

**Philadelphia EMA HIV Integrated Planning Council**  
**PrEP Work Group**  
**Wednesday, October 17, 2018**  
**2-4pm**

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

**Present:** Erika Aaron, Gina Bennet, Chet Carter, Keith Carter, David Gana, Annet Davis, Cheryl Dennis, Matthew Douglas, Tira Faison, Gus Grannan, Caitlin Hoffman, Helen Koenig, Xander Lopez, Nhakia Outland, Ben Rainville, Eran Sargent, Clint Steib, Tahira Tyler, Dovie Watson, Mari Zeno

**Guests:** None

**Office of HIV Planning Staff:** Stephen Budhu

**Call to Order:** C. Steib called the meeting to order at 2:12pm. He explained in interim he was the temporary chair of the PrEP work group. He explained after the last meeting, a HIPC member stepped up to take over the chair role. C. Steib introduced G. Grannan as the new chair of the PrEP work group. Those present then introduced themselves and shared their experience with PrEP.

**Approval of Agenda:** G. Grannan presented the agenda for approval. **Motion:** K. Carter moved, D. Gana seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Passed: All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes:** G. Grannan presented the minutes for approval. **Motion:** K. Carter moved, C. Steib seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Passed: All in favor.

**Report of Chair:** E. Aaron informed the work group that AACO can now offer aid to PrEP clinics. AACO staff can spend anywhere from 30 minutes to 3 hours per agency per day. The goal of this initiative is to make sure that clinics are well educated about PrEP, and that they have the necessary tools to offer PrEP services to their clients. She invited those interested to inquire more information from her after the meeting.

E. Aaron informed the committee HIV infections among those who are injection drug users has risen over the course of the last year. As mentioned by C. Terrell in the Planning Council's October meeting, 31 new cases of HIV have been reported in the PWID population. Of those 31 cases, 57% were co-infected with the HCV. More about this is available via handout in the conference room.

E. Aaron informed the work group that they would be first watching a few short videos first, then a group break out. She suggested the committee could break out into 3 groups each group will be proposing ideas for the PrEP community plan. She reminded the work group that they have great resources in front of them that include the integrated plan that was created by the Office of HIV Planning.

**Report of Staff:** S. Budhu invited those present to attend the Comprehensive Planning Committee, Thursday, October 18, 2018 from 2-4 pm. The committee will be refining its recommendations about medical case management as well as discussing racial inequity. S. Budhu reminded the committee all Planning Council and Planning Council subcommittee meetings are open to the public.

S. Budhu reminded those present the HIPC is looking for new members, he encouraged all to apply; applications are located in the office or can be printed online at hivphilly.org. Last, there seems to be a schedule conflict with the December meeting for the Prevention Committee and the PrEP work group. At the time, both meetings are scheduled for December 19, 2018 during the same time slot. E. Aaron replied work group meeting dates will be confirmed via email at a later date.

**Action Items:** None

**Discussion Items:**

- **PrEP Community Plan & Group Break Out**

For the “PrEP Community Plan” the work group broke out into three smaller sub groups. E. Aaron asked the groups to focus on what they wanted to focus on regarding PrEP and its mobilization, specifically how to break down barriers to access. E. Aaron encouraged the group to record their ideas on the handouts given out by AACO staff during the meeting. The handouts distributed were a collaboration of ideas from the work group in a bulleted list from past meetings, an excerpt from the integrated plan as it related to PrEP, and a blank worksheet that included tables to identify the responsible parties for PrEP-related integrated plan strategies.

The groups brainstormed for 1 hour. At the conclusion of the brainstorming session, E. Aaron displayed videos about the community’s view and experiences of PrEP. Due to time constraints the group was not able to watch all the videos that were planned. Only one video was shown, it was a music video about PrEP awareness and advocacy. Those interested in the video can visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFcCYcZQelo>.

E. Aaron reminded the work group the link for Philadelphia PrEP providers is now live, and the link is available for all in conference room. She informed the work group the link to the list would be emailed after the conclusion of the meeting.

G. Grannan took the temperature of the work group. He asked if the work group liked the smaller group break out. E. Sargent explained her group started to lay the frame work of the community plan. The group was unable to identify the responsible parties at this time and she felt that the process was helping with PrEP knowledge. From the group break out she learned some new ideas from other PrEP providers and may incorporate them at her agency.

N. Outland expressed her displeasure with the process. She asked what are the next steps in the planning process. She stated the group has consistently meet in sub groups; what’s the next steps to mobilizing our recommendations? E. Aaron replied the work group is a collective group of the community who are PrEP stakeholders. Unfortunately, the group is not funded, therefore the group’s recommendations may only go as far as the group wishes to take them. K. Carter reminded the work group they are a sub group of the Prevention Committee he suggested the recommendations from the work group could be presented to the Prevention Committee. Then the Prevention may recommend the work group’s ideas to the Planning Council for final approval. Maybe the Planning Council can allocate funds to be used for PrEP work group activities. D. Gana suggested the work group could look for grants for funding outside of Ryan White. D. Gana suggested the work group could apply for the funding opportunity PA -18-281 (see footnote for more details and link).<sup>1</sup>

H. Koenig suggested the work group needed to identify the responsible parties for their recommendations to be carried out/incorporated into some type of plan. She stated she agreed with N. Outland and she personally wanted to see where her recommendations were going. E. Aaron suggested the group should refine its ideas before taking further steps. B. Rowley suggested the work group could use Gilead as a resource. He explained as the community liaison for Gilead he does a lot of the leg work that has been discussed when this group has met. He encouraged those present to contact him for any queries.

C. Steib agreed with N. Outland and H. Koenig. C. Steib expressed his concerns with the scope of the group. He suggested before continuing to brainstorm the work group needed to identify who the accountable parties would be for each activity. He suggested the work group should also review the past Prevention Committee meetings on the Office of HIV Planning's website [hivphilly.org](http://hivphilly.org). In the past the Prevention Committee has talked a lot about PrEP and have discussed some of the PrEP best practices, this way the work group is not reinventing the wheel.

M. Zeno questioned the purpose of the work group. She stated she was unsure if the group was promoting advocacy for PrEP, trying to improve uptake or if they were networking. E. Aaron replied the group will reconvene in December and the group can consider if they wish to continue meeting.

E. Aaron collected the notes from the three subgroups of the work group. She explained the recommendations would be compiled into one list and presented in the December meeting.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**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/>

**Adjournment:** Adjourned by consensus at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Stephen Budhu, staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes
- OHP Calendar
- Integrated Plan Excerpts