
**Prevention Committee
Meeting Minutes of
Wednesday, June 28th, 2023
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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

Present: Keith Carter, David Gana, Gus Grannan, DJ Jack, Clint Steib (Co-chair), Emily McNamara Erica Rand, AJ Scruggs, Desiree Surplus

Guest: Mary Bouchaud (Jefferson University)

Excused: Loretta Matus (Co-chair), Debra D'alessandro

Staff: Beth Celeste, Tiffany Dominique, Sofia Moletetteri, Mari Ross-Russell, Kevin Trinh

Call to Order/Introductions: C. Steib asked everyone to introduce themselves and called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

C. Steib referred to the June 2023 Prevention Committee agenda and asked for a motion to approve. **Motion:** D. Gana motioned; G. Grannan seconded to approve the June Prevention Committee agenda via Zoom poll. **Motion passed: 4 in favor, 1 abstaining.** The June 2023 agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes (May 24th, 2023):

C. Steib referred to the May 2023 Prevention Committee minutes. **Motion:** G. Grannan motioned; D. Gana seconded to approve the May 2023 Prevention Committee meeting minutes and agenda via a Zoom poll. **Motion passed: 7 in favor.** The May 2023 Minutes were approved.

Report of Co-chairs

None.

Report of Staff

S. Moletetteri reminded the committee that allocations meetings were scheduled for next month and that the Office of HIV Planning website had been updated with materials for their preparation. The resources were accessible under the Planning Council tab in the allocations section. There, committee members and other site visitors could access an online PDF version of the 2023 Allocations Service Categories Booklet. This booklet contained all service categories and their definitions as well as additional information such as the Consumer Survey.

On the same page, S. Moletteri presented flyers for each regional meeting to the committee members. She encouraged them to distribute these flyers and encourage others to register for both segments of the regional meetings of their representation. She also provided an overview of the regional meeting format, explaining that each region would have one mandatory meeting on Tuesday and Thursday, with an optional session on Wednesday for members to ask questions.

Continuing down the page, S. Moletteri highlighted a section titled “Preparation for FY2024 Allocation Process.” This section included a PowerPoint presentation and a video created in 2020 to guide committee members through the process. Beneath the PowerPoint and video was the allocations preparation worksheet.

Following the worksheet was the FY2024 Allocations Preparation Checklist. S. Moletteri emphasized the usefulness of this checklist and briefly reviewed its contents. She mentioned a quiz available for members to test themselves prior to the meeting. Additionally, she reminded the committee members that the first allocations meeting would be for New Jersey, starting on July 11th.

Presentation:

-Aging Symposium Update-

K. Carter introduced himself and his presentation topic, focusing on his report about the HIV Summit & Symposium held on May 23rd, 2023 at the DoubleTree Hotel in King of Prussia. The event was organized by the Department of HIV Health (DHH) in collaboration with its partners. K. Carter explained that the rationale behind this event was Philadelphia's notable population of individuals aged 50 and above living with HIV. He emphasized that Philadelphia had around 15,000 residents with HIV, with 10,000 of them being over the age of 50. K. Carter attended the symposium to learn about the services available to older people with HIV.

DHH had formed partnerships with several community organizations, including LGBT Elder Initiative, Philadelphia FIGHT, Action Wellness, Positive Women’s Network, National Reunion Project, and Visible 365.

With limited in-person attendance, K. Carter noted that approximately 89 individuals participated on-site, while 21 joined online. He mentioned that the meeting format had been shaped by active community members who were involved in the planning process. The event encompassed presentations about the End the Epidemic Plan (EHE) and a keynote speech by J. Haskins, a member of the HIV Integrated Planning Council (HIPC). K. Carter praised J. Haskins for delivering an engaging and informative speech that left a positive impact on the audience. The symposium also comprised seven workshops and concluded with a panel discussion.

K. Carter outlined three main goals of the conference. Firstly, it aimed to foster constructive dialogue among the community, service providers, and social services. This goal encompassed ensuring providers were well-equipped to treat individuals with HIV, engaging community members in the process. Secondly, the conference aimed to educate providers and community members on accessing services to enhance health outcomes. Lastly, it sought to provide DHH with insights to develop services that effectively catered to the diverse aging adult population living with HIV in the Philadelphia EMA.

Following the presentation, attendees were able to participate in seven workshops. K. Carter expressed satisfaction with the active and enthusiastic participation in each workshop. Larger workshops took place in the main conference room, while smaller, more intimate workshops were held in separate rooms. The topics covered in each workshop were as follows:

- Managing HIV in Older Adults
- Benefits and Employment issues for Over 50
- Death and Dying/End of Life Issues: Healing from Trauma as Long-Term Survivors
- Criminalization of HIV/AIDS Across the Lifespan
- Medical Management of HIV in Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Older Adults with HIV
- Elder Housing Resources: Access, Safety, Understanding Vouchers vs HOPWA
- Getting your affairs in Order: Insurance (Life, LTC, etc) Wills, Advanced Directives, and Power of Attorney.

K. Carter discussed the 'Managing HIV in Older Adults' workshop, led by Dr. Schwartz. He emphasized the need for improved HIV screenings, similar to screenings for diabetes and high blood pressure, to reduce HIV-related deaths. K. Carter also highlighted the importance of community members understanding how to maintain viral suppression, defined as having fewer than 200 copies of HIV per milliliter of blood.

Transitioning to the workshops that piqued his interest, K. Carter first mentioned the 'Death and Dying/End of Life Issues: Healing from Trauma as Long-Term Survivors' workshop. He stressed the significance of preparing for death as a natural part of life. He also linked COVID-19 to memories of the early days of the HIV-AIDS epidemic. K. Carter then spoke about the 'Medical Management of HIV in Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Older Adults with HIV' workshop, praising A. Scruggs and A. Harrison for addressing barriers to treatment. Lastly, he discussed the 'Benefits and Employment Issues for those over 50' workshop, underscoring the importance of understanding available opportunities to prevent the loss of benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Afterward, K. Carter touched on the Closing Plenary, expressing gratitude to speakers such as H. Zinman and moderator A. Pacheco-Branch for engaging the audience with thought-provoking questions. He aligned with J. DeMarco's sentiments during the plenary, emphasizing the need to care for elderly people with HIV who are homeless. He highlighted the broader issues faced by homeless seniors and called for collaboration with authorities to provide necessary services.

K. Carter shared workshop links and conference resources with committee members and extended thanks to DHH's A. Thomas-Ferraioli and A. Pacheco-Branch for their hospitality and efforts in providing gender-neutral restrooms. He also recognized the Health Federation's D. D'Alessandro and her team for facilitating the meetings, ensuring chat room monitoring and seminar facilitation.

K. Carter opened the floor for questions. D. Gana inquired about access to the presentation PowerPoint and workshop links. T. Dominique explained that the presentation was available on

the HIVPhilly.org website under the Planning Council section. M. Ross-Russell asked for K. Carter's personal thoughts on the event. K. Carter noted that over 50% of the city's population with HIV was above the age of 50, with more comorbidities compared to those without HIV. He emphasized the need to address these challenges and viewed the summit as a starting point to educate the community and understand their needs. He suggested a potential follow-up, depending on funding availability. K. Carter added that the summit had not extensively covered HIV prevention messaging for individuals over 50, and he stressed the importance of targeted messaging to reduce HIV transmissions in that age group.

C. Steib asked M. Ross-Russell if a workgroup within the Prevention Committee could explore this topic further. M. Ross-Russell endorsed the idea, emphasizing that the challenges faced by individuals over 50 with HIV were distinct and required focused attention.

K. Carter noted the need for health providers to be aware of medication interactions for those with HIV, as patients might not always disclose all medications. D. Surplus shared her practice of encouraging patients to use the same pharmacy and considering all factors affecting patient health.

K. Carter raised the idea of fall detection services for seniors living alone, expressing concern for their safety. M. Ross-Russell and K. Carter discussed the feasibility of such services, considering local resources and Ryan White funding.

C. Steib thanked K. Carter and proposed seeking more information from national organizations like the Department of Aging and the National Council on Aging regarding HIV and aging. K. Carter also suggested creating a list of screenings, such as breast cancer screening, for their clients.

Action Item:

-Co-chair Election-

L. Matus and C. Steib, the co-chairs of the Prevention Committee, announced their intention to step down from their roles and began the search for new members to take over their responsibilities. C. Steib mentioned that D. Surplus had volunteered to run for L. Matus' co-chair position. C. Steib then invited D. Surplus to introduce herself and explain what she could bring to the committee.

D. Surplus introduced herself as a pharmacist with 16 years of experience at ACME Pharmacy, holding the credential of HIV Specialist (AAHIVS). She revealed her licensure in Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania and mentioned her current role as a community outreach coordinator, involving collaboration with various organizations, providers, and patients. She noted her three-year involvement with the Philadelphia HIV Integrated Planning Council and expressed her desire to leverage her background as a pharmacist and community outreach coordinator to serve the community.

C. Steib noted that L. Matus was currently on vacation and outlined two potential plans for moving forward. The first option was for either L. Matus or C. Steib to step down as co-chair, while the other would continue until a volunteer emerged. The second option involved having

three co-chairs temporarily until a replacement was found. Considering D. Surplus' availability and motivation, C. Steib proposed proceeding with the election. Following this, they would address the logistical aspects of the co-chair positions. He also mentioned that they wouldn't convene the next month due to allocations meetings, providing them time to finalize the logistics.

C. Steib initiated a roll-call vote to elect D. Surplus as the new co-chair of the Prevention Committee. D. Surplus was then placed in a separate room while the committee deliberated the topic.

K. Carter: In Favor
A. Scruggs: In Favor
C. Steib: In Favor
D. Gana: In Favor
D.J. Jack:
E. Rand: In Favor

Motion Passed: Five in favor. The motion to elect D. Surplus as co-chair of the Prevention Committee was passed.

D. Surplus rejoined the committee, and S. Moletteri communicated the committee's decision to position her as co-chair. D. Surplus expressed her honor at the appointment and her enthusiasm for taking on the role alongside her fellow committee members.

T. Dominique inquired of C. Steib about what prospective co-chairs should know if they were considering volunteering. C. Steib explained that interested individuals should reach out to L. Matus, T. Dominique, or himself. He elaborated that co-chairs have an additional meeting, separate from the regular Prevention Committee meetings, to review the agenda and brainstorm new topics. C. Steib shared his experience of overseeing significant changes as a co-chair, noting the integration of prevention efforts with HIPC, adapting PrEP concepts for Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania counties, and navigating the challenges posed by the pandemic. He expressed optimism about the fresh ideas and energy that new co-chairs would contribute to the committee.

M. Ross-Russell reminded the committee that aspiring co-chairs needed to have one year of good standing with both the committee and HIPC. K. Carter inquired about the possibility of retaining three co-chairs. M. Ross-Russell clarified that the structure of the Prevention Committee and the co-chairs' desires would determine whether they could maintain three co-chairs.

Any Other Business:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

C. Steib called for a motion to adjourn. **Motion: K. Carter motioned, and D. Gana seconded to adjourn the Prevention Committee meeting. Motion passed:** Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Trinh, staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- June 2023 Meeting Agenda
- May 2023 Prevention Committee Meeting Minutes