

**HIV Integrated Planning Council  
Positive Committee  
Monday, April 9, 2018  
12-2pm**

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

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

**Guests:** Ricardo Colon *AACO*, Ihojanna Santos, *AACO*

**Staff:** Nicole Johns, Stephen Budhu

**Call to Order:** K. Carter called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. He reminded the committee of their ground rules, and briefly reviewed them. After a brief review of committee 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:** J.W. moved, D.G. seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Passed: All in favor.

**Report of Chair:** No Report.

**Report of Staff:** N. Johns reminded the committee she would be providing staff support for the Positive Committee. If any committee members needed to contact her, her email and number are [nicole@hivphilly.org](mailto:nicole@hivphilly.org) and (215)574-6760 ext. 108.

N. Johns reminded the committee the HIPC will meet this Thursday April 12, 2018. At the HIPC meeting there will be a foodbank presentation by the AIDS Activity Coordinating Office (AACO) and a review of both the epidemiology profile and the consumer survey report by the Office of HIV Planning (OHP).

M.W. asked how OHP will reimburse for transportation when SEPTA phased out tokens. N. Johns replied when tokens are phased out, OHP will be giving SEPTA disposable round trip passes that are single use. The passes are activated once a card is swiped at a terminal and the card must be used within 24 hours of activation. Tokens will still be issued at the conclusion of today's meeting to members, however.

N. Johns informed the committee that representatives from AACO are present at today's meeting and they will be discussing the Client Services Unit. She noted representatives from AACO will try to be in attendance at Positive Committee meetings quarterly going forward.

**Action Items:** None

**Discussion Items:**

- **Client Services Unit Introduction**

R. Colon introduced himself to the committee and informed them he is the Program Manager of the AIDS Activity Coordinating Office. Part of his responsibility is to oversee the Client Services Unit (CSU). R. Colon briefly explained what the roles of the CSU are, specifically the CSU is responsible for linking clients to medical case management and it is where clients can file grievances with AACO.

G. T. asked if the Recipient still has housing programs. R. Colon replied no the Recipient no longer has a housing program, AACO's former housing services program is now managed by the Office of Homeless Services. The housing application process is now streamlined and runs through that office, now with the easier process people can apply for all housing needs through in one place. He mentioned the housing wait list in Philadelphia is about 20 years and 100,000 plus people are on the waiting list. The committee discussed their experiences with applying for subsidized housing.

M.W. asked if the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) has joint funding with Housing and Urban Development (HUD). R. Colon replied HOPWA was a subsidiary of HUD, so in theory, yes, the funding is the same. He noted all HOPWA applications were also managed by the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) and stated with the streamlined process people would only need to fill out one housing application for all housing streams, for example: veteran, PLWH, etc. J. M. asked what housing services were available to PLWH who were incarcerated. R. Colon noted that persons who go to county level jail for 90 days or less their housing status will not be affected, but those who are incarcerated on a state level may have their housing status affected. The city is working on programs to house people who were recently incarcerated. He made note those who sexual offenders who violated Megan's Law may not be able to access housing services.

R. Colon mentioned the city is no longer accepting HOPWA applications for housing, or applications from those who are rent burdened, it is only accepting applications from those who are homeless currently.

R. Colon mentioned a representative from the CSU would try to attend Positive Committee meetings quarterly. A representative from CSU will be in attendance at the Positive Committee next in June 2018.

J. M. stated he and other members of the Positive Committee have attended the AIDS Watch week in Washington, D.C. J. M. asked R. Colon in his opinion do PLWH use the CSU resources appropriately. R. Colon explained the people are able to access the services and he will provide further details at an upcoming HIPC meeting.

- **Ideas for Outreach and Recruitment**

N. Johns reminded the committee they discussed ideas for outreach and recruitment in their February and March 2018 meetings. In their March meeting the committee had a brainstorming session for outreach and recruitment ideas, and ideas included having a Client Services Unit representative to come and talk to the committee as well as writing a letter to the editor of the Metro Newspaper.

N. Johns suggested the committee could also recruit at the Prevention Summit by voluntarily wearing pins or sticker that say something along the lines of "Ask me about the Positive Committee". The committee discussed the idea, and stated they were in favor of it. After the discussion the committee decided it would be best to use stickers due to their cost effectiveness.

After the committee decided to use stickers at the Prevention Summit they discussed content for the sticker. R.B. volunteered to draw content for the sticker and asked the committee for their input. The committee deliberated about color schemes and wording that should be used. M.W. suggested the sticker should state "Ask me about the Positive Committee", and the committee agreed. After deliberation the committee proposed a red, white, and blue color scheme with rainbow undertones.

N. Johns asked the committee if they wanted to volunteer to be featured in videos about what it means to be a Positive Committee member. She reminded the committee the Office of HIV Planning does have a social media presence, and she encouraged the committee to use social media to reach others. The committee could check in on their social media when they attend HIPC meetings.

In reference to earlier discussion, N. Johns reminded the committee they suggested writing a letter to the editor of the Metro Newspaper. She stated the committee would need to decide what they wanted the letter to be about and what topics to include. She noted the committee would have to write about a topic that pertained to HIV or healthcare. M.C. noted he watched a program recently that discussed the struggle of being homeless and suggested the committee could write about the burden of being homeless as well as being HIV+. D.G. mentioned it was estimated that the average cost when a homeless person goes to the emergency room (ER) is \$3000, and yearly average cost of ER for those experiencing homelessness reaches \$26,000. J.M. mentioned a cultural change was needed to fight homelessness. He mentioned people who inject drugs (PWID) may get housed before PLWH due to the political climate change; the opioid epidemic has superseded HIV care in the national agenda. N. Johns noted there is not enough resources to house everyone, not necessarily a change in agenda, the city is trying to house all who are experiencing homelessness. She stated the lack of resources have created a scarcity in housing, and as R. Colon mentioned earlier the city is no longer accepting applications from those who are rent burdened.

The committee briefly discussed Presidential policy and national agenda. N. Johns reminded the committee the deadline to change your voter registration in PA is April 16, 2018 and the PA primary elections begin is May 15, 2018.

- **Community Planning 101**

N. Johns explained what community planning is and who is involved in the Philadelphia planning process. Community planning is when the affected community and health department work together to improve the overall health of that community. In the Philadelphia planning includes the eligible metropolitan area (EMA) which consists of 9 counties, 5 in PA and 4 in NJ. N. Johns briefly reviewed the overview of the of counties. The EMA consists of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem Counties. She noted Chester County was the most affluent county within the EMA, and Philadelphia was the poorest major city in the nation.

N. Johns explained who the key players are in community planning within Philadelphia. In order of hierarchy: HRSA and CDC, city of Philadelphia, AACO, Office of HIV Planning, Philadelphia EMA HIV Integrated Planning Council. N. Johns explained HRSA and CDC distribute money to the city of Philadelphia and then the mayor designates who facilitates federal funds.

J.M. emphasized the Office of HIV Planning has a community planning designation and it is not necessarily consumer driven as the name suggests. He explained this wasn't a bad thing but it was misleading. N. Johns replied yes, the Office of HIV Planning supports community planning and does not provide direct services.

N. Johns clarified what the Recipient is. She explained the Recipient is the name designated by the federal administration of who receives federal grant money. In Philadelphia the mayor designated AACO to receive and distribute federal funds to providers. AACO also collects HIV surveillance data and houses the Client Services Unit.

N. Johns explained what the role of the Office of HIV Planning is. The Office of HIV Planning provides aid and coordinates activities of the HIV Integrated Planning Council. She explained the Office of HIV

Planning also is responsible for conducting needs assessments for the EMA, working with AACO on federal grant applications, and writing the integrated plan.

N. Johns briefly reviewed the Planning Council. The goal is to have 50% of membership to be HIV+. The Planning Council must reflect the HIV epidemic in terms of race, gender and geography. J.M. asked why the Planning Council has not discussed the current racial issues that have been observed in providers. These issues have been made public but it has yet to be discussed within a HIPC setting. N. Johns encouraged J.M. to bring his concerns to the HIPC.

N. Johns continued, the Planning Council decides funding for HIV service categories. The Planning Council also advises AACO on how services should be provided and how to make it easier to get services people need. The Planning Council also has subcommittees that focus on specific tasks.

Committees of the Planning Council:

- Positive Committee: discusses activities and ideas of HIV+ persons to incorporate into planning activities.
- Finance Committee: discusses Ryan White funding and service categories. Also review allocations in the summer and recommend reallocation requests when appropriate.
- Executive Committee: is made up of the co-chairs of the subcommittees and Planning Council, they discuss administrative procedures and processes.
- Nominations Committee: is responsible for reviewing applications and recommends suitable applicants for appointment by the mayor's office. Their meetings are usually open to the public except when they review applications twice a year.
- Comprehensive Planning Committee: discusses the planning processes of the Ryan White system. This committee reviews the integrated plan and tries to identify barriers to care.
- Prevention Committee: this committee reviews the prevention services within the Ryan White system. The committee also reviews the integrated plan. This committee also has a work group under them the PrEP work group.
  - PrEP work group: this is a work group under the Prevention Committee that focuses on the availability of PrEP and its implementation within Philadelphia.

N. Johns reminded the committee all meeting days are on the calendar and members are free to attend any meeting.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:** D. G. announced there are 2 health workshops happening this week. The first is a stroke workshop on Wednesday, April 11, 2018. The second is care for care givers this Saturday, April 14, 2018 at St. Luke's Hospital. He encouraged the committee to attend, and for anyone who is interested to ask him for more information after the meeting.

N. Johns stated the Elder Initiative is going to attend the Positive Committee's June 2018 meeting.

D. G. announced the first anal health symposium will be at Hahnemann University Hospital, April 20, 2018 starting at 8:30 am.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by consensus at 1:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Stephen Budhu, staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes
- OHP Calendar
- Community Planning 101