

**HIV Planning Group Meeting Minutes**  
 Park Inn Mechanicsburg  
 5401 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
 November 14, 2018

Because HPG meetings are audio recorded, specific language will only be noted here for:

1. Individuals giving a formal report or specific announcement
2. Individuals requesting to be noted “for the record”
3. Policy and procedure decisions
4. Motions/votes
5. Recognitions, thanks, etc.

Once approved by the HPG as part of the minutes, all recordings will be available on Stophiv.org in the HPG Planning section.

<b>Topic/Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Call to Order:</b> Mike Hellman called the meeting to order at 9:05am	Meeting commenced at 9:05am
<p><b>Introductions:</b> HPG Members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.</p> <p><b>Members Present:</b> Aaron Arnold, Sonny Concepcion, Jim Davis, Miriam DeGroat, Sharita Flaherty, Mike Hellman, Teresa Lowery, Leah Magagnotti, Shannon McElroy, Steven Nazario, Rob Pompa</p> <p><b>Members Absent:</b> Clint Steib, Herman Wilson, Michael Witmer</p> <p><b>Planning Partners Present:</b> Nicole Risner (Medical Assistance), Joanne Valentino (HOPWA), John Haines (SPBP Advisory Council), Abby Zang (Drug &amp; Alcohol), Bonnie Krampe (HIV Surveillance), Greg Seaney-Ariano (Philly RW Part A Grantee), Jamie Durocher (TB Program), Kalene Morozumi (MAAETC)</p> <p><b>Planning Partners Absent:</b> Corrections, Education, Health Equity, Mental Health, Philly HIV Planning, STD Program, Viral Hepatitis</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Jeremy Sandberg &amp; Liza Conyers (PEHTI), Kim Wetzel (DHS-OMAP), Michelle Clarke (MMP), Kelli Sebastian (DHS), Susan Thompson (MAAETC), Steve Novis (ViiV Healthcare), Rebecca Geiser (UPMC Pinnacle), Ann Ferguson &amp; Dr. Howell Strauss (AIDS Care Group), Sara de Champlain (Hamilton Health Center), John Collins &amp; Lolly Bentch (Medical Marijuana Program)</p> <p><b>Department of Health Staff:</b> Jill Garland, Cheryl Henne, Cindy Findley, Christine Quimby, Kyle Fait, Marijane Salem-Noll, Michelle Rossi, Godwin Obiri, Monisola Malomo, Katina Blair, Carma Solomon, Martin Ngokion, Sean Hoffman, Marion Clea, Ja’Nae Tyler</p> <p><b>University of Pittsburgh Staff:</b> Sarah Krier, Michael Zolovich, Brian Adams, Corrine Bozich</p>	9:05am to 9:09am

<p><b><u>September Summary</u></b>  <b>Sarah Krier:</b>  The September meeting objectives were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To inform and update the committee and guests on DOH and HIV prevention and care-related news, trainings, and events across the commonwealth. This included novel programs like the Rapid Linkage to Care program at St. Christopher’s Hospital.</li> <li>• For the committee to receive and provide feedback on the Bureau of Epidemiology’s latest Epi update for Pennsylvania. This update will inform the Epi content update to the Division’s Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan.</li> <li>• To advance the HPG’s development and evaluation of the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The evaluation subcommittee’s work on the progress that is being made completing the activities listed in the plan, and</li> <li>○ The assessment subcommittee’s work finalizing and voting on recommendations for improving the plan and implementing a needs assessment to inform the next plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Important procedural items that help the HPG perform its work, including discussion and voting on intersectional planning topics for 2019 that will inform the Plan and 2021 Plan activities, and a discussion updates to the HPG Protocols.</li>   <li>• The HPG met all these objectives successfully.</li> </ul>	<p>9:09am to 9:11am</p>
<p><b><u>Approval of September Meeting Minutes</u></b></p>	<p>9:11am to 9:12am  Motion to approve:  Rob Pompa</p> <p>Second motion:  Shannon McElroy</p>
<p><b><u>Agenda Review &amp; Meeting Objectives</u></b>  <b>Mike Hellman:</b>  The November HPG meeting objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To inform and update the committee and guests on DOH and HIV prevention and care-related news, trainings, and events across the commonwealth. This includes a status update on Medical Marijuana in Pennsylvania, novel programs like the Rapid Linkage to Care program at St. Christopher’s Hospital.</li> <li>• For the committee to receive and provide feedback on the Bureau of Epidemiology’s HIV cluster response and community participation. This update will inform the Epi content update to the Division’s Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>9:12 to 9:14am</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To advance the important work of the HPG around the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care plan through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The assessment subcommittee’s work planning for 2019 and</li> <li>○ The evaluations subcommittee’s ongoing work measuring the progress towards completing the activities in the Plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Important procedural items that will help the HPG plan our work for the future and operate smoothly, including continued discussion around updates to the HPG Protocols, the HPG work plan for the year ahead, the status of priority setting in Pennsylvania, guidance and information the HPG co-chairs received from NASTAD.</li> <li>• With the caveat of the coming weather event, we’ll see how much of this we can accomplish.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Announcements/Updates</u></b></p> <p><b>Division of HIV Disease, DOH</b></p> <p><b>Marijane Salem-Knoll (Prevention Section):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discontinued use of the Alere rapid test and added INSTI to testing options for HIV testing providers due it’s sensitivity for the antigen with whole blood, the process for processing the test, and the associated costs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Notice has gone out to partners that it is being discontinued.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Data-to-Care pilot in Allegheny County will be ending in two months. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In the process of getting a grant through for the continuation of the program.</li> <li>○ Working with Bucks County to also implement the program there. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Program will be a little different in Bucks County as it will also be different in all jurisdictions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Ryan White regional grantee meeting was held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It was a very good opportunity for exchanging information and sharing concerns.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Diane Kennedy has left the Department. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marion Clea is the temporary Clerk Typist III.</li> <li>○ Carma Solomon, the Administrative Officer has volunteered to help.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews are happening for the Assistant Administrator position vacancy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cheryl Henne (Care Section)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ryan White regional grantee meeting was held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Department is doing things a little differently and felt it was important to bring the regional grantees together and provide a foundation for the activities and different initiatives going on.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>9:14am to 10:32am</p>

- This will help everyone recognize the different things that are occurring to achieve a coordinated effort.
  - Prevention and Epi had the opportunity to speak
  - There was some good dialogue and an opportunity for folks to share concerns and hopes moving forward.
  - HRSA holds the Department responsible for the services individuals receive, so it is important to understand what the service delivery looks like, and what the challenges and the best practices are.
- The regional grantee monitoring has started.
  - One has been completed and there are two more slated for this calendar year.
  - Monitoring will be done a little differently, so maybe no two monitorings will look exactly alike.
    - Utilizing the same tools, but just trying some different ways to see if there's better ways to get to some of the information that we're looking to garner from the site visits.
    - Will incorporate epi profiles and discussions around the demographics in the area to assess if the services are meeting the needs as they're identified in the area and, if not, what can we do as a capacity building situation.
    - Department staff will also be attending some of the monitorings.
- The non-continuing grant application was submitted.
  - HRSA has moved from doing a full grant application every year to a 5-year grant that's good on a year-to-year basis based on assurances that efforts are still being met.
    - This is the second non-continuing grant and means they are currently in year three of the grant.
- The Clinical Quality Manager position has received candidates and interviews will be scheduled.
- The 2018 National Ryan White Conference will take place December 11-14, 2018 at the Gaylord Harbor Convention Center in Oxon Hill, MD. The Clinical Conference will precede the 2018 National Ryan White Conference, taking place December 9-11, 2018.
  - The Department has staff attending and they will be presenting a couple poster presentations
    - One poster is on LGBTQ workgroup the Department started.
    - Another poster will be on the SPBP Advisory Council.
- The Department will also be sending staff to the World AIDS Day event in Pittsburgh.

**Jill Garland (Division Director):**

- The HPG Co-Chairs attended the HPG Leadership Technical Assistance Meeting in New Orleans.

- Several Department staff were in Pittsburgh to attend the City of Pittsburgh HIV Commission Meeting.
  - Commission was established by Pittsburgh City Council
  - Dr. Linda Frank is a co-chair to the group.
  - Jill Garland was asked to become a committee member and will be attending the meetings.
- Jill Garland was invited to a meeting with the Secretary of Health that was requested by the Zero Project.
  - Zero is a network of people with HIV and allies fighting for freedom from stigma and injustice. Zero is particularly focused on ending inappropriate criminal prosecutions of people with HIV, including for nondisclosure of their HIV status potential and/potential or perceived HIV exposure or, or HIV transmission.
  - Zero staff, AIDS Law Project, Philadelphia Fight, and other LGBT-related organizations attended.
    - They had a couple things to ask the Secretary, and although they were outside of the prevue of the Department of Health, the Secretary did provide a listening ear.
  - Zero Project is working to establish networks of people living with HIV and they're working on doing that in Pennsylvania as well as across the county.
    - They're calling it the Network Empowerment Project.
    - Designed to facilitate the creation strengthening of networks of people living with HIV, whether they're focused on advocacy, education, recreation, a provision of services or for mutual social support.
  - If the HPG is interested in having anybody from Zero Project attend and speak at the meeting, it can be arranged.
    - There could also be an opportunity for Zero Project to speak at the HIV conference that Pennsylvania is planning.

**John Haines (SPBP):**

- SPBP has the online enrollment system ready to go for the client portal.
  - They are working through some final updates to our website to get the online enrollment active.
  - The case manager portal is its final stages of development and testing.
    - Will give access to case managers to do enrollments for clients.
    - Safeguards are being included in the development to ensure client confidentiality and protection.
- SPBP is continuing to review a health insurance premium program. SPBP can continue to pay Medicare Part C Advantage Plan premiums and Medicare Part B premiums but are still unable to pay for commercial insurance premiums.

- Medicare is currently in the open enrollment period through December 7th for enrollment in 2019. SPBP Medicare eligible clients with questions about enrollment plans can contact 1-800-225-7223.
- SPBP is undergoing a Single Audit by the Auditor General.
  - Audit is in the document collection phase.
- SPBP changed their eligibility match for Medicaid Programs from a monthly match to a daily match for prescription coverage.
- SPBP Advisory Council's next meeting is a conference call scheduled for Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Joanne Valentino (HOPWA):**

- HOPWA grant funds will be available within 2-4 weeks.
  - There are still funds available from last year.
  - In 2014, HUD changed the funding timeline to January-December so HOPWA would be in sync with the Department of Community and Economic Development.
  - Some SAF Subsequent Funding has been used to fund some of the regions that have waiting lists to take individuals off the waiting list.
- At the regional grantee meeting, HOPWA modernization was discussed.
  - Funding is now based on HIV live AIDS cases versus cumulative AIDS cases.
    - Working towards beginning HOPWA with the continuum of care coordinated entry.
      - Some counties already have the continuum of care coordinated entry, but they want all regional grantees working in the same manner.
    - This will require case managers to evaluate the client's assistance needs and determine which funding stream best suits their needs.
- HOPWA has a contract directly with the city of Philadelphia to manage Bensalem Township EMSA.
  - Current contract ends June 30, 2019
  - In the process of working on the new contract to put it in place for July 1, 2019

**Cindy Findley (Bureau Director):**

- The Department of Health is working towards formally launching a virtual command center to address the increase of Hepatitis A.
  - They will be working with various departments within DOH to take a three-pronged approach of looking at a homeless, drug users, and men who have sex with men.
    - This is a model that is being used in the Philadelphia area and has been successful in the Kensington area.

- They will approach this in a very organized and structured manner throughout the state.
- Can provide an update at future HPG meetings.
- Command center was launched at the end of October.

**Godwin Obiri (Epidemiology):**

- Update to the proposed regulatory changes regarding the CD4 vial loads:
  - The requisition has been approved by an independent board and the Secretary has signed off.
  - The proposal has been moved up to the Governor’s Office.
- Update to Annual Surveillance Report
  - During approval, the Executive Office informed that they need to revert to the new state template which is different from the previous report template.
    - Moving the report up through approvals and hope to have it released before the end of this month.
- The request made to HHS for Medicaid data is still being worked on.
  - The primary reason for requesting access is to extract CD4 information that routine surveillance data does not collect.
  - Will be used to enrich data elements for each of the HIV cases reported.

**Pitt:**

- Just recruited two new online outreach contractors who are doing part time work, reaching young black, gay, bi, trans individuals online and young gay and bi men on the weekends throughout the Commonwealth
  - We have now increased our number of contacts to well over 100 last month.
    - This is for STI and HIV information and testing as well as PrEP referrals and information.
    - The requests for information and providers about PrEP has also greatly increased, especially in southwestern Pennsylvania.
- Please continue to disseminate HPG membership applications and fliers to all your networks. Membership applications are also available on the back table at the meeting.
- Capacity Building team has been busy past couple of months with prevention and testing presentations.
  - This includes the CDC’s increased demand for offering testing in non-clinical settings.
  - The last capacity building training will Cultural Humility on December 18<sup>th</sup>.
    - Still some openings. Go to [stophiv.com](http://stophiv.com) for more information or to enroll.

- Acceptance Journeys was invited by LGBTQ History Month Committee to do a couple presentations.
  - One was at the Bucks County DOH.
  - In Doylestown, held a discussion with youth at the Rainbow Room which serves LGBTQ youth.
  - Held a full exhibit opened for the community at the church where the Rainbow Room is located.
    - Several families attended.
    - There was a story of love and acceptance of a father and his son who identified as trans.
    - The Governor’s Proclamation for LGBTQ History Month was read.

**Community Members:**

Mike Hellman:

- Presentation: In late October, Pittsburgh had a tragic mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue.
  - It impacted the HIV community as well. Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz was part of our HIV community early in the epidemic and was one of the victims of the shooting that took place in Pittsburgh.

Steven Nazario:

- Would like to acknowledge moments like what happened in Pennsylvania that resonate with him and make him appreciate the hard work being done at the HPG.
  - Would like to thank everyone at the meeting for their commitment to the work being done by the HPG.

The group acknowledged the hard work of one of the Park Inn employees, Patrick Maziak. He’s been very helpful to the group and they decided to offer a letter of recommendation on Patrick’s behalf to the Park Inn General Manger. The group took up a money collection and gave Patrick a card with the money. He was very touched by the gesture and told the group what a pleasure it was to work with them.

**MAAETC:**

- MAAETC has a World AIDS Day program coming up at the end of the month.
  - Everyone is encouraged to attend.
  - Scholarships are available to pay for registration of community members.
  - Celebrating 30 years of MAAETC grant and will be looking back at the past 30 years of work that has been done across the state.
- MAAETC has just finished scheduling the webinars through June 2019.
  - There are brochures on back table at the meeting room which include dates and topics coming up.

- MAAETC also brought along pocket guides from previous meetings for motivational interviewing.
  - In the process of developing trans clinical pocket guides.
- MAAETC would like to thank Sharita Flaherty for allowing them to present in Bucks County. They are working with a hospital in the area to avoid prenatal transmission of HIV.
- MAAETC would like to thank Jim Davis for allowing them to do a program for the regions case managers. They will be having another one in March for trauma informed care and patient disclosure.

**Philadelphia Area:**

- Philadelphia Office of HIV Planning has updated the integrated epidemiologic profile for 2018. It is now available on their website.
- Philadelphia Office of HIV Planning has made updates to their integrated Plan and that is now available on their website.
  - Includes updates to benchmarks for goals of the Plan.
- Philadelphia Office of HIV Planning is working on a way to make their membership application available online that is HIPPA compliant.
- The Philadelphia Department of Public Health AIDS Activities Coordinating Office (AACO) issued a health advisory on the increase in new HIV diagnosis among people who inject drugs.
  - They noted a 48 percent increase in new HIV diagnosis among people who inject drugs.
  - It's too early to conclude that the area is experiencing new trend.
  - The advisory recommends offering HIV testing to all high-risk persons.
  - They are also recommending providers give referrals to harm reduction services.
  - They are encouraging utilization of partner services.
- AACO is mobilizing one stop shops that are colocation of services such as HIV treatment, hepatitis treatment, and insurance navigation.
  - They have increased HIV testing in identified areas and community mobilization activities and are continuing their data matches.

**Northeast Region:**

- In September, the Luzerne County Office of Human Services serves four counties in the northeast region had an expo at the Woodlands.
  - Various agencies attended and there was a good networking opportunity.
- Took an opportunity to meet with the VA Hospital Chief of Staff along with the Director to introduce the Housing Coordinator in the region and let them know about the work they are doing in the area.
  - Let them know that there are other regions in the state that will service veterans who have HIV.

**STD Program:**

- Congenital syphilis remains an issue in the state of Pennsylvania.
  - Six cases of congenital syphilis have been reported this year and that's the highest it has been in 24 years.
  - We cannot assume that pregnant women are getting prenatal care. If you are interacting with women that say they're receiving prenatal care, please encourage syphilis, HIV and STD testing.
    - If they're in a situation where they are not able to afford the medication, please contact the Department of Health.

**Jeremy Sandberg (PEHTI):**

- Thanks to the members for connecting us to people who they serve, people who are uninsured that need HIV testing.

Michael Hellman took a minute to thank everyone for being at the meeting and the service they provide by attending the meetings.

**Medical Monitoring Project (MMP):**

- Held a meeting in September that HPG Member Rob Pompa attended and spoke about stigma and HIV to the group.
- MMP is required to have a certain number of interviews per year.
  - They are trying to get 37 more meetings in to meet their benchmark.
  - Let them know if you know of people that the group is looking to interview.
- They have preliminary 2015 data available, but the SAS Code needs to be redone.
  - Once the SAS Code is redone, they will distribute their data report.

**Ja'Nae Tyler (The Division):**

- Introduced herself to the group as one of the co-chairs for the LGBTQ History Month Committee.
  - As part of the work being done by the committee, they will be showing the documentary movie Kiki. The movie focuses on the drag and voguing scene in NYC for LGBTQ youth of color.
    - The movie will be introduced by a personality from the documentary named Chi-Chi who will also speak about the movie.
    - They are expecting Dr. Rachel Levine to attend as well as some others from PA Commissions.
    - It is gearing up to be a very eventful evening and all are welcomed to attend.
  - The Governor's Office did a project with a series of vignettes around LGBTQ History Month. Ja'Nae was included in that project.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It included people who identify in the LGBTQ spectrum. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They sat for interviews to bring to light LGBTQ history.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ It is available on the Governor’s Facebook and Instagram accounts.</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Break</u></b>	10:32am to 10:45am
<b><u>DOH HIV Cluster Response Presentation</u></b> Martin Ngokion	10:45am to 12:00pm
<b><u>Lunch</u></b>	12:00pm to 1:00pm
<b><u>HPG Form and Function Options Discussion</u></b> Michael Hellman, Kyle Fait, and Form & Function Ad Hoc Subcommittee	1:00pm to 1:55pm Approved without any opposed or abstained.
<b><u>Announcement – Day Two Cancelled</u></b> [Due to impending weather conditions, day two of the meeting was cancelled, and members were given time to check out of their rooms.]	1:55pm to 2:20pm
<b><u>Medical Marijuana Presentation</u></b> John Collins & Lolly Bentsch	2:20pm to 3:50pm
<b><u>Meeting Adjourned</u></b>	Adjourn at 4:00pm