- Access to medical care
- Health literacy
- Social networks
- Stress level
- Income
- Social stigma
- Education
- Safety/violence
- Water, air, and soil
- Access to healthy food
- Working conditions

N. Johns displayed a chart that depicted common socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions that can affect one's health. The committee discussed some of the factors that influence their health every day. N. Johns stated socioeconomic status + environment = Health. She explained those who have a social disadvantage are subject to engage in risky coping behaviors which can increase HIV risk.

N. Johns stated generally educational attainment positively affects health. As education level increases income level rises as well as life expectancy. Also, as a person's education level rises it's more likely that they will have close friends and family that they can rely on.

N. Johns stated conversely, stress levels negatively affect a person's health as well as violence. The committee shared their experiences with stress. In regards to violence, N. Johns stated in violent communities, people are less likely to walk around their neighborhood, less likely to have access to healthy food, and less likely to have a positive view of their environment.

N. Johns explained social networks matter in HIV risk. She stated "individual risk is not determined by personal risk behavior alone, but also the "pool" of disease in their sexual/drug using networks." Within social networks people "sort" themselves into smaller groups that are similar to themselves. Obviously, there is mixing outside of the small groups and primary social networks. N. Johns explained through mixing diseases can spread quickly through a population.

N. Johns introduced the terms concurrent partnerships. She explained concurrent partnerships are defined when people engage in multiple sexual partnerships simultaneously. Concurrent relationships provide for different needs. Main partners may offer emotional support and companionship while non-main partners may offer financial, housing or other supports or vice versa. N. Johns explained even though concurrent partnerships are not seen as a social norm, it is quite normal in society particularly in some communities. She mentioned concurrent relations may contribute to pockets of high density STI prevalence.

N. Johns reviewed the racial/ethnic disparities. Compared with whites, Blacks and Hispanics generally earn less income and have less schooling. When Blacks and Hispanics have the same educational as their White counterparts generally they make less. Race may help determine place, but people of different ethnic/racial groups experience similar health outcomes in severely disadvantaged neighborhoods. Segregation is the primary cause of racial differences in socio-economic status.

N. Johns displayed a video about racism for the community, "How racism makes us sick". The video discussed the racial disparities in the United States. To watch visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzyjDR_AWzE. At the conclusion of the video the committee discussed their feelings about the video. The committee overall felt the video was eye-opening.

Old Business: K. Carter reminded those present the Positive Committee is still trying to actively recruit new members. He encouraged committee members to bring a friend with them to upcoming Positive Committee meetings. He reminded the committee the goal was to have at least 1 new person at every committee meeting.

New Business: K. Carter informed the committee D.G. and he are actively trying to plan a social event for the Planning Council. A venue has not yet been decided upon, but he will keep the committee informed.

Announcements: K. Carter announced on Saturday November 10, Philadelphia FIGHT is hosting the "Reunion Project" at the William Way Center. The purpose of the "Reunion Project" is to create a safe space for people who identify as long-term survivors living with HIV to come together, share stories,

learn, network and create friendships. Registration for the event is available online. For more information visit: <https://fight.org/event/the-reunion-project-2018/>

J. H. announced the annual Philadelphia AIDS walk is on Sunday, October 21, 2018. To register for the event visit: <http://www.aidswalkphilly.org/>.

Adjournment: Motion: D.G. moved, J.W. seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:07pm. **Motion Passed:** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Stephen Budhu, staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting agenda
- Meeting minutes
- OHP Calendar