

**Ryan White Planning Council (RWPC) of the Philadelphia Part A EMA
Positive Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2009
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Office of HIV Planning, 340 N. 12th Street, Suite 203, Philadelphia, PA 19107**

Present: 16(PH), 2(PA), 2(NJ)

Staff: Nicole Johns, Briana Morgan

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Introductions:

M. White called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m. and a moment of silence followed. W. Walters then read the mission statement. M. White welcomed W. Walters as the committee's new co-chair. Those present then introduced themselves.

Member Check In:

Several members stated that they were having health problems, and another member stated that she had recently celebrated her sixth month clean.

Approval of Agenda:

W. Walters presented the agenda for approval. The agenda was approved by general consensus.

Approval of Minutes (21 September 2009):

M. White presented the September 21, 2009 minutes for approval. The minutes were approved by general consensus.

Report of Co-Chair:

M. White stated that they would be looking at the suggestions they had previously heard on doing outreach as a community. He noted that the AIDS Walk would be coming up on October 18.

W. Walters stated that she was hoping to set up a table at the AIDS Walk with newsletters and fliers. She noted that World AIDS Day would be coming up on December 1 as well, and that New Voices in Delaware County would be having a brunch on December 3. She welcomed those present to attend the brunch, and noted that they would be having a reading from a log book written by PLWHA. A community member asked when that would be. W. Walters replied that it would be from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Community Hospital in Chester.

Report of Staff:

N. Johns stated that she had scheduled two consumer empowerment workshops, and that one would be in Chester on November 5, noting that anyone living in the PA Counties on the Positive Committee mailing list would receive a flier. She added that another empowerment training would be available in New Jersey on October 29. She went on to

say that they were looking for more RWPC members from the PA Counties, and that there had been a lot of new interest in New Jersey after the Allocations meetings. She added that the co-chairs were working on articles for the newsletter, and that she was looking for additional submissions from consumers.

Special Presentation:

- **Hepatitis in Philadelphia**

M. Fernandez-Viña began his presentation with an overview (*see – attached handout*). He reviewed some information about the liver, and then discussed ways to take care of the liver. He then discussed some basic information about hepatitis and its causes. He noted that they mostly see Hepatitis A, B, and C in the United States, so they would pay particular attention to these three. He then reviewed information about Hepatitis A, noting that symptoms may not always been present. A community member stated that she enjoys raw seafood, and asked if she might get Hepatitis A this way. M. Fernandez-Viña stated that this could happen if there was human fecal matter in the water the seafood lives in, and recommended that she get vaccinated. He then noted that PLWHA are not more likely to contract Hepatitis than the general population, but that everyone should get vaccinated. He next reviewed ways to prevent Hepatitis A. A community member asked if they had to be vaccinated more than once. M. Fernandez-Viña replied that the vaccination consisted of two shots, given several months apart.

M. Fernandez-Viña moved on to review information regarding Hepatitis B, noting that it could be acute or chronic. He noted that there is treatment for chronic Hepatitis B, and reviewed prevention for Hepatitis B. He added that the Philadelphia Health Department does check in with tattoo artists to ensure that they are properly cleaning their equipment.

M. Fernandez-Viña next reviewed information about Hepatitis C. He noted that sexual transmission is most common with sexual behaviors that draw blood. He pointed out that symptoms may not appear for 10-30 years after infection, although those that are infected are still able to transmit the infection. M. White asked why men have a faster progression for Hepatitis C. M. Fernandez-Viña replied that he had not seen any good studies on this subject. W. Walters suggested that men are more likely to internalize stress, which could affect this. M. Fernandez-Viña noted that there is no vaccine against Hepatitis C, and reviewed ways to prevent Hepatitis C.

M. Fernandez-Viña emphasized the importance of integrating hepatitis services into HIV care. J. Whitfield asked how they help to educate people about hepatitis. M. Fernandez-Viña explained that he works with AACO to meet with providers so he can educate them on hepatitis, so that the providers can educate their clients. He then reviewed his position as the Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator. W. Walters asked for more information on treatment for Hepatitis B. M. Fernandez-Viña replied that he dealt with prevention, but that he would get additional information for them.

M. White asked if there were any studies on the effects of the H1N1 vaccine on those with suppressed immune systems. M. Fernandez-Viña stated that he was working with AACO on creating a fact sheet on this. W. Walters stated that PLWHA should not take the nasal spray because it does have some live virus in it, and that they would almost certainly contract the virus. M. White noted that PLWHA would have top priority to get the vaccination since they have a chronic disease.

J. Malloy stated that a senator was giving out free flu shots on Mondays this month only. He noted that they could bring their children to get vaccinated as well. A community member if the nasal spray would still be bad for PLWHA if their viral loads were undetectable. W. Walters replied that their immune system would still be suppressed. N. Johns asked if M. Fernandez-Viña had any numbers on hepatitis in Philadelphia. M. Fernandez-Viña replied that he was currently working on this project with AACO, but that he could send her national information.

Action Items:

- **Volunteer Activity Planning**

W. Walters stated that they had discussed going out as a group, and that they had discussed going to MANNA as a possibility. She then asked them if they had any ideas on what else they might like to do. J. Whitfield asked when they would like to volunteer. W. Walters replied that they might want to do this in late October or the middle of November. M. White noted that Philabundance would be a possibility. N. Johns stated that they would need to determine an organization to go to, and then have a sign-up sheet. J.M. suggested that they find a smaller organization that is race-specific or gender-specific that really needs help. W. Walters asked if he had a particular organization in mind. J. Malloy replied that he did not, but that he would be open to suggestions. W. Walters suggested Circle of Care for women and children. N. Johns added that BEBASHI has a donation drive around the holidays. T.U. suggested helping with University Lutheran Center that has a dinner for PLWHA on Tuesday nights. N. Johns agreed that this would be a great way to get word out about the Positive Committee. J. Malloy suggested going to Congress because they would reach a community that typically does not get the help. W. Walters suggested trying to reach out to the PA Counties, which would help spread the word about the Positive committee. N. Johns noted that this might be an issue with transportation, but that she could check with M. Ross-Russell. W. Walters then asked those from New Jersey if they would be able to check with their agencies to see if they would be interested in having volunteers. N. Johns stated that she would contact the agencies to see who would need help and how much help they might need. She went on to say that she would also find out when they would need help, so she could report this information back to the group. J.M. suggested adding any domestic violence programs to their lists, since this population needed support. H. Bennett noted that Poz Pride was looking for help cooking and serving meals as well.

- **Fall/Winter Outreach Activities**

W. Walters reiterated information about the brunch for World AIDS Day in Delaware County. M. White stated that it had been suggested that they get a table at the AIDS

Walk. N. Johns replied that she would not be able to be there herself that day, but that she would contact the appropriate people for them to get a table. She asked the group what they would like to hand out. M. White stated that they would like to give out newsletters and the brochure about the committee. W. Walters suggested handing out a calendar. N. Johns asked for someone to come to the Office to pick it up. M. White agreed. N. Johns asked how many copies he would like. M. White suggested 1,000 newsletters. N. Johns replied that she could not make that many copies, but she could try to do 500.

W. Walters suggested having everyone meet at the Office and going out to a park to hand out information on counseling and testing. N. Johns replied that this was not within the scope of the committee, and that she was not qualified to do this sort of work. W. Walters suggested giving out basic information on HIV as well as some information about the Planning Council. N. Johns replied that basic information on HIV would be a good thing to give to the general population, but that the general public would not be interested in information on the Positive Committee specifically. J.M. stated that it would be important to ensure that anything they would be doing did not conflict with the candlelight vigil at City Hall or the event at CFAR. H. Bennett asked whether the event would take place at the Office or elsewhere. N. Johns replied that they could do something at the Office, or if necessary for space, at St. Luke's. A community member suggested handing out HIV 101 information on the streets. N. Johns noted that they had a few hundred HIV brochures in the Office as well.

R. Hayward read the mission statement, and stated that he thought that the scope of the group was less about prevention and more about involving the community in the Positive Committee. A community member stated that there are so many people in the Philadelphia area that do not know about HIV, and that it is important to pass out both types of information. Another community member agreed that most of the population were ignorant about HIV. W. Walters agreed that World AIDS Day was about making people aware of HIV, while with the AIDS Walk they would be contacting people that already had some awareness of HIV. N. Johns suggested putting out an HIV 101 brochure that included a flier about the Positive Committee and including the 985-AIDS number. The group agreed that this would be a good idea. H. Bennett suggested targeting a women's shelter, a men's prison, or a halfway house to educate them.

J.M. stated that there needed to be a certain amount of energy behind the committee. He went on to say that he had just come back from Pittsburgh with ACT UP, and that there had only been twelve people on the bus. He then stated that they should not talk about World AIDS Day, but rather Stefan Hobbs and Diane McFadden. He next stated that a woman holds court monthly for all the city's black ministers, and that he did not see anything about her talking about HIV. He went on to say that they should honor Stefan and Diane by advocating.

M. White stated that OutFest would be on October 11.

N. Johns stated that she heard from the group that they would like to have brochures with the HIV 101 information, and that they would like to have bookmark-sized insert with information about the Positive Committee. W. Walters suggested making a bookmark on cardstock so people could use it.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Member Check Out:

None.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m. by general consensus.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Briana L. Morgan, Staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes from September 21, 2009
- OHP Calendar

RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL (RWPC)

Positive Committee

Meeting Agenda

Monday, October 5, 2009

12:00p.m.-2:00 p.m.

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

Call to Order/Moment of Silence

Introductions

Member Check In (*voluntary*)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Report of Chair

Report of Staff

Special Presentation: Hepatitis in Philadelphia

Marcelo H. Fernandez-Viña, MPH, Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator

Action Items: Volunteer Activity Planning

Action Item: Fall/Winter Outreach Activities (World AIDS Day, AIDS Walk, etc.)

Old Business

New Business

Announcements

Member Check Out (*voluntary*)

Adjournment

Please turn Phone to Silent or Vibrate

Don't forget to sign in by 12:30pm if you need tokens. Thanks!

Please RSVP at 215.574.6760 to ensure that there are enough lunches.

Please contact the office at least 5 days in advance if you require any special assistance.

The next meeting date and time of the Positive Committee is November 9, 2009. It will take place at the Office of HIV Planning, 340 N. 12th St. Suite 203, Philadelphia PA 19107

**Ryan White Planning Council (RWPC) of the Philadelphia Part A EMA
Positive Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 21, 2009
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Office of HIV Planning, 340 N. 12th Street, Suite 203, Philadelphia, PA 19107**

Due to technical difficulties these notes will be abbreviated.

Present: 14(PH), 2(PA), 0(NJ)

Staff: Nicole Johns, Debbie Law

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Introductions:

M. White called the meeting to order at 12:15p.m., and reading of the mission statement and a moment of silence followed. Those present then introduced themselves.

Member Check In:

None.

Approval of Agenda:

M. White presented the agenda for approval. The agenda was approved by general consensus.

Report of Co-Chair:

M. White stated that today the group would receive a presentation from representatives of Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy and elect their new Co-Chair. He also noted the end of the planning cycle, the allocations budgets for FY2010 had been approved by the Planning Council in August.

Report of Staff:

- **Outreach Update**

N. Johns stated that she was developing consumer empowerment training workshops for the suburban counties to be held in the fall. The workshop in the PA Counties was scheduled for November 4th in Chester. The workshop in NJ was still being scheduled. She asked that members let their friends and others know about the workshops. More information would be available at the next Positive Committee meeting.

- **Newsletter Submissions**

N. Johns stated that she was still waiting for newsletter submissions. Anyone interested in submitting a story or a personal essay for Peggy's Corner should let her know as soon as possible. M. White asked if there could be included in the newsletter a section to note former Planning Council members who have passed away. N. Johns said that it could be included as necessary.

Action Item: Election of Co-Chair

M. White noted that there were two candidates for the Co-Chair position W. Walters and J. Whitfield. He asked each of the women to address the group before the vote was taken. W. Walters noted that she had been an activist and volunteer for many years and was ready to take on a leadership role on the committee. She also commented that she was a good listener and easy talk to, and was committed to getting things done. J. Whitfield commented that she wanted to become more involved in community planning and the activities of the Positive Committee. She noted that coming to the meetings was a positive part of her life, and that she learns a little more every time she attends. OHP staff passed out ballots to all in attendance and then collected them to tally the votes. W. Walters won by a majority of votes. The group congratulated her and she joined M. White at the front of the room for the remainder of the meeting.

- **October Meeting Date**

N. Johns noted that the regularly scheduled Positive Committee meeting date fell on Columbus Day, which was a day the office would be closed. M. White asked the group if the first Monday in October, the 5th, would work for them. The date was approved by general consensus.

Special Presentation: Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy

Mandee Pierce, Rph. and Colleen Armstrong Grosek

The representatives from Walgreen shared information about the specialty HIV program offered at the Center City location and online. They also answered questions from the group about co-payments, cost of drugs, delivery methods, and other medication-related questions. The representatives passed out informational brochures to the group and the extras were left in the conference room. The representatives agreed to come and visit the group again and also offered to submit a piece for the newsletter, if needed.

Old Business:

During the course of Old Business and Check Out several issues and topics were brought up concerning outreach by the Positive Committee. N. Johns noted that those topics and ideas would be the focus of the next meeting. Those topics included: volunteering at MANNA, AIDS Walk activity/outreach, World AIDS Day activity, and using online social networking to market the Positive Committee.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. by general consensus.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Nicole D. Johns, Staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- OHP Calendar