

**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. Brittini 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.

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- 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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**

- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Family Fun Day – July 18<sup>th</sup> from 1p-4p at the NE Career Planning location in Menands\*raffles \* petting zoo \*

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**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

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

Next ETE Meeting is Tuesday, July 20, 2021

**Contact information**

Kyla Loucks     [loucksk1@amc.edu](mailto:loucksk1@amc.edu) 518-264-5839 (work phone)

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

ETE Webpage at <http://www.albanydamiencenter.org/capital-region-ete.html>