



These are the DRAFT meeting notes. Please share any additions or corrections prior to or at the 17 March 2021 meeting.

## MEETING SUMMARY

### 17 February 2021

<b>Date:</b>	17 Feb 2021	<b>Start Time:</b>	11:05 a.m.	<b>End Time:</b>	12:08 p.m.
<b>Chair:</b>	Brian Datcher	<b>DPH Liaison:</b>	Gina D'Angelo	<b>Location:</b>	Zoom
<b>Attendees:</b>	Refer to page 5	<b>Recorder:</b>	M. Nickel		

### RESULTS

1. The group approved by consensus the December 2020 meeting summary with no further additions or corrections.
2. The group decided to pilot the stakeholder engagement group at the March G2Z Committee meeting and follow-up in April with a sexual health / STI stakeholder group. Additional priority groups such as faith leaders and substance use disorders (SUDs) treatment providers will need to be organized to occur outside of the G2Z Committee.
3. The received an update about the most recent local stakeholder group sessions conducted as part of the City of New Haven G2Z capacity building grant.

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Committee staff will draft a meeting summary.
2. Participants will review the draft meeting summary and provide any additions and/or corrections.
3. Mr. Datcher will share with the Executive Committee the discussion about changing the G2Z Committee name to reflect the emphasis on ending the epidemic.
4. Mr. Barry Walters will invite three to five stakeholders relevant to piloting the stakeholder engagement process at the March G2Z Committee meeting for the topic of HIV Routine Testing. This may include policy-makers, clinicians that can share best practices and barriers, and persons with lived experience. Committee staff will support this process. Mr. Datcher and Mr. Walters will finalize questions and format based on input from the group.
5. Ms. Gina D'Angelo will work with Dr. Demidont to identify three to five sexual health / STI stakeholders who could attend the April G2Z Committee meeting.
6. Committee staff will work with Ms. Natalie DuMont to identify opportunities for SUDs providers or relevant infectious disease personnel to schedule a stakeholder group that would not be at the G2Z committee meeting.
7. Mr. Sapero will share by the next G2Z Committee meeting a compilation of the information from the local stakeholder engagement groups.
8. The group will meet virtually on 17 March 2021 @ 11:00 a.m.

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## CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Datcher called to order the committee meeting at 11:05 a.m.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Datcher introduced himself as the new G2Z Committee chair and:

- Reviewed the charge of the committee to coordinate and support G2Z activities across the state with a focus on recommendations by the statewide G2Z Commission.
- Described how the committee operates using a consensus model of decision-making and reminded participants that the meetings were considered public which means that members of the media may be present.
- Explained that Gina D'Angelo will support the group as the CTDPH resource liaison to the committee. Mr. Barry Walters will support meeting management (e.g., time keeper, participant comments and questions).
- Shared that committee meetings use simple guidelines for etiquette in virtual meetings such as the use of self-mute, use the chat box, and activate web-cams when comfortable.

The group completed a round of introductions using a roll call process. Individuals stated their names and organizational affiliations or towns in which they live or work.

## APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Datcher explained that the January 2021 G2Z Committee notes had been circulated in draft format. Mr. Datcher stated that the committee uses a consensus process for approval of meeting notes. Mr. Datcher asked participants for any final additions and/or corrections. No one offered any additional changes. The committee approved by consensus the January 2021 meeting notes.

## UPDATE: CTDPH – DEVELOPMENT OF SYNDEMICS PLAN

Ms. D'Angelo stated the federal government released guidance for two national strategic plans (HIV and Hepatitis). She reported that the funding cycles for CTDPH contractors will now align better with the development and implementation cycles of the new statewide plans. Other news included:

- CTDPH continues to work internally at improving coordination and collaboration of the STI, Hepatitis and HIV programs.
- New legislation has been introduced on the topic of Routine HIV Testing (SB 400). Routine HIV Testing was recommended by the statewide G2Z Commission.
- Mr. Walters explained that the legislation follows a successful approach used in New York City which encourages individuals ages 13 to 64 to be tested at least once each year and at a higher frequency based on other factors. Individuals can opt out. It is not possible to hold physicians and healthcare providers accountable. The working assumption is that the majority of physicians will follow legislation that sets forth a standard of care.
- Participants discussed the benefits of incorporating HIV, STI and Hepatitis testing into a regular (i.e., normalized) approach to healthcare screening that includes blood pressure, vision, diabetes, kidney and liver functioning, among others.



- CTDPH is exploring the establishment of a Hepatitis Technical Advisory Group to help coordinate activities and build bridges to subject matter experts and implementation partners. This group will hold some connection to the CHPC which will be determined at a later time. The CHPC membership has and does contain representatives and/or access to CTDPH resource liaisons relevant to Hepatitis.

### COORDINATING ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC ACTIVITIES

#### Committee Name

Ms. Angeliqe Croasdale-Mills inquired whether the committee should change its name to reflect the national ending the HIV epidemic strategy. A discussion ensued about the relevance of the G2Z Committee name.

- Ms. D'Angelo stated that the CHPC could make a decision to change any of its committee names or even the committee structure. The conversation should be taken to the Executive Committee.
- Some participants expressed concern about losing the connection to the G2Z campaign, commission, and its recommendations.
- Mr. Sapero stated that it would be great to create alignment across strategies and activities. However, any changes must be figured out quickly as various plans and efforts will be rolled out.
- Ms. D'Angelo stated that 57 jurisdictions receive federal funding to create ending the HIV epidemic plans. She noted that Connecticut will address STIs and Hepatitis in its plan.
- Mr. Walters stated that the most important factor is to create strong core messages – even when multiple brand identities or campaign names are used. A constant pressure will exist for different organizations and groups to develop their “own” campaign or to “differentiate” themselves from other groups or efforts. This can be accomplished while also showing the connection to a larger effort. Is G2Z the larger effort in our state? This would mean that ending the HIV epidemic or local effort like “in it to end it” are part of the larger G2Z campaign.
- Ms. Danielle Warren-Dias stated that strategies from ending the HIV epidemic plans can be incorporated into a higher level G2Z campaign.
- Ms. Croasdale and Mr. Butcher suggested identifying a person (e.g., CTDPH) who could coordinate statewide G2Z or ending the HIV epidemic activities.

Mr. Datcher will share with the Executive Committee the discussion about changing the G2Z Committee name to reflect the emphasis on ending the epidemic.

#### Stakeholder Engagement Pilot

Mr. Datcher explained that the group had committed to convening at least two (more if possible) stakeholder pilots by June 2021 and had mapped out an initial approach to conducting stakeholder engagement pilots.

Mr. Datcher and the CHPC Co-Chairs asked the G2Z Committee members to discuss an option that might help “fast track” the stakeholder engagement pilot: use the G2Z Committee meeting as the forum to conduct stakeholder pilots. This would be similar to how the CHPC holds “panel discussions” with invited subject matter experts or guests. A specific time and date exists and potential participants can be invited to and prepped for the event. A moderator/facilitator could guide the process. The committee staff could take notes and/or the meeting could be recorded. The G2Z committee members could “listen” actively and contribute questions in the chat box and also use their experience to help improve the process.

Participants completed an interactive poll to assess the viability of the approach:



## Getting to Zero (G2Z) Committee



10 strongly agreed or agreed with the approach

6 disagreed with the approach

Mr. Datcher asked participants to complete an interactive poll on which priority stakeholder groups should be organized first considering the use of the G2Z committee as a forum. The order included: 1) Routine HIV Testing; 2) STI / Sexual Health Educators; 3) SUDs providers; and 4) faith leaders.

Participants felt that the group should honor the consensus decision-making. However, the group agreed on the following:

- Use the G2Z Committee time only for the two groups that seem to represent the “best fit”: Routine HIV Testing and the STI / Sexual Health stakeholders. These stakeholders will be more likely to attend this forum.
  - Mr. Barry Walters will invite three to five stakeholders relevant to piloting the stakeholder engagement process at the March G2Z Committee meeting for the topic of HIV Routine Testing. This may include policy-makers, clinicians that can share best practices and barriers, and persons with lived experience. Committee staff will support this process. Mr. Datcher and Mr. Walters will finalize questions and format based on input from the group.
  - Ms. Gina D’Angelo will work with Dr. Demidont to identify three to five sexual health / STI stakeholders who could attend the April G2Z Committee meeting.
- SUDs treatment providers affiliated with DMHAS meet regularly outside of the G2Z Committee in learning communities or for other purposes. Ms. Natalie DuMont encouraged an approach in which she could facilitate an invitation of a G2Z into an existing process. She could also help facilitate the conversation during the stakeholder group as long as she was given a clear set of discussion questions.
  - The group will need to clarify the focus of the questions. For example, will this be about improving access to substance use treatment and mental health services for PLWH and/or other specific evidence-based approaches like status-neutral care?
- Discussions with faith leaders should be organized to occur in the context of a summit or a separate stakeholder event.
  - Ms. Croasdale-Mills described an upcoming June 2.5 day Red Chair conference organized by UConn that will convene global leaders including faith leaders on important topics relevant to health disparities and racial inequities. She stated that these type of events are opportunities to engage and to invite faith and community leaders into a conversation and partnership.
  - Rev. Garbera, Mr. Thomas Butcher, and Mr. Reggie Knox shared perspectives on why the faith leaders should be convened using a different process than G2Z committee.

Mr. Datcher, Mr. Walters, Ms. D’Angelo and committee staff will take responsibility for organizing the March stakeholder engagement pilot – which may include adjusting the order of the meeting agenda. Committee participants may be asked to help invite a colleague that may be a person who can talk about best practices and challenges in encouraging Routine HIV Testing.

### **Update: New Haven G2Z Capacity Building**

Mr. Butcher and Mr. Sapero provided an update on stakeholder engagement groups underway as part of the City of New Haven G2Z capacity building grant.



# Getting to Zero (G2Z) Committee



- Two additional stakeholder sessions were completed including one with the Ryan White Part A TGA in Hartford. Mr. Sapero reported that the participants were engaged and appreciated the activities.
- Mr. Sapero stated that he will compile all of the information from the local stakeholder engagement groups and forwarding this information to the group by the next G2Z Committee meeting.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Participants did not introduce any other business items.

## NEXT MEETING

The group will meet virtually on 17 March 2021 @ 11:00 a.m.

## MEETING FEEDBACK

In general, participants felt that the group is making progress and taking more decisive action in arranging stakeholders groups. Some technology glitches and disruptions in internet service caused a temporary disconnection for committee staff.

## ADJOURN

Mr. Datcher adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

## ATTENDANCE

Name	CHPC Member	1/20	2/17	3/17					
E. Benedetto	Yes	x	x						
J. Brown			x						
T. Butcher	Yes	x	x						
A. Croasdale-Mills			x						
G. D'Angelo		x	x						
B. Datcher	Yes	x	x						
A.C. Demidont		x	x						
N. Dumont	Yes	x	x						
A. Garbera		x	x						
M. Joseph	Yes	x	x						
R. Knox	Yes	x	x						
O. Mairena		x	x						
D. Pawlow		x	x						
F. Quettant			x						
J. Sapero		x	x						
R. Stewart	Yes		x						
Y. Velez		x	x						
B. Walters	Yes	x	x						
D. Warren-Dias			x						
Unidentified call-ins		2	1						
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>						