



# Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium

February 17, 2016 Meeting Summary

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<b>Location:</b>	Immanuel Baptist Church, New Haven		
<b>Date:</b>	February 17, 2016	<b>Recorders:</b>	Michael Nogelo, Emily Jablonski
<b>Start Time:</b>	9:37 a.m.	<b>End Time:</b>	1:42 p.m.
<b>Presiding Chairs:</b>	Gina D'Angelo, Aurelio Lopez, André McGuire		
<b>Attendance:</b>	See last page for roster of CHPC members and public participants		

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## Meeting at a Glance

- CHPC members voted to approve the January meeting summary.
- CHPC committees met and reported progress to the full CHPC.
- Mr. Norman Lebron led a presentation about Positive Prevention Connecticut.
- Ms. Marianne Buchelli and Mr. Ramon Rodriguez-Santana shared information on and walked participants through the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) HIV Dashboard.
- CHPC participants shared information about community events and other community information.

## Call to Order and Co-Chair Announcements

CHPC co-chair Mr. Aurelio Lopez called to order the Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium (CHPC) at 9:37 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Lopez introduced himself, along with co-chairs Gina D'Angelo and André McGuire.

Mr. Lopez explained the CHPC's purpose: the CHPC is a public health HIV/AIDS planning group with a goal to reduce the rate of new HIV infections and to connect people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS with appropriate services. He then reviewed the 2016 meeting schedule. Mr. Lopez reminded participants that meetings are open to the public, including the media, and participants should be mindful of this before sharing sensitive or personal information.

Mr. Lopez asked participants to hold a moment of silence to remember and honor all those loved and lost to HIV and AIDS and to recognize friends, family and community members living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

Mr. Lopez then reviewed meeting etiquette expectations, which include being present, being prepared, being respectful, and being patient.

Mr. Lopez shared that CHPC members are expected to be present for the entire day, and that leaving the meeting early counts as an absence.

CHPC members only vote on a small number of items, such as meeting summaries and plan approvals. Votes do not occur at the committee level, as committees use a consensus model of decision-making.



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Mr. Lopez reminded the group that community feedback helps the CHPC to improve, and he encouraged participants to fill out the feedback form in their packets before leaving the meeting.

Mr. Lopez then directed the audience to two (2) handouts related to the 2017-2021 Integrated Plan in their meeting packets. One (1) handout mapped specific action items to produce the Plan over the next six (6) months, while the other provided a flow chart and table identifying tasks over the next five (5) years. Mr. Lopez opened the floor for any questions or comments. CHPC participants viewed the documents but did not offer feedback at that time.

## **Vote #1 – Meeting Summary Approval**

Mr. McGuire explained that the CHPC keeps records of its monthly public planning meetings. He asked CHPC members to review the January 2016 meeting summary. Mr. Ronald Lee motioned to approve the summary and Ms. Kathryn Auguste seconded the motion. Mr. McGuire asked if anyone had additions or corrections to the summary. No additions or corrections were offered at that time.

Mr. McGuire closed discussion and asked CHPC members to vote by raise of hands. The CHPC voted to approve the summary without any changes:

- 22 CHPC members voted yes
- Zero (0) CHPC members voted no
- Four (4) CHPC members abstained from voting

The motion carried to approve the January 2016 CHPC meeting summary.

Rev. Alex Garbera was absent from the meeting, but he submitted the following corrections to page 10:

- Rev. Garbera had been interested in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) for a long time.
- Rev. Garbera explained that he wanted to make sure that the Connecticut AIDS Drug Assistance Program (CADAP), Part A, and Part B all have the same eligibility guidelines so that those receiving medications on CADAP will have access to the necessary core medical and support services needed to take those medications as prescribed and deal with their side effects.

The changes above have been made to the January 2016 CHPC meeting summary.

## **Comments & Announcements**

The CHPC reserves time at each meeting to listen to its members, partners, and guests. Mr. Lopez asked CHPC members to share any announcements related to the HIV/AIDS community.

### CHPC Members

- Ms. Kathyleen Pitner shared that the Quality Improvement Summit will occur on February 25 at Community Health Center, Inc. in Middletown. She explained that interested participants can register at [www.ct.train.org](http://www.ct.train.org) and that registration caps at 80 people. The Summit ties into everything that the CHPC is doing.



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- Ms. Madeline Rodriguez reminded participants that Latino Community Services (LCS) is hosting the 3rd annual Red Shoe Affair on February 20. She encouraged interested participants to approach her during the meeting or to go to the LCS website for more information: [www.lcs-ct.org](http://www.lcs-ct.org). The event will be held at Paradise Restaurant in Hartford from 3:00 to 11:00 p.m. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the event is a lot of fun, and it is for a good cause.
- Ms. Ann Galloway Johnson shared that the Waterbury Health Department is sponsoring a Black History Month outreach program through Waterbury Hospital. It provides counseling, testing, and education at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Ms. Galloway Johnson explained that the Waterbury Health Department wants to make people in the community aware of available services, including Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). The event will occur on Friday, February 19 at 10:00 a.m.

## Public Participants

- Ms. Melanie Alvarez shared that AIDS Connecticut (ACT) will host its annual Oscars Award Show fundraiser on February 28 at Spotlight Theaters in Hartford. She encouraged interested participants to approach her at the meeting, call Wendy Gravely, or visit [www.aidsct.org](http://www.aidsct.org) for information about buying tickets.

## **Committee Meetings**

Mr. Lopez stated that the group would move into committee meetings until approximately 11:45 a.m. He shared information about room assignments for committee meetings.

## **Committee Reports**

Mr. McGuire welcomed everyone back into the full group, and asked committee co-chairs to provide brief oral reports about the committee meetings. (Full meeting summaries exist in separate documents and are reviewed each month during committee meetings.)

## Membership and Awareness Committee (MAC)

MAC co-chair Mr. Blaise Gilchrist summarized the committee discussion and accomplishments:

- Approved the January 2016 meeting summary.
- Reviewed the MAC work plan.
- Reviewed a draft of the March newsletter, which will be distributed on March 1.
- Discussed the possibility of identifying a Part F funding recipient in Connecticut to participate in the CHPC.
- Brainstormed lunch-and-learn session topics. These sessions are open to anyone who is interested.
- Three (3) members will receive warning letters due to missing the first two (2) meetings of 2016.



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## Data and Assessment Committee (DAC) Needs Assessment Projects (NAP) Team

Mr. McGuire summarized the committee discussion and accomplishments:

- Approved the January 2016 meeting summary.
- Discussed Integrated Plan tasks assigned to the NAP Team.
- Reviewed the HIV Funders progress and role in the planning process.
- Discussed existing data and strategies on Persons Living With HIV (PLWH) who are out of care.

Mr. McGuire opened the floor for any questions or comments.

- Mr. Thomas Butcher stated that the DAC split into two (2) separate groups so that one (1) team could focus on needs assessment. He noted that although a lot of work went into an out of care survey, nothing has happened with the survey.
- Mr. McGuire stated that a project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and executed by Yale University and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), called Project Cooperative Re-Engagement Controlled Trial (CoRECT), is working on a more involved project. The NAP Team is waiting on some of those results.
- Mr. Butcher stated that the CHPC had not been informed that the NAP Team was waiting on Project CoRECT information. He explained that Ryan White Part A of New Haven/Fairfield has been waiting on survey results.
- Mr. McGuire replied that after looking at the information Project CoRECT is going after, the NAP Team realized it was not close to what they had been looking for.
- Mr. Butcher stressed the importance of telling people what the project is: an effort to try to engage PLWH who are out of care.
- Mr. McGuire encouraged Mr. Butcher to note his advice on the feedback form.
- Ms. D'Angelo explained that the NAP Team is looking at the next five (5) years and trying to coordinate with other needs assessments.
- Mr. McGuire noted that out of care surveys have been coming up with the same results for many years, and that the NAP Team needs to come up with new ways to get data, rather than doing the same thing again. He emphasized that the NAP Team will focus on housing and employment information as a way to access new information.

## DAC Quality and Performance Measures (QPM) Team

QPM Team co-chair Ms. Pitner summarized the QPM Team discussion and accomplishments:

- Approved the January 2016 meeting summary.
- Revised quality and performance indicators.



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- Reviewed 2015 indicators and compared them to new national measures.
- Agreed on changes to indicators, but did not change much.
  - Discussed adding the National HIV/AIDS Strategy Indicator #9: Disparities in New Diagnoses, with the target groups based on Connecticut data (vs. national data).
- Agreed to revisit adding a PrEP indicator in the future as better data become available.

## **Lunch**

CHPC members enjoyed a break for lunch and networking. New members gathered with their mentors and CHPC co-chairs for a lunch-and-learn discussion about the 2017-2021 Integrated Plan.

## **Presentation - Positive Prevention CT**

Mr. Norman Lebron introduced himself, and explained that he represents both ACT and Positive Prevention CT. He explained that Positive Prevention is a collaboration between various AIDS service organizations, and it is an effort to disseminate messages about testing and prevention in a uniform way across all involved agencies. He explained that ACT and DPH oversee Positive Prevention. The initiative was launched in May 2014 and has run four (4) separate campaigns since it was established.

Mr. Lebron walked CHPC members through the past campaigns using a series of images. He shared that former Mayor of Hartford Mr. Pedro Segarra proclaimed February 14, 2015 “Be Safe With Your Sweetheart Day” in Hartford, in reference to Positive Prevention’s February 2015 campaign of the same name.

Mr. Lebron shared a radio advertisement promoting its February 2016 campaign, which emphasizes a simple message: “Get tested.” He played the advertisement in both Spanish and English and explained that the ads played on major Hartford radio stations during the weeks before and after Valentine’s Day.

Mr. Lebron explained that Positive Prevention meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, and that the location typically rotates among agencies. He explained that Ms. Jenn Chase from ACT and DPH staff facilitate the meetings. The initiative has a \$20,000 budget, and the meetings are open to organizations who want to help. Mr. Lebron explained that although Positive Prevention is geared toward agencies, interested individuals are encouraged to get involved, as well.

Mr. Lebron walked the CHPC audience through the Positive Prevention website: [www.positivepreventionct.org](http://www.positivepreventionct.org). He sampled many pages on the website, which included information about risk factors; testing; condoms; PrEP; Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP); partner services; Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV); syringe services; and other information. Mr. Lebron showed how the “Get Tested” page allows someone to enter their zip code and view nearby testing sites on a map.

Mr. Lebron encouraged all interested participants to get involved with the initiative, and agreed to send information about future meetings to the CHPC.

## **Presentation - HIV Dashboard**



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Ms. Marianne Buchelli and Mr. Ramon Rodriguez-Santana projected the HIV Dashboard, which is accessible on the Connecticut DPH website.

Ms. Buchelli explained that in 2014, the DPH began the process to become accredited. She noted that the DPH places emphasis on quality improvement.

Ms. Buchelli explained that the Healthy Connecticut 2020 Dashboard is linked to the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). She explained that HIV is now included on the Dashboard, although it was not originally included.

Ms. Buchelli encouraged participants to look the Dashboard up on their own and further explore the data. It is a great tool to share with colleagues, and it provides graphs for visual learners.

She asked the audience to gain familiarity with the Dashboard by interpreting some of the visuals. She confirmed that red zones refer to target areas that are not being met. She encouraged participants to understand the “story behind the curve.”

Mr. Rodriguez-Santana talked to the group about interpreting numbers. He emphasized that some graphs do not “tell the whole story,” as they do not capture sub-populations, such as race or gender, or the total number of people getting tested. Even if overall numbers are decreasing, the numbers for smaller groups might be increasing.

Ms. Buchelli asked the audience to guess why there are certain changes in numbers, referring to information on newly diagnosed cases.

- Ms. D’Angelo noted that certain dips in the graph raise questions.
- Ms. Suzanne Speers urged the audience to think about surveillance artifacts. She explained that HIV diagnoses may increase for certain populations because of initiatives to target these populations for testing.
- Mr. McGuire noted that infections in Black females are going up, and speculated that it might be a result of not targeting Black heterosexual males living with HIV who are likely infecting Black females.
- Ms. Joyce Poole noted that Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) has been testing more Black women, due to a wave of women being released from prison and getting tested upon release.
- Ms. Alvarez noted that women tend to access health care more frequently, so they are also more likely to get tested.

Ms. Buchelli turned the group’s attention to the Dashboard, asking them to look at the graphs’ red areas and to consider what might be happening. She explained that the Dashboard provides useful information for grant proposals. She noted that the CHPC is far ahead of other planning groups on using Quality Improvement (QI) data, as the CHPC is already using quality data to drive decision making.

- Ms. Auguste agreed that the country recognizes, and is impressed by, Connecticut’s work.
- Ms. Speers pointed out that one must be using Google Chrome when looking at the Dashboard, as it does not work well with Internet Explorer.



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- Mr. Carl Ferris asked if DPH can distribute condoms to prisons.
- Ms. D'Angelo stated that condoms can only be distributed to inmates after they have been discharged.

## Other Business

Mr. Lopez invited participants to discuss any other business. No comments were made.

## Meeting Feedback Forms

Mr. Lopez reminded meeting participants to complete and submit their feedback forms before leaving. All feedback from participants helps the CHPC make future improvements. The CHPC Executive Committee reviews the feedback immediately following the full CHPC meeting.

## Next Meeting

The next CHPC meeting will occur on March 16, 2016 at the Immanuel Baptist Church in New Haven.

## Adjournment

Member Attendance	1/20	2/17	3/16	4/20	5/18	6/15	7/20	8/17
1. Kathryn Auguste	P	P						
2. Clifford Batson	P	P						
3. Thomas Butcher	P	A*						
4. Sarah Butterfield	P	P						
5. Charles Capers Sr.	P	P						
6. Carmen Cruz	A	A						
7. Cam Crosby	P	A*						
8. Gina D'Angelo	P	P						
9. Wallace Daniels	P	P						
10. Brian Datcher	A	A						
11. Robert Eldridge	A	P						
12. Zenaida Falcon	P	P						
13. Nilda Fernandez	P	A						
14. Carl Ferris	P	P						
15. Ann Galloway Johnson	P	A*						
16. Alexander Garbera	P	A						
17. Blaise Gilchrist	A*	P						
18. Linda Guillorn	P	P						
19. Thomas Kidder	A*	A						
20. William «Reggie» Knox	A	P						
21. Ronald Lee	P	P						
22. Keyvin Lewis	P	P						
23. Andrea Lombard	P	P						

Mr. Lopez thanked every one for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.



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24. Aurelio Lopez	P	P						
25. André McGuire	P	P						
26. Pamela Parks	P	P						
27. Kathyleen Pitner	P	P						
28. Priscilla Pitts	P	P						
29. Willy Quesada	P	P						
30. Madeline Rodriguez	A	P						
31. Brian Sibilio	P	P						
32. Roberta Stewart	P	P						
Total Present	25	24						

\*Members who arrive after the first vote or leave before the end of the meeting are listed as absent.

### Public participants (16)

Melanie Alvarez; Dan Bland; Marianne Buchelli; Thomas Evans; Miguel Gonzalez; Clunie Jean-Baptiste; Norman Lebron; Brooke Logan; Peta-Gaye Nembhard; Jim Pettinelli; Joyce Poole; Cedric Reid; Ramon Rodriguez-Santana; Suzanne Speers; Lauren Tierney; Barry Walters