Capital Region ETE Steering Committee Meeting
Zoom Call June 15, 2021

Attendees List:
1. Amanda Ahrens – Benefits Counselor, Legal Aid Society of NENY
2. Amy Palma, Unity House of Troy
3. Ashley Smith, Peer Advocate, Albany Medical Center
4. Brittni Gulotti - Public Affairs & Volunteer Coordinator Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood
5. Diane DeGroat, Senior Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY
6. Donna Muller – PreP Coordinator, Albany Medical Center
7. John Hartigan, AIDS Institute, Bureau of Community Support Services
8. Kate Thorpe – SCCAYA, Albany Medical Center
9. Lauren Quinn Albany Med Specialized Care Center
10. Lyndsi Wickert- Albany Damien Center, Employment Pathways
11. Megan Green, RN Albany Medical Center
12. Meghan Thompson, Retention Adherence Specialist, Ellis Medicine
13. Melissa Carbone, Hudson Headwaters Health Network
14. Morgan Williams – Enrollment Specialist Alliance for Positive Health
15. Scott Daly – Consumer & Peer Educator, Ellis Family Health
16. Steve Sawicki – NY Links, NYS DOH
17. Suzanne Beattie – Associate Executive Director of Programs, Albany Damien Center
18. Charmaine Graham, BX ETE
19. Kyla Loucks – Albany Medical Center
20. Perry Junjulas - Executive Director & PWA, Albany Damien Center
21. Robert Modest -
22. Sue Johnson, PrEP Specialist, Whitney Young Health
23. Jeff Hotaling, Alliance for Positive Health

Call to Order – Kyla Loucks welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

A motion to accept the minutes of May 18, 2021 was made by Lyndsi Holmes-Wickert and seconded by Lauren Quinn.

Legislative Update – Perry Junjulas
- Governor decriminalized carrying syringes, used or unused.
- Gender Bill did pass, can now put an X as gender marker
- Age-Appropriate Sexual Education Bill not passed but hoping this will be a priority next session

Committee Updates

Youth Committee – Lauren Quinn
- Last meeting was on 5/27/21, no one attended, trying to recruit youth. Finalized flyer and will share flyer to try to recruit more youth to attend. Next Meeting 6/24/2021.

Agency Updates

NY Links – Steve Sawicki
- 4 Part Self Care Session - This Friday then on 6/25 then every 2 weeks
- Working on discussion statewide with vaccine hesitancy with HIV, there will be info out shortly with different ways to approach this.
Everything is still totally virtual but hoping to get back to in person meetings in the Fall
QI conundrums call in to the panel of experts “Stump the Chumps”
Interviewed Program Manager/Consumer Affairs, hope to have this filled by fall, if not sooner
Email Steve if you want to get on the list for upcoming meetings. Steven.Sawicki@health.ny.gov

PrEP Committee – Sue Johnson
- Meeting in May consisted of Jeff, Donna & Sue. Looking for more people to join committee
- Throat & rectal chlamydia & gonorrhea is very high especially in Schenectady County, typically no symptoms
- Next meeting is June 23rd at 4pm at Whitney Young.
- As COVID restrictions have been lifted Sue has been out & about. We need to step up education especially in Schenectady County
- PEP Hotline is open 24/7 1-844-737-4669

Legal Aid Society – Diane DeGroat
- Emergency rental assistance program is up & running
- August 31st eviction moratorium for those who have completed the hardship application
- Feel free to contact Diane with any questions

Legal Aid Society Benefits Counseling – Amanda Ahrens
- Providing help with advance planning documents

Albany Med – Kate Thorpe
- Offering free confidential HIV testing next week – call ahead

Unity House of Troy, Amy Palma
- 50th Anniversary Celebration Family Fun Day – July 18th from 1p-4p at the NE Career Planning location in Menands*raffles * petting zoo *

AIDS Institute – John Hartigan
- 2 Contract Management positions have been filled
- NYC contract management positions are open
- Aging Workgroup for those over 50, no limit on how long they have had HIV
- There was a recent survey sent out. Survey results will be available by the end of 2021
- A goal is to have resources for aging & long-term survivors
- https://aginghiv.org

Albany Damien Center – Perry Junjulas
- Will be reopening on 6/21/2021 requiring masks and limited seating in dining room – this is subject to change as restrictions ease up

Alliance for Positive Health – Jeff Hotaling
- Testing program still going
- Van was out, went to Pride events
- COVID policies remain the same
- Talking about transition to in person meetings
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Planned Parenthood – Brittni Gulotti  
- Seeing majority of patients in the office  
- Several telehealth appointments are available for the same day/same week  
- Still doing the Digital Access Program, just have to make sure they have private spaces  
- More in person outreach – went to Pride this past weekend and will be attending Juneteenth events next weekend

Whitney Young – Sue Johnson  
- Walk In vaccination clinic on Tuesday 3p-6p and Thursday 9a-11a  
- Whitney Young mobile unit is back out has gone to Interfaith, Shelters and Substance Abuse Programs  
- Populations who are getting older seem to be hesitant about the vaccination

Goal Setting for Sub Committees Heads  
- Encourage you to invite more voices to the table, invite at least 1 person to a meeting

Meeting adjourned at 10:21am  

ETE Capital Region Meetings are from 9 AM to 10:30 AM on the 3rd Tues of each month  

Next ETE Meeting is Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Contact information
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ETE Webpage at http://www.albanydamiencenter.org/capital-region-ete.html