

**Hybrid: Poz Committee
Meeting Minutes of
Tuesday, June 16th, 2026
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

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

Present: K.C., M.C., G.J., K.M., R.N., G.R., J.S.

Guests: Tascha Chalmers (Mayor's Commission on Aging), B. Smith, Sharlene Waller (Mayor's Commission on Aging)

Staff: E. Fischer, D. Law, S. Moletteri, K. Trinh, K. Wilson

Call to Order/Introductions: K.C. called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. S. Moletteri asked for introductions.

Approval of Agenda:

K.C. referred to the June 2026 Poz Committee agenda and asked for a motion to approve.

Motion: K.M. motioned, J.S. seconded to approve the June 2026 agenda. **Motion passed:** All in favor. The June 2026 Poz Committee agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes:

K.C. referred to the May 2026 Poz Committee minutes and asked for a motion to approve.

Motion: K.M. motioned, G.R. seconded to approve the May 2026 minutes. **Motion passed:** All in favor. The May 2026 Poz Committee minutes were approved.

Report of Chair:

None.

Report of Staff:

S. Moletteri reported that OHP staff attended and tabled at the HIV Education Summit. She participated in a presentation from the BeatCure Community Advisory Board and learned about partner services. She noted that OHP plans to go back next year.

S. Moletteri reported that the July Poz Committee was canceled due to Allocations taking place. K.C. asked whether they had been informed of the full award amount yet. S. Moletteri said the full award had a 3.2% reduction. R.N. asked about the trends of the final award amount throughout time. S. Moletteri said there has been a steady decrease in the final award amount in recent years, but no more than a 5% decrease each year. S. Moletteri said the HIV Integrated Planning Council (HIPC) decided to move some money out of Emergency Financial Assistance Pharmacy (EFA Pharma) due to it being underspent. She noted that it was underspent because clients were initially leveraging other funding streams, with Ryan White (RW) as the payor of last resort. She said the money was reallocated to Medical Case Managers (MCMs) because there has been an increased need for them. R.N. asked for clarification. K.C. clarified that HIPC moved the money to support the equivalent of two more MCMs, but it does not decide which

providers receive those funds. S. Moletteri added that HIPC decided which service categories received funding, and the Recipient decided which providers received the funds.

K.M. asked how resources were accessed through case management. D. Law said HIPC decides how much funding a service gets, but does not disperse those funds to specific resources or providers. S. Moletteri noted that recent discussions have focused on ensuring MCMs were trained properly and were effectively providing resources to their clients. K.C. mentioned a presentation by K. Wilson that highlighted themes from the town halls and provided recommendations to the Recipient.

S. Moletteri reported that a series of Epidemiologic Infographics were recently uploaded onto the OHP website, which looked at data around mental health, transportation, and food insecurity.

K.M. asked how frequently OHP hosts town halls. S. Moletteri said a needs assessment takes place every 3 years, but OHP planned to host focus groups based on the 2026 town halls.

S. Moletteri said L. Fischer would be sending the emails regarding the Poz Committee after this meeting.

Discussion Item:

-Housing & Resources with the Commission on Aging- S. Waller and T. Chalmers

S. Waller introduced herself as the Deputy Director for the Mayor's Commission on Aging, and T. Chalmers as the Outreach Specialist. She said that the Mayor's Commission on Aging built a strong age-friendly city by enhancing the quality of life for individuals 55+ through job opportunities, resources, and services.

S. Waller said the Senior Housing Assistance Repair Program (SHARP) provided minor repairs and modifications to make homes safer for older adults 60+. This program was free for those at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). She said to contact the Philadelphia Corporation on Aging (PCA) at the PCA Helpline: 215-765-9040. S. Waller said the age requirement varied by program, with some recognizing aging as 50+, 55+, or 60+. She said most federal services were for individuals who were 60+. G.R. asked if these services were available outside of Philadelphia. S. Waller said that while these programs were specifically for Philadelphia, members should call the PCA Helpline to find resources that were available to them. She said AAA had similar programs. R.N. asked if the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging and the Commission on Aging were the same organization. S. Waller responded that they were partners, but were not the same. S. Moletteri asked if there were other brackets in regard to the FPL. S. Waller clarified that the SHARP program was available only to those at or below 200% of the FPL.

S. Waller said the Adaptive Modifications Program (AMP) helped low-income individuals with permanent physical disabilities live more independently. She said to contact the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation (PHDC) on their website or at 215-448-2160 for more information. She noted that there was a waitlist and encouraged the group to be proactive and contact the program as soon as possible. She advised members to create a checklist for their homes to regularly check for any issues.

S. Moletteri asked if this program applied to rental spaces that the landlord refused to pay for. S. Waller said AMP was specifically for housing, but other departments and agencies can help in that situation. T. Chalmers noted that Community Legal Services and the PA Attorney General's Office would help in this situation.

K.M. asked if individuals would have to go through the shelter system to receive housing services. S. Waller said it was on a case-by-case basis and encouraged members to call to receive help navigating resources.

S. Waller said the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Freeze was for individuals 65+ who meet the income requirements, helping prevent their real estate tax from increasing. She advised the members to contact the City of Philadelphia Department of Revenue and to complete their application. K.M. asked if this program was only for Philadelphia residents. S. Waller clarified that it was only for Philadelphia residents, but other areas may have similar programs.

S. Waller noted that the Department of Aging had a navigation toolkit to help individuals connect with resources for which they were eligible.

D. Law asked if there was an income requirement. S. Waller referred the members to the packet provider that outlined the income qualifications. T. Chalmer added that clients could apply regardless of their income because they could receive partial benefits or be directed to a program that they were eligible for.

S. Waller said the Longtime Owners Occupant Program (LOOP) was for homeowners who have lived in their homes for the past 10 years and whose property assessments have increased by 75% over the past five years; this program places a cap on the assessment. She said to contact the City of Philadelphia Department of Revenue to apply.

S. Waller said the PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate was for Pennsylvanians aged 65+ with income up to \$48,110, who may receive a standard rebate of \$380 to \$1,000 after paying rent or property taxes. She said to contact the PA Department of Revenue to apply. T. Chalmers said homeowners and renters were eligible for this program.

S. Waller continued that people can utilize the SeniorLaw Center (877-727-7529), CLS (Center City: 215-981-3700) (North Philly: 215-227-2400), AIDS Law Project, or Christian Legal Centers of Philadelphia for Legal Assistance. She noted that the caregiver's client must be included in the process. She said these programs can help with wills, property, or tangled titles. R.N. asked what tangled titles were. S. Waller said it meant there was no proper beneficiary or documentation of who owned the home. She added that the individual must be on the deed or they will not get the property, even if they've been paying the bills. She noted that issues have arisen for individuals who do not legally marry under City of Philadelphia law.

S. Waller said individuals could reach the Mayor's Commission on Aging through email at mcoainfo@phila.gov or by phone at 215-686-8450; the Philadelphia Corporation on Aging by phone at 215-765-9040; and One Philly Front Door through their website [at](#)

housing-front-door.phila.gov/. She noted that all the contact information was outlined in the packet provided to members. She explained that the Philadelphia Corporation on Aging had various aging services and a senior helpline to help navigate the system. She explained that One Philly Front Door was a one-stop shop for housing information or services.

S. Waller concluded that everyone has individual needs and encouraged the group to ask questions to find resources for their specific needs. She added that many of the resources discussed were outlined in the packet provided to the group.

K.C. asked about the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). S. Waller explained that this program placed individuals 55+ in non-profit organizations, church groups, or government agencies for on-the-job training and education at local colleges. She said this was a stipend-based on-the-job training program that included 20-40 hours every two weeks with supplemental income. G.R. asked if it was only available for Philadelphia residents. S. Waller said SCSEP operated in multiple geographic areas and encouraged the group to ask their local county about programs.

T. Chalmers informed the group about Scam Information via phone. She encouraged members not to talk to people over the phone who were trying to get information or sell something. She explained that the longer an individual stayed on the phone, the scammer could get more information. She asked members to share this information with their networks. S. Waller added that scams were also in the mail, such as the beneficiary scam that asks for spouse/beneficiary information. G.R. noted that some scams were hard to notice. The members thanked the presenters for the information and presentation.

-Activities Report Back with Positive Women's Network-

M.C. introduced herself as a co-chair of the PA chapter of the Positive Women's Network (PWN). M.C. said PWN USA was created in 2008 with 28 women across the nation. There were 35 states that participated in the beginning, and most recently there were 17 or 18 participating states.

M.C. noted that the current PWN Pennsylvania was renamed from PWN Philadelphia because there were members across the state. M.C. highlighted that PA was the first chapter that opened and would be celebrating 17 years of service on July 19th. K.M. said they would commemorate this achievement with a celebration on Locust Street.

M.C. was the first Latino woman who participated in PWN. She said the organization consisted of women living with HIV and allies (other interested individuals). M.C. provided a paper for people to sign up as an ally. She noted that both she and K.M. served as leaders within the organization. She said the network created and advocated for bills such as a needle exchange program.

M.C. noted that the organization consisted of phone banking and canvassing and was currently hiring people to serve in those positions. She provided a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in participating.

K.C. asked for clarification on phone banking. M.C. explained that phone banking was calling voters to share information about the network. She noted that they spend 3 hours phone banking on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 3 hours canvassing on Mondays and Wednesdays, and 4 hours canvassing on Saturdays.

K.M. introduced herself as a co-chair of the PWN for 7 years. She mentioned that she goes to AIDS Watch annually to advocate for Ryan White and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS/HIV (HOPWAH) funding. She also advocated for the decriminalization of HIV. K.C. reported that a bill changed the language at the last minute. K.M. added that they recently signed a bill at St. Luke's, which was a historic moment for PWN.

K.M. noted that PWN was a voice of the community and built longtime power throughout Pennsylvania. She said that PWN-USA was guided by the community that was most impacted. K.M. continued that PWN was founded in 2008 and was the only national membership body created by and for women, gender diverse, and transgender people living with HIV. She said PWN applies a gender equality and human rights lens to the HIV epidemic to achieve policies grounded in the reality of our lived experiences. Their mission was to prepare and to involve their members in all levels of policy and decision-making to improve the quality of their lives. K.C. noted that it seemed like PWN focused on more than just women. K.M. said that while they focused on women, the allies were equally important.

K.M. said PWN has been campaigning in Pennsylvania by talking with voters in Kensington, Philadelphia, about what real safety meant to them. She said that since 2020, the chapter had been talking with voters in North Philly about the over-criminalization of the community. Black and brown, LGBTQ+, and low-income Pennsylvanians were consistently over-policed for seeking abortion care, drug use, and for living with HIV. She continued that the chapter's work builds on past campaigns focused on harm reduction and ending HIV criminalization.

R.N. brought up concerns about substance use in Kensington, Philadelphia. K.M. showed concern about the lack of transparency about the state of Kensington and added that social media was not representative of the actual landscape. K.M. emphasized that substance use disorder was a mental health disorder and should be treated as such. S. Moletteri added that there was a connection between substance use and mental health services. R.N. said he noticed that most people on Kensington Avenue were middle-aged and older. M.C. said she was very familiar with Kensington and that, in her experience, Kensington has been seeing more issues currently than in the past. She expressed concern that people who were experiencing homelessness or substance use disorder were not being properly helped. M.C. said there should be an emphasis on getting these individuals care and housing. She added that this issue was present not only in Kensington but also in other areas of Philadelphia. G.R. emphasized that transparency was important and agreed that individuals experiencing substance use disorder or mental health disorders should receive help. S. Moletteri added that this council was not a political space, but highlighted the importance of not using dehumanizing language. K.M. agreed that the stigma should be dismantled.

K.M. said PWN participated in the Lobby Day at City Hall. She informed the group that Lobby Day was a day to alert city and state officials to the fact that H.R. 1 made it more difficult for

millions of Americans to access affordable healthcare. These cuts directly impacted safety net providers like Planned Parenthood that rely on medical reimbursements to serve low-income patients. She explained that Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit challenging the defunding provision. A court initially granted a temporary order preventing the law from taking effect, which allowed health centers to continue accessing Medicaid funding for a period of time. K.M. welcomed members to sign up for PWN's updates to stay informed and up to date. K.M. said she would leave her information for the members. G.R. asked if PWN would reach out to the members who provided their contact information. K.M. confirmed that they would reach out to members.

K.M. said she would share any updates with S. Moletteri. S. Moletteri said the conversation on decriminalization was interesting. M.C. and K.M. said they would be interested in presenting again. R.N. highlighted that the laws vary in each state. K.M. shared that areas in the South often have more stigma around HIV. K.M. and R.N. discussed Robert Suttle, a public leader in HIV Is Not A Crime, who was living with HIV, was considered a sex offender, and spent time in the prison system because of his diagnosis.

M.C. said that in Pennsylvania, sex workers were the only people who could be penalized for living with HIV. She said the jail sentence for that was 10 years. M.C. said that the number of states that criminalized HIV has gone from around 40 states to 15 states. S. Moletteri confirmed that Robert Suttle was from Louisiana. M.C. said Robert Suttle advocated for people in prison living with HIV. M.C. emphasized that HIV does not control an individual.

The group thanked K.M. and M.C. for the presentation. K.M. said she would provide S. Moletteri with more information to share with the group.

Other Business:

None.

Announcements:

R.N. asked when and where the OHP was moving to a new location. S. Moletteri said OHP was moving, but did not have a location confirmed. She said she would let the members know when more information was available.

Adjournment:

J.S. called for a motion to adjourn. **Motion: K.M. motioned and R.N. seconded to adjourn the June 2026 Poz Committee meeting. Motion passed: All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Fischer, staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- June 2026 Poz Committee Agenda
- May 2026 Poz Committee Meeting Minutes

- Mayor's Commission on Aging Packet