

**HIV Integrated Planning Council  
Positive Committee  
Monday, March 12, 2018  
12-2pm**

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

**Present:** PH (17), NJ (2), PA (2)

**Staff:** Antonio Boone, Nicole Johns, Stephen Budhu

**Call to Order:** K. Carter called the meeting to order at 12: 07pm. Those present then introduced themselves.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** K. Carter presented the minutes for approval. **Motion:** M.W. moved, J.W. seconded to approve the minutes. **Motion Passed:** All in favor.

**Report of Chair:** No Report

**Report of Staff:** N. Johns informed the committee the consumer survey is finished and copies are available in the office or on the OHP website.

A. Boone stated he has reached out to CAB members of local organizations to attend future Positive Committee meetings. These individuals have expressed interest in membership.

A. Boone notified the committee his last day at OHP would be Friday, March 16, 2018. He thanked the committee for their participation and all that they have taught him. J.M. thanked A. Boone for his staff support in the Positive Committee. He explained he was happy A. Boone has taken on the challenges that have been presented by the committee and looked to address and answer them. J. M. noted he enjoyed watching A. Boone grow as a person. The committee thanked A. Boone for his service and wished him well in his future endeavors.

**Action Items:** None

**Discussion Items:**

- **HOPWA Update**

N. Johns explained the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) in Philadelphia is expecting a \$1 million funding cut over time. The cut is expected to be in effect July, 1, 2018 and it was the result of a change in the HOPWA funding formula. N. Johns explained S. Heaven spoke on behalf of the Office of Housing and Community Development to both the Comprehensive Planning and Finance Committees to explain the effects of the cut and possible ways to offset it. The Office of Housing and Community Development asked the HIPC to cover their portion of the DEFA funding. The requested amount was \$232,000, and the HIPC voted in their March meeting to reallocate money from the DEFA emergency pharmaceutical to DEFA for housing. Initially the HIPC was reviewing the recommendation from the Finance Committee to do a proportional decrease of the EMA budget to reallocate the \$232,000 to DEFA. The Recipient suggested the money should be reallocated from DEFA emergency pharmaceutical to DEFA for housing assistance. The council moved to reallocate funding within the

DEFA category. R. L. asked if this was related to the publicized housing cuts by the federal administration. N. Johns replied yes housing funds are being cut all over the nation. J. M. suggested the HIPC needed to advocate for change like activists did in the late 80s and early 90s. He noted the formula has not been explained in a public setting like the news. J.M. asked N. Johns for comment. N. Johns stated there was a need for advocacy and people have been advocating against the housing formula change nationally. The reallocation of the \$232,000 was just the first step, but with more impending cuts and rest of the \$1 million cut tough choices may need to be made. N. Johns encouraged the Positive Committee to raise these questions in HIPC meetings and other subcommittees like the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

D. Gana notified the committee the allocation of \$232,000 was to sustain DEFA funding. This money would not be used for new housing. N. Johns noted the allocation will sustain housing for those 130 people, but the allocation did not cover the entire \$1 million cut.

N. Johns mentioned there is a Housing Advisory Board that meets monthly. M.W. stated they meet the fourth Tuesday each month at 2 pm and meetings are open to the public. The board meets on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor at 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA.

- **Spring Meetings**

A. Boone informed the committee N. Johns and he started to plan meeting activities for the Positive Committee. In April the committee will host a presentation by S. Branca and J. Browne about the new medical case management model. For the May meeting AIDS Law and the Elder Initiative have expressed interest in giving presentations. A. Boone reminded the committee a representative from the Elder Initiative has attended HIPC meetings and has spoken to the Positive Committee in the past. Other agencies have also expressed interest to attend the Positive Committee in future and give presentations. A. Boone asked the committee for comment. K. Carter suggested the committee could ask those who are affected by the HOPWA cut to attend upcoming meetings. N. Johns replied that the HIPC does not necessarily advocate.

- **Group Activity**

A. Boone invited the committee to participate in group activity. OHP staff distributed Post-its to record ideas. The committee was asked to record their answers to the following questions:

1. What are you most proud of as a Positive Committee member?
2. What do you think should be the goals of the Positive Committee?

OHP staff distributed Post-It notes to the committee to record their answers to question 1, answers for question 2 were shared aloud.

A. Boone reminded the committee of their February discussion. He noted brochures were available for the committee to give to prospective members, in order to invite them to April's meeting.

After all members displayed their responses to question 1 they shared their ideas for question 2. Ideas included:

- increasing membership
- staying alive
- more outreach about the Positive Committee
- better participation
- send flyers to groups/agencies

- newspaper advertisement/editorial
- invite youth center organizations
- more literature at meetings
- more presentations
- case managers attending (Client Services Unit)
- maintain order in the group
- letter to editor (Metro)
- give out literature to people

N. Johns asked the committee what they wanted to focus on first. J.W. suggested the committee should look to maintain order. N. Johns suggested the committee should look at recruitment. She noted A. Boone has started the process with contacting CAB members.

Question 1's ideas were arranged and grouped. After grouping A. Boone shared some of the ideas. Ideas included:

- receiving accurate information
- sharing information with community members
- making friends
- unity as a group
- OHP staff's ability to support the committee

K. Carter suggested the committee needs to improve their attendance at HIPC meetings. The committee asked what the process was to become a Positive Committee member and the process to become a HIPC member. N. Johns replied anyone who attends a meeting is a Positive Committee member, for HIPC you need to complete an application and provide tax and water clearances. The Nominations Committee is responsible for reviewing applications, they will review applications next Thursday, March 22, 2018. HIPC members are officially appointed by the Mayor's office.

K. Carter stated the committee needed to explore social media. N. Johns explained members could reach PLWH by using their personal social media accounts. A. Boone reminded the committee they can check in on Facebook when they attend HIPC and subcommittee meetings and post about upcoming meetings.

**Old Business:** J.M. stated the committee needed to be aware of current structure and activities of large ASOs. ASOs have been structured to help PLWH but sometimes do not offer services that are in the best interest of PLWH. He encouraged members to check recent local news coverage for more information.

**New Business:** A. Boone stated the city has hired a new harm reduction coordinator. He suggested the committee could request the HIPC to host a presentation from the new harm reduction coordinator. The presentation could explain what new work strategies and activities the city will do for harm reduction.

**Motion:** G.M. moved, M.C. seconded to recommend the HIPC requests a harm reduction presentation.

**Vote:** 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions. **Motion passed.**

**Announcements:** D. Gana announced there is a conference for anal health at Hahnemann University Hospital. The conference is Friday, April 20, 2018 at 8:30 am.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by general consensus at 1:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Stephen Budhu, staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes
- OHP Calendar