

Capital Region Ending the Epidemic Meeting
Albany Damien Center, 728 Madison Ave, Suite 100, Albany
July 16, 2019

Attendees List:

1. Wes Burton – Albany Damien Center
2. Brittni Gulloty – Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood
3. Sarah Hoyt – NYS Dept of Health
4. Susan Johnson – Whitney Young Health
5. Claire Mone – AIDS Institute
6. Donna Muller – Albany Medical Center
7. Ivy Shoulders – Albany Medical Center
8. Jay Shufelt – Albany Damien Center
9. Michael Starr – Catholic Charities
10. Darren Truax – Catholic Charities
11. Erika Walker – Hudson Headwaters Health
12. Geri Walsh – Albany Damien Center
13. Christine Wasik – Albany Medical Center
14. Kate Wells – Albany Medical Center
15. Lyndsi Wickert – Albany Damien Center

Call to Order – Chris Wasik, called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

Minutes Review:

- **Motion – Sue Johnson motioned to approve the June minutes. Lyndsi Wickert seconded. All were in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.**
 - Darrin asked who would be best to speak to about joining the Linkage & Navigation Sub-committee. Chris will connect Darrin to Steve Kinley.
 - Michael asked if we knew who spoke out against the testing law from the previous minutes in the NY Post.
 - Erika read aloud the article from the NY Post. The link is below:
 - <https://nypost.com/2019/05/17/the-wrong-way-to-improve-hiv-testing/>
- Legislative Report – Perry Junjulas, (report provided)
 - Chris highlighted about #5:
 - NYS became the 6th State to ban what is called the “transgender panic” or “gay panic” defenses, in which murder or assault defendants have used the excuse of “loss of self-control” after finding out a victim’s sexual orientation or gender. This legal defense has now been banned at the state level in New York, California, Illinois, Connecticut, Nevada, Rhode Island. Housing Works participated in an April advocacy day in support of this bill.
- Committee Reports
 - Youth Sub – committee report – Mary Ellen Adams & Hanna Gaschott, Co-Chairs
 - In the absence of Mary Ellen and Hanna, Lyndsi stated she was on the phone for the last meeting.
 - There was a large conversation on recruiting new members, especially young people involved in the committee.
 - They also are focusing on a two-three sentence blurb of the committee.
 - Mary Ellen is working with Perry about who would be the contact and whose email would be used.
 - The next meeting is July 25th at the Alliance.
 - Adult HIV Testing Sub – committee report – Chris Wasik & Kyla Loucks, Co-Chairs
 - Kate stated:
 - National HIV Testing Day went well. They did tests at Albany Med and different locations.
 - Kyla worked with the marketing team to get good promotions for the day.
 - They are going to another senior center in Troy on Thursday.
 - They did a senior health fair in May.

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- Donna stated there were mixed reviews from seniors. Moving forward they have a senior event in October to have an influx of seniors. It will target more active seniors.
 - Erika stated they should set up next to funeral homes; With a tagline of “your not dead yet”.
- They also had a discussion about dating apps, and how easily people are able to connect for sex. They are looking at ways of getting information to individuals that utilize these apps.
 - One thought was possibly looking at being incorporated at speed dating events in the area.
 - Chris highlighted about when the Damien Center went to bars to do testing.
 - Sue asked about how the Alliance did testing at the bathhouse in Rensselaer.
 - Chris said that the Alliance had an agreement to be able to do testing.
 - Other recommendations were to utilize a snapchat element and work with bars.
 - Darrin shared a positive experience. He was doing an intake with a client. The client had never had an HIV test. They went to Project Safe Point.
 - The client did not get on PrEP yet, but is going to discuss with his doctor.
 - Erika asked if anyone does testing at colleges?
 - Kate stated that they get mixed messages.
 - Erika suggested getting in touch with the head nurse at the college clinics or if they have a dorm master at the dorms.
 - Linkage & Navigation Sub – committee Report –Steve Sawicki, Chairs
 - The meeting for today has been cancelled. The next one will be September 17th.
 - PrEP Sub-committee report – Donna Muller & Sue Johnson, Co-Chairs
 - Sue stated they meet the last Friday in June. They spoke about focusing on more awareness in communities. They spoke about partnering with other programs; In Our Own Voice was an example. They also discussed taking the PrEP Forum further North or go the college/university route.
 - Erika stated she spoke with a nurse at a jail. All inmates are using one communal pair of nail clippers, and they can contract Hep C.
 - Sue stated they are seeing people who go to jail Hep C negative, come out positive.
 - Chris said she will bring this up at the HAB meeting.
 - STD Elimination Sub-Committee –
 - Currently there are not any updates to report.
 - Old Business
 - No old business
 - New Business
 - No new business
 - Agency Updates
 - Darrin said they had 8 successful discharges. The majority went back to the Health Home with regular health coordination. They have a few openings at Health Home Plus.
 - Claire Mone stated the October HAB in Syracuse is taking place at the Genesee Grande Hotel on October 23 and 24 and is focused on Advisory Body team building, AIDS Institute priorities and planning the year ahead as this will be the first meeting for almost 20 new members.
 - Chris announced they have a new PrEP Case Manager that will begin on August 5th. Her name is Callie. The next Cab (Community Advisory Board meeting is in September, she’ll send out information. The United

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Tenants are coming to speak about tenants' rights. In November they will have the Damien Center Employment Pathways staff to speak at the CAB meeting. They also have a new nurse practitioner named Will.

- Lyndsi requested if anyone would like to have Employment Pathways come out to present, please contact her or Geri.

- **Meeting Adjourned** at 10:23AM
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Next ETE Capital Region Meetings are from 9 AM to 10:30 AM on

September 17th

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

September 17th

Contact information

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