

Philadelphia EMA HIV Integrated Planning Council
Positive Committee
Meeting Minutes of
Monday, May 13, 2019
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

Present: PH (12), NJ (3)

Guest: David Griffith

Call to Order:

K. Carter called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. The group then introduced themselves and participated in an icebreaker activity.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: J. Whitfield moved, M. Coleman seconded to approve the agenda. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: J. Whitfield moved, M. Coleman seconded to approve the April 2019 meeting minutes. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

Report of Chair:

K. Carter reported that AIDS Education Month would be in June. He noted that there would not be an opening session, but that there would be more events throughout the month. He stated that registration could be completed with a paper form, and that registration and the schedule is also [available online](#).

K. Carter reminded those present that the next Positive Committee meeting would be held the evening of June 18, 2019, rather than at the regular time. He stated that the Executive Committee had discussed the possibility of holding more evening meetings, and that this June Positive Committee meeting would be a pilot for evening meetings. He asked the group to tell others about the special June meeting.

K. Carter reported that he had attended the Listening Session in Bucks County, and that it was important for people to attend these events when they are scheduled in the future. N. Johns noted that she and K. Carter would be returning to Bucks County to visit a support group in the coming weeks.

Report of Staff:

N. Johns reported that the HIV Integrated Planning Council (HIPC) would host a social right after their June 13 meeting. She noted that they were asking people to RSVP so there would be enough food for everyone. K. Carter encouraged the group to tell their friends about the social.

N. Johns noted that flyers were available for the June Positive Committee meeting.

N. Johns reported that Amy Hueber from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health would be coming to OHP to conduct surveys during the regular Positive Committee meeting time on June 10 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. She noted that eligible participants would receive a \$20 CVS gift card for completing a twenty-minute survey, and that surveys would be first-come, first-served.

D. Griffith stated that there was a new Thrivers support group for people who were long-term survivors as well their caretakers. He noted that they were addressing the elements that helped people to thrive as they got older. He stated that the Thrivers event on Saturday, May 25 would cover financial issues.

D. Griffith reported that the LGBT Elder Initiative would also host a Resilient Aging event at Friends Center on Saturday, June 1.

Finally, D. Griffith reported that the Center in the Park in Germantown was launching an Aging Mastery Program for ten weeks on Thursday mornings. He noted that this program was specifically for a 55+ LGBT audience.

Action Item:

Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV (PLWH) – Recommendations

K. Carter stated that the group had been working on these activities for several months, and that the group would be making recommendations today.

N. Johns asked those present to review the list of ideas that the Positive Committee had previously had to increase the meaningful involvement of people with HIV/AIDS (*see – attached handout*). She stated that she had grouped the ideas into four main topics: representation, programs/services, access/resources/assistance, and outreach/recruitment/community engagement.

N. Johns stated that everyone in the room had received a sticker, and that they would separate into two groups based on these stickers. Once those present separated into two groups, each group was assigned two categories of ideas to work with. N. Johns asked each group to develop three action items for each category they were assigned. She directed the group to review the questions listed on the back of the handout.

Those present broke to complete the group activity. After about thirty minutes, the group reconvened.

N. Johns suggested that the Positive Committee bring their ideas to the full HIV Integrated Planning Council (HIPC) at their June 13 meeting. She noted that they could then ask the HIPC to endorse their ideas. She explained that the Positive Committee could do anything they would like for ideas that would only affect the Positive Committee, but that they would want to ask the HIPC to vote on anything that would impact the entire HIPC.

K.M. reported back from her group. She provided the following ideas for action items: create a survey for times and dates for all meetings, hold group calls at least twice a week, and do

presentations with people who are disabled, people experiencing homelessness, LGBTQ populations, youth, and people with substance abuse disorder. G. Thomas explained that they wanted to do group calls so they could keep in touch with one another. K.M. stated that they should ask the HIPC about these ideas, and that people living with HIV should lead the community. She noted that they would know if they were succeeding by revisiting their action items in three months. N. Johns suggested that they reevaluate at 3, 6, and 12 months, since some of these things would take a while to have an impact. G. Thomas stated that they could see how many more people they got to meetings through these activities.

J. Murdock then reported back from her group. She shared three actions: translate documents for Positive Committee into Spanish, provide sign language interpretation if needed, and find opportunities for people to mentor others in the community. She stated that they had identified the School for the Deaf as an organization to work with the deaf/hard of hearing community, and the Critical Path Learning Center for people looking for mentorship. She went on to say that Esperanza, Congreso de Latinos Unidos, and ACT UP could all help with outreach to Spanish-speaking communities. She stated that success would look like Spanish-speaking and deaf individuals attending Positive Committee meetings, and seeing more people they had never seen before. She added that the Executive Committee should also discuss doing more outreach in New Jersey and the PA Suburban Counties, including phone calls, emails, and flyers about webinars and meetings that people can call into.

N. Johns stated that she would compile these ideas for the group, so that they would be able to present the information to the Planning Council in June. G.B. volunteered to help with the presentation.

The group then broke for lunch.

Discussion Items:

- **Planning June Meeting**

N. Johns stated that Kevin Moore would come to the June meeting to talk about how people can take care of their own mental health. She stated that K. Moore has been working with people with substance use disorder and people with HIV for many years, and that this would be more of a conversation than a formal presentation. She went on to say that OHP had also been contacted by ACT UP about coming to share information about a symposium they would be hosting over the summer. She noted that OHP would provide pizza at the meeting.

N. Johns stated that they wanted to get new people, and asked if anyone from the group would be willing to volunteer as greeters. She went on to say that it could be helpful to have people in the hallways to direct new folks. G. Thomas volunteered to be a greeter. N. Johns asked those who would like to help to sign up on a piece of paper.

N. Johns then asked the group if there was anything specific that they would like to see happen at the June 18 meeting. G. Thomas stated that she would like to see some of their ideas put into action, and that she would like to do more with presentations. The group agreed that they should do some advocacy skills-building. N. Johns stated that mental health conversation would probably be about 45 minutes, and that ACT UP's presentation might be

about 15 – 20 minutes. She noted that they would also need time for pizza and introductions. The group agreed that they should spend about 45 minutes talking about advocacy. N. Johns asked the group if they would like to plan a workshop on advocacy that they could invite the new folks to attend. K. Carter, G.B., Gail, Jeanette, and K.M. agreed to help with this.

The group agreed that they should make a survey about availability for meetings.

The group agreed to spread the word about the June meeting. N. Johns asked everyone to emphasize RSVPing so they could make sure they have food and meeting materials for everyone. She then asked the group where else they could do outreach for this meeting. J. Murdock stated that she could reach out to a women’s group. K.M. suggested reaching out to the Institute for Community Justice (ICJ). The group agreed that they should make a Facebook event for the meeting. N. Johns noted that OHP would put it on their newsletter as well. J. Murdock said she could post about it on Twitter. K. Carter asked those present to share messages from OHP on social media.

- **Outreach at the Prevention Summit**

N. Johns stated that OHP would have a table at the Prevention and Education Summit, and that they would advertise the June Positive Committee meeting. She noted that they would survey people at the table regarding meeting times. She asked if people had other ideas and invited them to come by and help. She stated that she could provide “Ask me about the Positive Committee” stickers again this year. G.B. volunteered to walk around and hand out flyers during the Summit. K.M. asked if they could be trained on communications, including LGBT terminology, so they talk more effectively about the Positive Committee. K. Carter noted that N. Johns had provided this training, and that they could do it again. N. Johns asked anyone who would like support in that area before June to speak with her, so they could identify a time to do a webinar or phone call. She stated that it sounded like the group was interested in doing some ongoing skills-building, so she could reach out to people with expertise in related skills. K. Carter stated that there are often webinars that are open to anyone to attend, and that there is always something to learn from webinars.

K. Carter stated that they would collect information about learning opportunities for the next meeting. N. Johns noted that these resources were sometimes posted on OHP social media and in OHP newsletters.

N. Johns noted that they would have materials to hand out at the OHP table, and asked anyone who wanted to hand them out to stop by the table.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Announcements:

G. Thomas announced that Critical Path would hold a “chat and chew” event on May 21 from 3 – 4 p.m.

M. Coleman announced that several organizations would be cohost Women in Reentry Day at City Hall the following day at 1:30p.m.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by general consensus at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Briana L. Morgan, staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2019
- MIPA Ideas and Questions
- Meeting Calendar