

**Philadelphia HIV Integrated Planning Council
Positive Committee
Meeting Minutes of
Monday, January 14, 2019
12:00-2:00p.m.**

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

Present: 13 (PH), 2 (PA), 4 (NJ)

Guests: Tahira Tyler (AACO)

Staff: Nicole Johns, Briana Morgan, Dustin Fitzpatrick

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Introductions: K. Carter called the meeting to order at 12:07. Those present then introduced themselves.

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

Approval of Minutes (*December 10, 2018*): K. Carter presented the minutes for approval. **Motion:** J.W. moved, M.W. seconded to approve the December 10, 2018 minutes. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

Report of Co-Chair:

None.

Report of Staff:

N. Johns introduced the new staff member D. Fitzpatrick. N. Johns informed the Committee members that the PrEP Workgroup is on January 16th at 2:00 PM and encouraged members to come. D.G. informed the Committee members that the meeting will be a summation of everything that the Workgroup has done over the last year. N. Johns informed members that the Comprehensive Planning Committee is meeting January 17th at 2:00 PM and they will talk about priority setting Ryan White services. N. Johns further stated that if any of the Committee members want to talk about services or the needs of the community that they should attend.

Discussion Item:

Meaningful Involvement of People with HIV

N. Johns reminded the Committee that they did the first page of the handout last month and informed those who were not present on the previous meeting's discussion. N. Johns stated that this inquiry is looking at how PLWH are incorporated in leading and designing, all things related to the Planning Council. N. Johns explained that the Comprehensive Planning Committee asked for Positive Committee to do this work. N. Johns stated that the general gist from the inquiry last month is that for the most part the Planning Council does well, but needs improvement in several places, like talking about how PLWH are participating in decision making and how specific communities are not as

involved or as represented as they would like such as trans folks, youth, and LGBTQ communities. The Committee also talked about getting general information about the Planning Council and ways to do that. In general, the Committee wants to see more PLWH on the Planning Council.

N. Johns informed the group that they will reconvene next month to talk about specific areas to improve upon and populations to outreach to. Then the Committee will take the plan to the Planning Council so that they can hear all their ideas and direct them as appropriate to the Committees. K. Carter stated that the Committee needs to get more people involved in the process. He suggested possibly doing more social media and something on the radio. N. Johns informed the Committee that OHP staff were thinking of some ideas as well.

N. Johns described the purpose of the next section to Committee members, which is to foster the meaningful involvement of PLWH and affected communities in the Planning Council's work.

J.W. read the first question, which asked if the organizational environment foster non-discrimination and values the contributions of PLWH and affected communities.

M.W. stated that he does not think they can speak on diversity within the Committee because there is not enough diversity. N. Johns explained that the question is more so about the environment and if it fosters non-discrimination. N. Johns suggested to really think about the Planning Council and the Committee meetings. M.W. stated that the Planning Council can come across a little condescending with the terminology and paperwork that they use and it can be hard to understand. M.C. said that it is important to know that organizations have structural barriers. He stated that it is difficult to answer the question. N. Johns agreed with M.C. and thought it was worth noting, but urged for the Committee members to think about the Planning Council and the Positive Committee, specifically. K. Carter said that the Planning Council does a good job. N. Johns polled the members on how many thought it was a yes. Most of the Committee members said yes, but N. Johns gathered from the room that it could be improved. K. Carter seconded N. Johns' general consensus of the room.

G.T. read the second question which asked if the organization recognizes and encourages the involvement of a diverse range of PLWH and members of the affected communities in their work. G.T. stated that the Committee takes the information out but people are not really listening to the message. D.G. said that the members are reaching out and encouraging people to get involved but agreed with G.T. that some do not heed the message.

D.G. read the third question which asked if the organization ensures that PLWH and people from the affected communities have a variety of roles at different levels within the Council. M.W. said that everyone has an opportunity to be at all levels if they so please. A community member agreed that it needs improvement.

M.W. read the fourth question which asked if the organization clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of PLWH and members of the affected communities. Most members said yes. G.T. qualified that as long as the Council defines the role when they take the position. D.G. explained that the question is talking about a position as a PLWH, not within the Council as a chair. M.W. said that the Council does a lot of networking and asked if Committee members go out and share with other organizations. He provided the example of disseminating information to AIDS Watch. N. Johns reconvened the Committee and said from what she gathered from the conversation is that it is a no and it needs improvement. She further stated that the Committee needs to come up with roles for the Positive Committee members and asked members to remember that for next meeting.

J.W. read the fifth question which asked if the organization supports the capacity of PLWH and members of the affected communities to fulfill those roles, an example being providing financial support and mentoring.

N. Johns said that the answer had to be no because the answer to the previous question was a no and this question referred to that. N. Johns informed the group that the staff will be doing some training about some leadership development and through this, will be able to develop mentoring programs.

K. Carter read the last question which asked if the organization supports capacity building within PLWH and affected community organizations and networks.

J.W. said yes. M.W. seconded that and said that the Council does support the network. K. Carter thought that the Council needs improvement. He stated that the organization is not working enough in the Latino community or the West African community, as examples. N. Johns informed the members that capacity building can be skills or training for the Planning Council, or mentoring. She emphasized that the question is really whether members have the tools and support they need to do the work for the Council. She further stated that it is about outside groups that the Council can support. K. Carter suggested for members to possibly attend other organizations meetings to see what their needs are. K. Carter asked if that is another 'needs improvement' answer and all Committee members agreed.

N. Johns said that the group will next prioritize things that were brought up and develop suggestions for the Council. K. Carter inquired about getting the chairs for each Committee to attend Positive Committee to understand the roles of each Committee.

K. Carter asked for any comments on the involvement and how to be a part of the process. He further asked how the Committee can have a better, stronger voice. G.T. stated that they have exhausted every way possible. She further stated that they cannot force people to participate. R.W. stated that there are still communities that have a lot of their own problems. He specifically mentioned how Black churches are strong in the Black communities and he urged for members to think about how they need to get them to see that HIV is a problem. G.T. stated that stigmatization is still strong and that people

are mislabeling what HIV actually is. M.G. said that the general consensus is not really that important and how receptive people are to the information really should not be the concern. He further stated the main thing is that the message is out there.

J.M. said that the Committee needs to be more persistent in what they do. She stated that there are some people that are listening and some that yawn in their face. She further stated that persistence is key and to keep trying to get people to come out and understand what they are trying to do. She emphasized that the group in the room is living proof that HIV is something that can be lived with. D.G. agreed with J.M. that it is persistence. J.M. mentioned an example of where she consoled someone at a bus stop and told the person that it is not the end of the world and informed the person of programs and resources that they can get into.

Newsletter

N. Johns passed around previous Committee newsletters to the group so they can brainstorm any ideas about what they want the future newsletters to look like. She asked the members to think about a topic or issue that may be good in the newsletter. She also asked the group to think about audience and who we need to reach. Each member was given two sticky notes and asked to share one idea on each note.

N. Johns reviewed their suggestions. A few members mentioned youth, interviewing other committee members, how the Trump administration is affecting healthcare especially for PLWH, and information for newly infected folks. Other members mentioned testing locations and mental health services. Members of the Committee thought that the newsletter should include housing, safe sex, with many members expressing a need for a calendar of events as well. M.W. stated that the Committee should do feedback on calendar events after people attend.

N. Johns asked the group who should the personal features be about. R.W. stated that they should do features on other people in the community and he wanted more of a community wide focus for the newsletter. D.G. asked if the newsletter should be encouraging people to come into the committee or if it was just for the committee. The group affirmed that they want to include interviews of people in the newsletter, including features of Committee members and members of the Planning Council.

N. Johns suggested that they should start with 2 to 3 pages and incorporate images or drawings, but the Committee will remain open to increasing the length in the future.

MG. asked how the newsletter would be distributed and if it would be free. N. Johns clarified that it will be free and that staff could put it on the OHP website and staff could also mail them out to the Ryan White providers. R.W. suggested that members could disseminate the newsletters to doctors' offices or clinics.

N. Johns emphasized that this is the Positive Committee Newsletter and that the bulk of work should be coming from the Committee members. N. Johns inquired who would be interested in helping with the newsletter. 10 members expressed interest. N. Johns will

reach out to the members who expressed interest later to come up with official plans for the newsletter. N. Johns stated that anyone is welcome to join later if they want to do so.

Guests: T. Tyler (AACO)

T. Tyler introduced herself to the group as the Client Services Social Work Supervisor with AACO and informed the Committee members that if they need to request help or know of anyone else that needs help, mainly for medical services, that they can call the hot-line. She further stated that if they know anyone who needs linkages to services such as PrEP or have general questions about HIV to call them at 215-985-2437. M.G. asked T. Tyler if AACO no longer does Housing. T. Tyler confirmed that it is official and they do not handle the application process. She informed the Committee that the City of Philadelphia decided to unite all Housing together to serve as a one-stop shop. She explained that the community can still feel free to call them with concerns or issues and AACO will try to connect members with the right persons to address them. K. Carter informed the group of the HOPWA meeting taking place the next day and that if any of the Committee members had concerns about housing, that meeting would be the place to address them. DEFA can help with housing and utility needs, but T. Tyler elaborated that those who contact them would need a Ryan White card.

The committee expressed concern over housing and the government shutdown. T. Tyler informed the group that if anyone is affected by the government shutdown, that they should contact AACO or their Case Manager to see if they qualify for assistance.

T. Tyler offered to contribute to the newsletter if she had relevant information.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Announcements:

None.

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Dustin Fitzpatrick

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2018
- Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV Assessment Tool
- OHP Calendar