
**Prevention Committee
Meeting Minutes of
Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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

Present: Veronica Brisco, Loretta Matus, Clint Steib (Co-Chair), Desiree Surplus (Co-Chair), Mystkue Woods

Guest: Sigfried Aragona (DHH), Harlan Shaw (DHH), Jackson Suplita (DHH), Maggie Webb (Philadelphia FIGHT), Javontae Williams (DHH)

Staff: Tiffany Dominique, Sofia Moletteri, Mari-Ross-Russell, Kevin Trinh

Call to Order/Introductions: C. Steib asked everyone to introduce themselves and called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

C. Steib referred to the October 2024 Prevention Committee agenda and asked for a motion to approve. **Motion:** L. Matus motioned; V. Brisco seconded to approve the October 2024 Prevention Committee agenda via Zoom poll. Motion passed: 4 in favor, 2 abstained. The October 2024 agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes (September 25th, 2024):

C. Steib referred to the September 2024 Prevention Committee Meeting minutes. **Motion:** L. Matus motioned; M. Woods seconded to approve the September 2024 Prevention Committee meeting minutes via a Zoom poll. Motion passed: 5 in favor, 2 abstained. The September 2024 minutes were approved.

Report of Co-chairs

C. Steib announced the November meeting would be a combined meeting between the Prevention Committee and the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC). He reminded the committee that his term would be ending next year and he was still looking for someone to take his seat. He asked those interested to contact S. Moletteri, T. Dominique, or himself.

Report of Staff:

T. Dominique reported that she, S. Moletteri, and K. Trinh had tabled at the Stimulant Conference and the AIDS Walk to offer resources and recruit new members to HIPC.

J. Williams took some time to welcome J. Suplita to his team. J. Suplita had been working at the Philadelphia Health Department for a year and was recently transferred to J. Williams's team.

Presentation:***-PrEP Week Synopsis/Recap-***

M. Webb was introduced as the Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) Program and Outreach Manager at Philadelphia FIGHT. She had joined Philadelphia FIGHT in April and was invited to the Prevention Committee to recap PrEP week.

For those unfamiliar, M. Webb explained that PrEP week was a week of free community events to promote PrEP and HIV prevention. The event had started in 2019 and had the goal of raising awareness, increasing uptake of PrEP, and encouraging communication with providers and health professionals. After reflection on the 2024 PrEP Week, Philadelphia FIGHT aimed to add additional goals for outreach in 2025. The organization sought to re-establish themselves after the pandemic and boost community partnerships. With the limitations on harm reduction resources in the city, they also wanted to focus on PrEP in people who inject drugs (PWID).

FIGHT had an event on each workday. On Monday, FIGHT held information sessions and a town hall. The next event on Tuesday was the Teen Creative Drop-In Space. She said the Incentivized Testing with Harm Reduction Partners events on Wednesday was canceled. On Thursday, FIGHT held their Pleasure and Protection Bingo-Quizzo. This was their most popular event. On Friday, they held their PrEP Week Symposium.

M. Webb briefly went over each event while highlighting the successes they had found and the lessons learned from hosting the events. She started with an overview of the Monday Community Information Sessions and Town Hall. The Town Hall was an informal question and answer session with 25 attendees with no more than 10 community members. She was pleased that there was great engagement with the audience who learned much about preventative medicine and how the medicine may interact with other medications they were taking. Clinical staff members were appreciative that they were able to meet the community members and listen to a presentation by a non-clinician on PrEP. They found that it helped them find more ways to communicate with community members about the importance of preventative medicine. From this event, they had learned that the event location was important and that future events should be at places community members frequented. As a point of improvement for the future, they were considering more thoughtful advertising that recognized what might incentivize people to attend events. This included understanding community member priorities. For example, a community member would not likely attend an event on the same day as a sports event.

Their second event was their Teen Creative Drop-in Space. The event had art supplies, games, and dinner. The event only had one attendee. Because of low attendance, M. Webb said they had many lessons to learn from this event. The first was that the focus of the event needed to be clear to community members. The event was intended to have a variety of activities and needed to advertise in a way that better incentivized teenagers to their event. The second lesson they had learned was that they needed people who represented the participants they were trying to reach. Like the last event, the importance of the event location was something they had to learn from. C. Steib suggested that they host an event at the Attic Youth Center. M. Webb said they had tried to contact the youth center for this event but the plans to host an event there had fallen through.

M. Webb provided more detail on the event that was supposed to be held on Wednesday and why it was canceled. She explained the plan to offer incentivized testing with The Everywhere Project, a grassroots harm reduction organization. Their plan was to rent out a van and meet up with The Everywhere Project at Love Park. Unfortunately, they were unable to assemble necessary staff and providers in time to have the event. M. Webb was disappointed because this event was the only one aimed at increasing PrEP coverage during the week. They were hoping to host the event in February 2025, but realistically felt it would actually take place in the spring.

The Pleasure and Protection Bingo-Quizzo was their most popular event. It was hosted at 13th & Locust. The event consisted of a bingo game with sexual health trivia, open bar, free food, and sex toy prizes. About 60 people attended the event. They learned that they preferred events where they hosted nightlife events instead of traveling to a place with nightlife. They found that hosting the nightlife event yielded a different type of audience that was more open to making connections and engaging with the material. However, this also meant that many of the attendees were already aware of PrEP.

Philadelphia FIGHT finished PrEP week with the PrEP Week Symposium. The event was held at the Science History Institute on 3rd & Chestnut and had 45 attendees. It was a half-day conference with 2 didactics, 1 panel and reception. She said the symposium content was great and praised the Science History Institute as a great location for events. From the event, they had learned that they needed to hold events on days that their audience could attend. Although the conference was a half-day conference, many potential participants said they could not attend due to work. The conference offered Continuing Medical Education credits, but they found it was not enough of an incentive to drive people to the event. She said they were very conscious of the idea that they may not be reaching out to community members as much as they needed to.

Dr. Wei-Teng Yang, the head of Infectious Disease and Addiction Medicine Integration at Penn Medicine, had presented at the symposium. M. Webb said their presentation was one of the highlights of the symposium. They presented on PrEP and PWID in Philadelphia, Methadone as PrEP, street medicine sustainability, and long acting injectables. Another person who had presented was J. Tanguay who was a program lead at Whitman-Walker Health. Their presentation was on the Care Home Model, navigation of political resistance against harm reduction strategies, and chemsex.

Looking forward to 2025, M. Webb said they were excited to have incentivized testing with the Everywhere Project and their youth events. She said they would be applying what they had learned from PrEP Week in future events. In addition, they were exploring other opportunities to collaborate with grassroots organizations focusing on topics outside of their clinical space such as trans safety, gun violence, and abortion.

Discussion Item:

-Prevention Committee Recruitment Presentation Review-

As mentioned in the previous HIV Integrated Planning Council (HIPC) meeting, each subcommittee was to create a 5 minute presentation to recruit new members. L. Matus asked about the difference between the “Who We Are” and the “About the Committee” bullet points on the agenda slide. T. Dominique felt that “About the Committee” described the subcommittee's

primary goal. On the “goal” slide, T. Dominique had placed the descriptions from the Office of HIV Planning website and the HIPC ByLaws. C. Steib and L. Matus felt that the language used was too formal. The committee wanted to describe themselves as the committee that represented the community because they brought the community feedback to DHH and the other committees.

The committee reviewed the “Meet Your Committee Members” slide. She asked the members if they had wanted their names and photos added to the presentation. C. Steib, D. Surplus, V. Brisco, and L. Matus volunteered to have names and pictures added to the presentation.

On the “Roles and Responsibilities” slide, the committee members would list what they did as a committee. The committee decided that they provided prevention-related recommendations to HIPC, forwarded feedback from the community to DHH, worked closely with the CPC, covered relatable topics in real time, helped established the city PrEP program, invited speakers to inform about the prevention process, helped to inform about the pillars of the End the Epidemic (EHE), planned and used data to help inform decisions during the allocations process.

The next slide addressed why a person should join the Prevention Committee. The members listed the personal and community benefits of being a Prevention Committee member. After much discussion, the committee decided that the community benefited from the Prevention Committee because it created an informed community and allowed members to be a representative for those who did not have a voice in the decision making process. On a personal level, joining the Prevention Committee helped members gain more professional development and become more familiar with the multiple processes.

T. Dominique added the day and time on which the Prevention Committee had often met. L. Matus suggested that they add links to the previous meeting minutes in the presentation. C. Steib requested the presentation slides so he could have more time to look at the presentation more closely. T. Dominique said they would not have a meeting on the presentation until January since they had their combined meeting with the CPC in November and would not meet in December due to the holidays. The committee decided that they would continue their discussion on the presentation through email.

Any Other Business:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

C. Steib called for a motion to adjourn. **Motion:** L. Matus motioned, V. Brisco seconded to adjourn the October Prevention Committee meeting. **Motion passed:** Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Trinh, staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- October 2024 Prevention Committee Meeting Agenda
- September 2024 Prevention Committee Meeting Minutes