



Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium 15 July 2020 Meeting Summary



Location:	Virtual GoToMeeting		
Date:	15 July 2020	Recorders:	Michael Nogelo / Dave Bechtel
Start Time:	9:36 a.m.	End Time:	10:51 a.m.
Presiding Chairs:	Gina D'Angelo, Blaise Gilchrist, Barry Walters		
Attendance:	See last page for roster of CHPC members and public participants		

MEETING AT A GLANCE

- CHPC Co-Chairs made several announcements such as: 1) the process to recruit the next CHPC Co-Chair who will replace Blaise Gilchrist beginning in 2021; 2) the CHPC approved the 17 June 2020 meeting summary by a virtual vote; 3) the August CHPC meeting will be held virtually; and 4) CHPC recognized the contributions of Karina Danvers, who retired after 31 years in the field.
- CHPC participants learned about virtual methods to support community engagement through the knowledge-building segment.
- CHPC participants heard three mini-presentations about how programs were using technology-enhanced solutions to implement evidence-based strategies.
- CHPC committees conducted virtual meetings from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER, MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND INTRODUCTIONS

CHPC Co-Chair Barry Walters called to order the Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium (CHPC) at 9:36 a.m. and introduced Co-Chair Gina D'Angelo.

Mr. Walters provided an overview of the meeting agenda. Mr. Walters explained that the CHPC is a statewide HIV prevention and care planning body that exists to reduce the rate of new infections and to help those who are living and affected by HIV/AIDS connect to services. CHPC is responsible for developing and implementing a statewide integrated HIV prevention and care plan to end the HIV epidemic. The plan spans the timeframe of 2017 to 2021. The plan places an emphasis on addressing health disparities and inequities so prevalent in HIV.

Mr. Walters led the participants in a moment of silence to honor all of those persons living with HIV and their families, friends, and caregiving/support networks.

CHPC LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHPC Co-Chairs made the following announcements:

- The CHPC will meet virtually in August as the state continues to move cautiously through re-opening protocols.
- The CHPC Executive Committee decided to adjust the meeting format based on participant feedback: 1) not using the webinar format and trying the format that allows participants to turn on and share their cameras/faces; 2) CHPC meetings have been extended to 10:45 a.m. which was about the time the prior two virtual meetings had ended; and 3) CHPC committee meetings will start at 11:15 a.m. (instead of 11:00 a.m.).



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- CHPC members eligible for participation stipends were sent stipends by US Mail. This practice will continue for the July meeting.
- The CHPC will maintain its protocol to relax attendance requirements to acknowledge that the circumstances can affect participation.

Ms. D’Angelo said the CHPC wished to recognize Karina Danvers for her 31-year career devoted to service, advocacy, and education to the HIV/AIDS community. Ms. D’Angelo recognized Ms. Danvers’ many direct contributions to the CHPC as a CHPC member, panelist, presenter, public participant, and HIV Funders Group member. On behalf of the CHPC, Ms. D’Angelo thanked Ms. Danvers for lending her passionate and compassionate voice to the HIV/AIDS community’s cause, and wished her all the best in her retirement.

Ms. Danvers recalled the CHPC meeting in 2007 when the group came up with the CHPC logo. Her journey as a person living with HIV (PLWH) and working in the field has been a long one. Co-morbidities have affected her terribly, as cardiac issues forced her to retire early and move on with her life. She urged everyone to “tell young people that HIV can kick your ass, and it’s not worth having.” She expressed her feeling that God put her on earth to do something for the HIV community since she was diagnosed in 1989. She said that her heart aches having to leave the field, but she is grateful for the 31 years she had.

Results of CHPC Virtual Vote to Approve the 17 June 2020 Meeting Summary. The CHPC members approved the 17 June 2020 meeting summary using a virtual approval process designed by the Executive Committee. The meeting notes were sent by e-mail to all participants who were asked to provide any input. CHPC staff then incorporated the revisions and sent a revised draft to the CHPC members who were asked to vote by e-mail or telephone call. The results of the vote are shown in the table.

CHPC Vote Summary: June 2020 Meeting Summary

Motion to approve	Second the motion	# Yes Votes	# No Votes	# Abstain	Did Not Respond
Executive Committee	N/A	15	0	5	7

Discussion, additions and/or corrections during the review process:

- One individual identified a typo / spelling correction.
- Several participants indicated the document was accurate.

Mr. Walters stated that Blaise Gilchrist’s leadership term as CHPC Co-Chair ends at the end of this year. The CHPC is looking for members with at least one year of experience to apply. Applicants must submit by 5 August 2020 a brief application form that was shared with all CHPC members. Candidates will have an opportunity to give a 3-5-minute oral presentation prior to the vote at the August CHPC meeting. CHPC members will vote remotely to elect the next CHPC Co-Chair.

PATH TO OUR VISION KNOWLEDGE BUILD: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Ms. D’Angelo explained that the Path to Our Vision segment builds a common understanding of an important strategy for Getting to Zero: effective community engagement. Ms. D’Angelo presented information around four objectives: a) Understand meaningful community engagement; b) Identify where and how digital technology can support engagement; c) Learn how to engage people remotely in virtual spaces; and d) Learn how peers are using digital platforms to engage people (the mini-presentations).



CHPC PRESENTATION: REACHING PEOPLE REMOTELY WITH HIV SERVICES AND MESSAGES

Ms. D'Angelo introduced Jean Brown and Sheila Birth, co-facilitators of the GBAPP Healthy Love program.

- Ms. Brown said that she and Ms. Birth had strategized ways to achieve their deliverables and reach the community after COVID-19 forced them to a virtual environment. They held their first virtual Healthy Love group session in May. It was exciting to reach the women where they are – in their bedrooms or backyards. Most returned in June to continue talking about healthy sex and sexuality. The women can speak or use the chat box to share wherever they are. They serve heterosexual African-American women ages 18+, but they want to get the intervention to everybody. Their goal is to serve 100 people with the intervention and testing. The program includes conversation about HIV prevention (e.g., condom use, safer sex practices). They can demonstrate the use of materials and safer sex practices (e.g., condom use) using her office board.
- Ms. Birth noted the use of ice breakers and open-ended questions.
- Ms. Brown reported that these techniques open women to talking about themselves. Women give themselves fantasy names they might have if they looked their best and felt their best. The facilitators provide a safe, non-judgmental space to share openly. They try to create positive attitudes about sex and sexuality. They talk about abstinence and consistent use of condoms and other safer sex tools that they provide. They make sure women know they have the ability to get tested. They drive home the point that “only I can take care of me.” They introduced some women to female condoms for the first time. They use SurveyMonkey to collect demographic information and participant feedback. The women receive packets of supplies with instructions.
- Ms. Birth added that they work to dispel myths about HIV for participants whether they have the virus or not. They emphasize to the women that the best thing they can do is to get tested.

Ms. D'Angelo thanked Ms. Brown and Ms. Birth, and introduced Coley Jones from Generations Health Center.

- Ms. Jones stated that, in March, Generations implemented telehealth very quickly after in-person services were suddenly restricted due to COVID-19. Providers traditionally have not been allowed to use telehealth, but restrictions were lifted, and they were able to start delivering telehealth on March 23. They use Updox and Doxy on providers' laptops, including medical assistants. They also use an app called Softphone that enables patients to access a provider's extension while they are at home and that makes it look like providers are calling patients from the office even when they are calling on their cell phones.
- Ms. Jones explained that a Medical Assistant asks pre-appointment questions with the patient five minutes before the scheduled appointment time, then transfers the call to the provider if they are ready, although the patient may need to wait for a few minutes. They give patients the option to do a video appointment (if they have that capability) or to use audio only. She has found that more people are getting comfortable with video appointments. Providers like video appointments because they get a window into the patient's life, and patients like it because it creates a stronger connection with providers. Generations received a grant to get cell phones for patients without cell phones, and they have money to give patients cell phone minutes cards if needed.
- Ms. Jones reported that the Ryan White program fully implemented telehealth in early April. They complete case management activities while on the phone to find out the patient's needs before transferring them to the medical provider. When the infectious disease doctor runs late, patients no



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longer need to wait in the waiting room, so there have been fewer no-shows and walk-outs, as people can do what they need to do at home instead of wasting time in waiting room. Patients appreciate that. They received funding to provide blood pressure cuffs, oximeters, and other equipment to patients so they can take their own vital signs and the provider can see the results on video. They have been conducting COVID-19 tests for Generations patients, but they are able to conduct a telehealth appointment to register people as patients so they can then get tested through Generations.

- Ms. Jones said Generations hopes there will be a legislative allowance for telehealth to continue after COVID. They are now seeing some patients in the office, but many are still doing telehealth. Behavioral health providers are using telehealth. Dental providers are only doing emergency appointments in person, but are doing some telehealth. Telehealth has challenges (e.g., video connections can get lost, a phone call can get dropped) but they are working out the kinks.

Ms. D'Angelo thanked Ms. Jones and introduced Mike McGowan from A Place to Nourish Your Health (APNH).

- Mr. McGowan said he is a Prevention Services Coordinator at APNH and coordinates the APNH MPowerment group. APNH transitioned to offering totally online content after COVID-19 closures, and he was posting Instagram videos showing how to do at-home HIV test kits, and shared some messages on Instagram live. This went well for a few weeks, and then a colleague recommended trying a podcast. For approximately one month, he has been co-hosting the "Unsure? Get Sure" podcast. This phrase has been around for some time, and captures many of the themes they discuss on the podcast. APNH wanted to do the podcast as a collaborative effort with other New Haven organizations to spread the word about what various organizations are doing.
- Mr. McGowan said they have done a few episodes, which are typically 15-20 minutes long. They have done episodes on MPowerment, prevention services, and the APNH behavioral health department.
- Mr. McGowan explained that they use the Anchor app to produce the podcasts. The app can be found in the app store and is easy to use, free, and customizable. Mr. McGowan and his co-host invite guests into the virtual recording room. This new outreach strategy has been successful. It has been a challenge to collaborate with other organizations, however, due to a lack of response. The podcast website is Anchor.fm, and allows the host to record the podcast on a cell phone (no microphone required), using a downloaded app, or a headset (which may be the clearest option). Anchor.fm then does all legwork to publishing the completed podcast to various platforms.
- Angel Cotto suggested reaching out to Dream Kits in New Haven as a potential collaborator.
- Mr. McGowan said that desired collaborators include a black-owned bookstore, a LGBTQ flare shop, and a gay-owned bar, and encouraged anyone interested in learning more about podcasts or being on the podcast to contact him.
- Angel Cotto responded to a question about the consumption of podcasts by people of color by citing a statistic that 63% of U.S. podcast listeners are white and 58% of the U.S. population is white.



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COMMITTEE MEETINGS (Virtual meetings held separately)

Committee Updates. Mr. Walters described the CHPC committee structure, explained that virtual committee meetings will begin at 11:15 a.m. Access information to committee meetings can be found on the CHPC website in case someone needs the information. Committee Chairs will share progress at the Executive Committee.

The table below shows a summary of the focus of the committee work for June 2020 and July 2020.

Committee	Focus of the Committee Work	
	June 2020	July 2020
Getting to Zero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve meeting summary • Update on local call to action • Coordination with New Haven capacity building grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve June meeting summary • Update on local call to action • G2Z capacity building updates • Mini-epi profiles in G2Z communities
Membership & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve meeting summary • Membership review and recommendations to Executive Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve June meeting summary • September newsletter planning • Mentoring program mid-year check-in • Membership and recruitment
Needs Assessment Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve meeting summary • Develop action steps for workforce development strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve June meeting summary • Workforce competencies and training
Quality & Performance Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve meeting summary • Update on housing • Start discussion on stigma indicator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve June meeting summary • SSP presentation and discussion
Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve meeting summary • Committee work plan coordination • July CHPC meeting agenda and improvements to virtual process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve June meeting summary • Committee work plan coordination • August CHPC meeting agenda & improvements to virtual process

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Walters reminded all participants that they would receive an online link to a 1-minute feedback survey. Please fill out this survey and also share any feedback you have on how to improve the virtual CHPC meetings. Mr. Walters thanked everyone for a productive and highly energetic meeting, and adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.



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CHPC ATTENDANCE RECORDS (1 = present; 0 = absent; arriving late is counted as an absence for official records)

* = Attendance not officially marked as an absence due to circumstances affecting capacity and availability to participate during COVID-19 pandemic.

First Name	Last Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Victor	Acevedo	1	1			*	*	1	
Laura	Aponte	1	1			1	1	1	
Susan	Bouffard	1	1			1	1	1	
Thomas	Butcher	1	1			*	*	1	
Angelique	Croasdale-Mills	1	1			1	*	1	
Gina	D'Angelo	1	1			1	1	1	
Brian	Datcher	1	1			1	1	1	
Xavier	Day	1	1			1	1	1	
Stephen	Feathers	0	1			1	1	1	
Nilda	Fernandez	0	1			1	1	1	
Carl	Ferris	1	1			1	1	1	
Jose	Figueroa	0	0			*	*	*	
Lauren	Gau	1	1			1	1	1	
Dante	Gennaro	1	1			1	1	1	
Corey	Gerena	1	0			1	1	1	
Blaise	Gilchrist	1	0			1	1	*	
Cynthia	Hall	1	1			*	*	1	
Reggie	Knox	1	1			1	1	1	
Ronald	Lee	1	1			*	*	1	
Luis	Martinez	0	1			1	*	1	
Waleska	Mercado	0	1			*	*	*	
Mitchell	Namias	1	1			1	1	1	
Clara	O'Quinn	1	1			1	1	1	
Bob	Sideleau	1	1			1	1	*	
Jeffrey	Snell	1	1			1	1	*	
Roberta	Stewart	1	1			1	1	1	
Barry	Walters	1	1			1	1	1	
TOTAL		22	24			21	19	22	
PERCENTAGE		79%	86%			N/A	N/A	N/A	



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PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS (1 = present)

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Alvarez, Melanie		1			1	1	1	
Lucinda Balsome							1	
Barlow, Cinque	1							
Bartlette, Beasha					1	1		
Batson, Clifford	1	1						
Binford, Monique		1						
Sheila Birth							1	
Blaschinski, Ellen	1							
Boone, Joyce	1	1						
Bowens, Samuel		1						
Brown, Jean					1		1	
Buchelli, Marianne	1	1			1	1	1	
Burns, Sara		1			1	1	1	
Carbonell, Carlos	1							
Casey, Catellia						1		
Castro, Christian	1							
Cataquet, Jimmy		1						
Chung, Latasha		1						
Ciborowski, Lauren	1							
Clark, Belinda		1						
Colbert, David		1						
Nancy Copeland							1	
Cordero, Reina	1	1						
Cotto, Angel						1	1	
Cruz, Johanna					1		1	
Cubano, Jenny						1		
Danvers, Karina					1		1	
Davidson, Daniel	1	1			1	1		
Davidson, Megan	1	1				1	1	
DeJesus, Emely		1						
De La Cruz, Martina	1	1			1	1	1	
Del Vecchio, Christina	1	1			1		1	
Delgado, Sabrina					1		1	
Demidont, A.C.		1				1	1	
Diaz, Luis		1			1	1	1	
Diaz, Mildred		1						
Dones-Mendez, Dulce	1							
Dunbar, Wanda		1						
Edelmann, Taylor		1			1			
Ferraro, Linda		1						
Alsamendi Fleurival							1	
Francis, Shannon					1	1	1	
Gardner, Brittany	1	1						
Gibson, Lynette	1				1	1	1	
Gonzalez, Monica		1					1	
Gosselin, Deborah		1			1	1		
Gowitzke, Elizabeth		1						
Hall, Shanay	1	1			1			
Heron, Venesha	1	1			1		1	
Hernandez, Juan	1							
Hulton, Daniel					1	1	1	
Jenkins, Heidi	1							
Jean-Baptiste, Clunie	1	1			1	1		



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Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Jones, Coley	1						1	
Joseph, Marcelin	1	1						
Kelly, Abbie					1			
Kingwood, Nancy						1		
Kotey, Dionne	1	1				1	1	
Lane, Stuart		1						
Ligon, Barbara		1						
Linardos, Heather		1					1	
Lombardo, Debra	1	1				1		
Lorenzo, Maria		1						
Mairena, Oscar					1		1	
Major, Sue	1				1	1	1	
McAllistor, Keiva	1				1		1	
Mike McGowan							1	
Millet Saez, Myrna					1	1		
Morgan, Nicole					1			
Moore, Kelly		1						
Morales, Fernando		1						
Moranino, Marlene	1							
Mott, Ericka		1						
Muñoz, Consuelo		1			1	1	1	
Muñoz, Kay		1						
Nembhard, Peta-Gaye	1	1			1	1	1	
Nieves, Maribel	1	1						
Novis, Steve		1			1	1		
Ogbuagu, Onyema					1			
Parsons, Rhonda						1	1	
Dustin Pawlow							1	
Pigatt, Shaquille	1	1						
Pope-Wiggins, Lorrie	1	1						
Pulliam, Cedric					1			
Quettant, Francesca					1		1	
Quintero, Eduardemar		1			1			
Robertson, Jackie		1						
Rodriguez-Santana, Ramón	1	1			1		1	
Rodriguez, Joselyn		1						
Rodriguez, Rosie	1						1	
Rosa, William		1						
Rose-Daniels, DeLita	1	1			1	1	1	
Ruiz, Angel		1			1	1	1	
Sauza, Ben		1						
Sherr, Eric						1		
Speers, Sue	1				1		1	
Thuillier, Antoinette					1		1	
Torres, Abigail		1						
Vargas, Jennifer						1	1	
Velez, Idiana		1					1	
Velez, Yolanda	1							
Warren-Dias, Danielle	1	1			1	1	1	
Wimbish, Roselyn						1		
Yopp, Melinda					1		1	
[name not legible]		1						
TOTAL COUNT	38	59			40	32	44	