

Capital Region Ending the Epidemic Meeting
Albany Damien Center, 728 Madison Ave, Suite 100, Albany
October 15, 2019

Attendees List:

1. Mary Ellen Adams – Specialized Care Center for Adolescents & Young Adults Med at Albany Medical Center
2. Cassandra Aiken – Catholic Charities
3. Wes Burton – Albany Damien Center
4. Callee Carpenter – Albany Medical Center
5. Diane DeGroat – Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
6. Jeannie Haller – Ellis Family Health Center
7. Susan Johnson – Whitney Young Health
8. Perry Junjulas – Albany Damien Center
9. Kyla Loucks – Albany Medical Center
10. Donna Muller – Albany Medical Center
11. Kate Sorensen - ACDOH
12. Erika Walker – Hudson Headwaters Health
13. Geri Walsh – Albany Damien Center
14. Christine Wasik – Albany Medical Center
15. Kate Wells – Albany Medical Center
16. Lyndsi Wickert – Albany Damien Center

Call to Order – Perry Junjulas, called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

Minutes Review:

- **Motion –Chris Wasik motioned to approve the September minutes. Donna Muller seconded. All were in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.**
- Legislative Report – Perry Junjulas,
 - Perry stated:
 - They are still meeting and pushing the majority of the items that have previously been spoken about. The Supreme Court of the United States will hear arguments in three cases that will ultimately determine if Title VII offers protection from employment discrimination to members of the LGBTQ+ community. There is a lot of activism going on in support of this.
 - The Damien Center was able to add a page for the ETE Steering Committee to its website. The pages will have contact information, dates/times for meetings, resources, links, and other information as presented by the sub-committees.
 - In previous meetings, the committee has discussed having a specific ETE e-mail for the webpage. Perry asked the committee if we still wanted to pursue this. If an e-mail was created through the Damien Center, it would have their domain attached to it. Perry also stated that instead we could put the co-chair's emails on each sub-committee page.
 - Donna agreed that this would be beneficial due to allowing inquiries to go to the correct individuals.
 - Sub-committee co-chairs will check in with one another in regards to this.

Committee Reports

- Youth Sub – committee report – Mary Ellen Adams & Hanna Gaschott, Co-Chairs
 - Mary Ellen stated she will send Wes the minutes for the September meeting. The Youth want to put a logo, text description, and website on the palm cards. They spoke about World AIDS Day. The next meeting falls during PrEP Awareness Week on October 24th at the Alliance. They have discussed having PrEP programming during the meeting with a guest speaker for Q&A and use Alliance lower conference room to accommodate a larger group. Lyndsi offered that a person from Damien Center may be able to come as guest speaker to talk about PrEP.
 - Perry asked if Mary Ellen has a quote for the cost of the printing of the palm cards.

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- Mary Ellen stated she will speak with Hannah about this.
 - Perry suggested to the committee that if anyone else has a funding request, they could put them all together for a larger ask.
 - Please e-mail Perry with this request.
- Adult HIV Testing Sub – committee report – Chris Wasik & Kyla Loucks, Co-Chairs
 - Chris stated Kyla will send over the HIV/STD Testing Site Options list to Wes to be added to the resources on the ETE Steering Committee’s webpage.
 - Donna asked Chris and Kyla if they had received the new times and sites for the Alliance for Positive Health. Donna will send this over to Kyla.
- Linkage & Navigation Sub – committee Report –Steve Sawicki and Darren Truax, Co-Chairs
 - Perry asked if anyone attended the NYLinks meeting in September?
 - Callie stated they had a great PrEP presentation and a Train the Trainer session. It was very informative and beneficial. Lyndsi stated the data was very good and useful. She also really enjoyed the agency storyboard presentations.
- PrEP Sub-committee report – Donna Muller & Sue Johnson, Co-Chairs
 - Donna stated they have been speaking about what they are doing for PrEP Awareness Week. There is a great website <https://www.prepforsex.org/>. On Tuesday, 10/22/2019 they will be doing a Facebook Live interactive session.
 - Sue expanded, stating they will have a live chat speaking in real-time, the audience will type in questions and they will answer.
 - Perry asked who is the moderator.
 - Sue and Donna believe it will be Jeff with the Alliance.
 - Diane Degroat was curious if there are materials that are already prepared. They are happy to put out information.
 - Donna answered that there are resources available on <https://www.prepforsex.org/>. There are some you can print out and cards you can personalize.
 - Diane requested if anyone has information, flyers, and/or other items they would like to put out. Donna said she would get some of their information over to Diane.
 - Perry added that he received an email from Shane at the Alliance, they may have extra resources.
 - Donna stated Gilead put together a great kick-off for Descovy and spoke about the data. Their providers are showing that Descovy is better than Truvada.
 - Perry asked how the lack of testing in women will impact it being prescribed and how questions are being answered about this.
 - Donna stated over 4,370 individuals were included in the testing. They had 45 transgender women, and unfortunately no cisgender women (that means that 25% of patients may not be prescribed this safer drug).
 - Perry asked how can the messaging be improved to increase women’s use of PrEP. He also inquired if doctors will prescribe Descovy due to the lack of testing in women.
 - Mary Ellen said they can go off label. She feels the majority may have an issue prescribing the new drug.
 - Perry asked how do we feel as a committee about this?
 - Donna stated there is research in the works. However, this could take time.

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- Perry said it is similar to U=U, the research was only done with sexual intercourse and not with needle-sharing partners.
 - Perry said on a statewide call they were asking about PrEP Week, and the NYS Health Department wanted to really emphasize the importance of PrEP and the week devotion will hopefully reach more people.
 - The next meeting is Wednesday, October 30th at 4:00 PM at Whitney Young.
 - HAB update
 - Chris stated next week is the beginning of the new year for HAB. They are meeting in Syracuse on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Recently things have been on hold until after next week. They have one new member in this region.
 - Erika stated Zoya Hyatt is the new member.
 - Perry stated that the World AIDS Day registration is up and live. It will be on December 3rd and 4th. We are asking everyone to promote it. It will bring a lot of people from around the state. We will be setting up the NY Capital Region Chapter of the Names Project quilts.
 - Perry stated that World AIDS Day is on a Sunday this year. Perry asked if anyone on the committee is aware of events happening on December 1st, the actual World AIDS Day.
 - No one stated any events. If anyone is made aware of any, please let Perry know.
- Old Business
 - No old business
- New Business
 - No new business
- Agency Updates
 - Sue stated they are back to being fully staffed. They have two new HIV case managers, they are still looking for a full-time social worker.
 - Kate Wells stated if anyone needs a Flu shot to call them first, prior to coming in.
 - Donna reiterated to call ahead of time for a flu shot.
 - Kate said if they decide on a clinic she'll forward the information out.
 - Perry suggested doing a clinic at the Albany Damien Center.
 - Mary Ellen suggested asking Town Total if they do flu shots.
 - Donna also stated they may be able to do flu shots at the Damien Center.
 - Mary Ellen said she attended the Teen Adult Coalition meeting last week, sponsored by the Alliance. It was very well attended by youth. The youth felt strongly that there need to be programs that are geared towards parents and the community. Mary Ellen said they are considering doing programming for this in the future.
 - Everyone agreed about the importance of having local stats.
 - Erika stated at the beginning of the year they are looking to pilot a program where they will be leaving testing kits at either a library or pharmacy for individuals to take and use themselves. The kits will have information and resources.
 - Kate asked about concerns with individuals seeing that the result was reactive and them not being responsive to this.
 - Erika said it does give up some control, however, it's best for people to know.
 - Diane is back and doing intakes. It is the same process as before. People may call her directly at 518-533-5930 or call the mainline at 518-462-6765 x 340. If you need to fax, please use the number 518-427-8352.

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- Perry stated the Damien Center will be partnering with Legal Aid and Albany Law to help provide counseling assistance with families affected by HIV and AIDS. The family's need to include a child under the age of 24 and one family member needs to be HIV positive. Peg Stucky will be providing counseling, grief support, and other areas of support. If anyone has families that need assistance please contact the Damien Center, Legal Aid or Albany Law.
 - Jeannie stated that Ellis will have a Q and A to educate the physicians further for PrEP Awareness Week
 - **Meeting Adjourned** at 10:06 AM
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Next ETE Capital Region Meetings are from 9 AM to 10:30 AM on

November 19th

Next NY LINKS Meetings are from 10:30 to 2 PM on

December 17th

Contact information

Perry Junjulas PerryJ@AlbanyDamienCenter.org 518-449-7119 x102 or 518-961-0071 (cell)