

**Philadelphia EMA HIV Integrated Planning Council  
Positive Committee  
Meeting Minutes of  
Monday, April 8, 2019  
12:00-2:00p.m.**

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

**Present:** 14(PH), 3(PA), (NJ)

**Staff:** Nicole Johns, Briana Morgan

**Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Introductions:** K. Carter called the meeting to order at 12:12. Those present then introduced themselves and participated in an icebreaker activity.

**Approval of Agenda:** K. Carter presented the agenda for approval. N. Johns stated that M. White had suggested that they discuss AIDSWatch under New Business. **Motion:** M. White moved, G. Thomas seconded to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes (March 11, 2019):** K. Carter presented the minutes for approval. The minutes were approved by general consensus.

**Report of Co-Chair:**

K. Carter reported that the Planning Council had voted on a reallocation request at their last meeting. He stated that they had allocated 50% of available funds to substance abuse services – outpatient and medical case management in both the PA Counties and Philadelphia.

K. Carter reported that they had held the first Thrivers meeting, and about 25 people had attended.

**Report of Staff:**

N. Johns reported that the Comprehensive Planning Committee had canceled their April meeting.

N. Johns reported that OHP was starting its listening sessions, noting that they would be in Media on Wednesday night and in Levittown on April 30. She stated that OHP had Facebook events that Positive Committee members could share. She stated that they had sent flyers out to providers in the communities, but that they could also use help promoting the events.

N. Johns stated that the Positive Committee had been talking a lot about inclusion, and that she had an idea to present to the group. She asked those present if they would like to try having their June meeting in the evening. K. Carter stated that the issue of meeting times had come up during the Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting, explaining

that daytime meeting times were a conflict for some people. He noted that both Comprehensive Planning Committee co-chairs were stepping down. He then stated that the Positive Committee was trying to be more inclusive and bring more people into the meetings. S.T. stated that the sun was out later in the spring, so she would attend a nighttime meeting. K. Carter stated that this could allow more people who work during the day to participate.

The group discussed some personal conflicts. G. Thomas noted that ACT UP met on Monday nights. J. Murdock and G. Thomas stated that a Tuesday evening meeting would avoid a conflict with ACT UP. N. Johns clarified that they were trying to do this for one meeting so that people who are not able to come to the regular meeting dates would be able to attend. The group agreed to meet on Tuesday, June 18 and began to discuss times. B. Morgan noted that she had had conversations with people who wanted to attend the meeting on Facebook, but weren't able to because they worked from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and couldn't get off work.

The group agreed to meet on Tuesday, June 18 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

K. Carter then asked the group to share posts from OHP on Facebook. He added that word of mouth really helped to get news out.

#### **Discussion Items:**

##### **Terminology of Inclusion**

N. Johns introduced the "Understanding Transgender Terminology" worksheet. The group then broke into pairs to complete the worksheet.

After some time had passed, N. Johns presented the answers to the worksheet.

N. Johns then explained that it was important for the group to discuss terminology about transgender issues, because the group wanted to be more welcoming and inclusive. She noted that she had attended a training so she would be able to share more information about trans issues with the group. She stated that she would also hand out a sheet with definitions. She noted that the Transgender Training Institute had developed the handouts, although they were currently updating their language.

N. Johns reviewed definitions for sexual orientation, biological sex, and sex assigned at birth.

N. Johns noted that there were 29 human biological sexes, including 27 different sexes that are generally referred to as "intersex." She stated that intersex people were particularly vulnerable to violence. She stated that sex assigned at birth follows people throughout their lives, including on documents like birth certificates.

N. Johns then discussed gender identity, noting that this was an internal experience. She next reviewed the definitions of cisgender and transgender. She noted that transgender people were also very vulnerable to violence and stigma. G. Thomas asked about the term

“transsexual.” N. Johns explained that this is an old term that referred to people who had completed a medical transition, but that it was no longer used.

N. Johns next reviewed gender expression, gender non-conforming, transgender woman, and transgender man. She noted that “transgender” really describes a person’s history, but it’s not always something that someone needs to know about another person.

N. Johns then reviewed definitions for medical transition, noting that not everyone who is transgender wants to or can undergo medical transition. She also discussed pubertal suppression, noting that this was also referred to as “puberty blockers.” She noted that this was only available to kids who were “insistent, consistent, and persistent.” She explained that testosterone in particular caused permanent changes to the body, so this was an option to delay puberty.

N. Johns finally discussed gender dysphoria, noting that this was the medical diagnosis that provided access to medical transition. She stated that this was included in the DSM because it was a prerequisite for insurance to cover medical transition services.

N. Johns noted that there was one more term that wasn’t included on the worksheet: non-binary. She stated that this was a person whose gender identity did not fit into the identities of man, boy, woman, or girl.

N. Johns stated that one way to respect a person’s identity is to ask what pronouns they use. She noted that sometimes we misgender a person, and that the best way to handle that is to apologize and check in if clarification is needed.

The group then shared some personal stories and broke for lunch.

## **Meaningful Involvement of People with HIV**

*Tabled.*

### **Old Business:**

None.

### **New Business:**

#### **AIDSWatch**

D. Gana reported that Robert Redfield from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had spoken at AIDSWatch. He noted that Dr. Redfield had used some stigmatizing language when speaking about people living with HIV. He stated that AIDSWatch participants received advocacy training on Monday, and went to speak with Members of Congress on Tuesday. He stated that no Members of Congress from Pennsylvania were currently on the HIV caucus.

J. Murdock reported that she had shared stories about the housing and HIV. She then described the sessions she had attended, including one on HIV and aging and an orientation for new advocates. She reported that they had gone to see Bob Casey, and that

they had met with a representative for Pat Toomey's office. D. Gana stated that they had also talked to the Members of Congress about comprehensive sexual education. He noted that he had also advocated for no cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, and no work requirements. He added that they also talked about housing as medicine.

D. Gana stated that there were about 600 people at AIDSWatch. K. Carter stated that they could also advocate to Gilead about the patent that the CDC holds on Truvada for PrEP. He explained that this money could be used to get people on PrEP who couldn't afford it otherwise.

J. Malloy stated that this was his second year at AIDSWatch, and that elected officials should be in the know about HIV. He reported that he had met with a representative from Bob Casey's office, and that he would speak more with Dwight Evans at a later date. He then said it was important to be clear about the purpose of meeting. He noted that AIDS United had put out a platform about Meaningful Involvement of People with AIDS (MIPA). N. Johns replied that the framework that the Positive Committee had been working through came from AIDS United's materials.

**Announcements:**

D. Gana announced that the next Thrivers meeting would be held on the last Saturday of the month at William Way. He stated that this was a group meeting for people who were past long-term surviving and on to thriving.

K. Carter stated that the group had agreed to write a newsletter, but that they had not made any progress. He suggested that they put the newsletter off and discuss it in May. He noted that if they had something they wanted to see in the newsletter that they could bring it into the May meeting. M. Coleman stated that the transgender terminology quiz would be good for the newsletter.

K. Carter stated that M. Coleman reminded them that they needed to be more mindful with using terms and acronyms that not everyone knew.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by general consensus at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Briana L. Morgan, staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2019
- Understanding Transgender Terminology
- MIPA Ideas and Questions
- OHP Calendar