

Capital Region Ending the Epidemic Meeting
Albany Damien Center, 728 Madison Ave, Suite 100, Albany
September 17, 2019

Attendees List:

1. Mary Ellen Adams – Maternal Child Adolescent Treatment Services at Albany Medical Center
2. Suzanne Beattie – Albany Damien Center
3. Karen Bovell – AIDS Institute
4. Sheila Boyle – Albany Medical Center AIDS Program
5. Wes Burton – Albany Damien Center
6. Callee Carpenter – Albany Medical Center
7. Lauren Collens – Alliance for Positive Health
8. Scott Daly – Consumer (via phone)
9. Lacey Griffin-Braaf – AIDS Institute
10. Brittni Gulloty – Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood
11. Jeannie Haller – Ellis Family Health Center
12. John Hartigan – AIDS Institute
13. Sally Holt – DOH
14. Perry Junjulas – Albany Damien Center
15. Quentin Lott – IOOV
16. Kyla Loucks – Albany Medical Center
17. Donna Muller – Albany Medical Center
18. Kirstin O’Sullivan – Alliance for Positive Health
19. Steven Sawicki – AIDS Institute, NYS DOH, Office of the Medical Director
20. Brooke Strauss – Albany Medical Center
21. Kate Thorpe – Albany Medical Center
22. Darren Truax – Catholic Charities
23. Geri Walsh – Albany Damien Center
24. Christine Wasik – Albany Medical Center
25. Kate Wells – Albany Medical Center
26. Lyndsi Wickert – Albany Damien Center

Call to Order – Perry Junjulas, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Minutes Review:

- **Motion –Lyndsi Wickert motioned to approve the July minutes. Chris Wasik seconded. All were in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.**
- Legislative Report – Perry Junjulas,
 - Perry stated:
 - There is quite a bit of movement to get things moving forward.
 - 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.
 - They are still working on housing for Upstate and Long Island.
 - Currently they are trying to figure out how to make the bill possible to use, given it’s current state. They are looking for a champion for this. Please let Perry know if anyone has a contact in Rochester and/or Syracuse.
 - The HIV Testing Bill; HIV test will be conducted unless they explicitly decline to be tested.
 - There is still a push for the Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Bill.

Committee Reports

- Youth Sub – committee report – Mary Ellen Adams & Hanna Gaschott, Co-Chairs

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- Mary Ellen stated that August 22nd was follow up to the previous meeting. The Youth have been working on a logo, Mary Ellen will send it out. The Youth have voted on it. They hope to have the text description finalized for World AIDS Day. The youth would like to have it on a palm card. Mary Ellen asked if there was funding available for this. They would like to be able to hand them out to people. The question was asked where would people go to find out information for any of the Sub-committees?
 - Perry asked Karen where do people go to find out information about other Sub-committees?
 - Karen stated some have their own website and social media.
 - The challenge is having a person to maintain them.
 - Perry will work with Wes/Sam on this.
 - It would be good to also have the minutes added to the site.
 - Perry also stated we would like to have an email.
- The text is close to being complete for the palm cards.
- Other conversations were condom negotiation skills. Mary Ellen pulled out the condom wheel for the youth and the youth really liked it. It was dated 2005.
- There was a discussion about having a program on being able to say no, if someone does not want to have sex. They'd like to have someone come in and speak about PrEP.
- The youth presentation for Albany Med adolescent program event will be in November; There will be community education program on November 6th at the Troy Hilton Garden Inn with target audience of non-medical persons that work with youth to learn about HIV/STI/Hep C in NYS and how to help reduce new infections and promote screening and treatment.
- September 26th is the next meeting, location TBD.
- Adult HIV Testing Sub – committee report – Chris Wasik & Kyla Loucks, Co-Chairs
 - Chris stated Kyla updated the list from the last meeting.
 - September 18th is National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day.
 - They are going to a senior center on Thursday for a brief talk.
 - Perry asked the age range they are seeing.
 - Kyla stated it is 55 and up, most seniors have been in their 60s.
- Linkage & Navigation Sub – committee Report –Steve Sawicki and Darren Truax, Co-Chairs
 - Steve stated:
 - Meeting takes place right after this one time
 - Big item is a PrEP presentation.
 - They will also have storyboards presented.
- PrEP Sub-committee report – Donna Muller & Sue Johnson, Co-Chairs
 - Donna stated:
 - They took last month off, they will be meeting on the 27th at 4:00 PM at Whitney Young. They have been speaking a lot about PrEP Awareness Week.
 - When working with patients it is a challenge to devote a whole week to PrEP awareness.
 - The AIDS Advisory Council would really like to get this information out at every level. They want to expand PrEP awareness.
 - Perry asked Donna what would be a good way for us to get a list of things out.
 - Donna said on October 9th there will be a session and they will invite all the agencies to talk about different activities and how to launch them. There is a website called PrEP for Sex. It corresponds with PrEP Awareness Week. Donna will find out more and get the information to Perry to email.

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- Karen stated AI has a plan and a nice PowerPoint package. Some regional groups have been doing PrEP as a standard. She highlighted the PrEP data being presented at NYLinks today.
 - Mary Ellen said at the Oct 9th meeting there will be swag.
 - John Hartigan stated there will be t-shirts, pins, and other forms of swag being sent out.
 - Perry was concerned about the information being shared on social media used to scare people.
 - Donna stated about the liver issues that were reported, and that she didn't receive a backlash from patients. She did receive one email and they put a plan in motion if they did receive any concerns, cares, or backlash.
 - John Hartigan said the concern with Truvada is kidney damage and bone density.
 - Perry stated we just need to be aware that some people are receiving negative messaging about PrEP.
- HAB update added
 - Chris joined in March 2019, they are starting a new cycle in October. She arrived in the middle of a lot of changes. There is a significant number of members that have transitioned out, and 25 new members transitioning in. It is going to be a great new year, bringing new issues to the forefront. She feels that things are going to move forward well and it will be an exciting year. They met in August in Rochester, and will meet again in October in Syracuse.
- STD Elimination Sub-Committee –
 - Currently there are not any updates to report; Please take off temporarily.
- Old Business
 - No old business
- New Business
 - Lyndsi said one of the Damien Center's members approached her with a question about the next steps after getting back into the workforce. They were curious about life insurance. He is having a difficult time finding an insurance company that is willing to help due to having HIV.
 - Chris stated American National will evaluate to insure. She is not certain of the cost.
 - Donna stated if they belong to a credit union, some do offer this.
 - Perry has been looking at long term disability policies and has not been able to find one. If he has success he'll let everyone know.
 - Perry stated after 2020 there is still much work to be done.
 - Perry asked, how can we provide advice about how to message or bridge 2020 and beyond.
 - Geri referenced the New York State Ending the Epidemic, Expanding Employment Opportunities for People Living with HIV Steering Committee Report and Implementation Strategies. She will email the document to Perry.
 - Perry stated we have a good blueprint and have developed a lot of implementation plans, but will still need to continue on.
 - Mary Ellen said like areas like maternal-child transmission. We have to be cautious that just since we met that goal, we still need to continue to maintain this.

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- John Hartigan stated Beyond and Making It Happen will be part of the AIDS Summit. It will look at what has been done and what still needs to be done.
 - Agency Updates
 - Perry reminded everyone that Dec 3rd and 4th is the World AIDS Day Summit. We have submitted to present on employment and housing first in Upstate New York.
 - The Albany Damien will be taking on the NY Capital Region Chapter of the Names Project, Inc. It will be their first time setting it up, and we may possibly need volunteers. If anyone needs to request quilt panels, please let us know.
 - Mary Ellen stated they will have an educational program in November. It is geared at what is considered nontraditional persons. They will be very inclusive in the agenda. They will include what is happening in NYS, how to reach youth with disabilities, how to connect with LGBTQ+ of color, and more.
 - John Hartigan stated anyone that wants to volunteer with the NY Capital Region Chapter of the Names Project. It is a great experience. It is lovely to partner with the community. He stated that the upcoming Aging Awareness Day will be listed online.
 - Chris said they have new PrEP Case Manager named Callee, a new Provider Nurse Practitioner Will Vaughn, and Patty Young started as a Nurse Manager.
 - Kate stated Joe their Peer resigned.
 - Lyndsi asked if they have a job description for the Peer position?
 - Kate will email it.
 - Geri stated that Employment Pathways is happy to do outreach. If anyone would like for them to come out, please contact Geri or Lyndsi.
 - Darren said they are accepting Health Home Plus referrals.
 - **Meeting Adjourned** at 10:27 AM
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Next ETE Capital Region Meetings are from 9 AM to 10:30 AM on

October 15th

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)