



Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium

August 21, 2019 Meeting Summary Page 1

Location:	Chrysalis Center – Hartford, CT		
Date:	August 21, 2019	Recorder:	Michael Nogelo / David Bechtel
Start Time:	9:40 a.m.	End Time:	2:05 p.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 members voted to approve the July 2019 meeting summary without changes.
- CHPC members voted to establish a Getting to Zero (G2Z) Committee as a standing committee of the CHPC.
- CHPC committees conducted meetings.
- CHPC leaders and partners reviewed accomplishments and milestones for 2019.

CALL TO ORDER, MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND INTRODUCTIONS

CHPC co-chair Barry Walters called to order the Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium (CHPC) at 9:40 a.m.

- 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 with and affected by HIV/AIDS connect to services.
- CHPC statewide goals reflect the National HIV/AIDS Strategy goals. Connecticut is on a mission of Getting to Zero (G2Z); this includes addressing health disparities and inequities.
- Mr. Walters shared information about how CHPC meetings work, how CHPC members use a consensus model for decision-making in committees, and how CHPC participants create an environment for inclusion and participation.

Mr. Walters asked meeting participants to hold a moment of silence to honor all of those individuals infected, affected, or who have lost their lives as a result of HIV/AIDS.

Introductions were conducted by way of meeting participants sharing their names and the town in which they live and/or an organizational affiliation.

- Mr. Walters encouraged individuals to introduce themselves however they felt most comfortable, including sharing HIV status, if desired.
- Ms. D’Angelo stated that some CHPC members who hold affiliations (volunteer or professional) can share these affiliations because this information helps people network and connect. These individuals may or may not live with HIV. It is their personal choice to disclose that information.

CO-CHAIR UPDATE

CHPC co-chair Ms. Gina D’Angelo explained that the co-chairs use a segment of the meeting to share or to review any headline news.



Attendance, Satisfaction, and Feedback. Ms. D’Angelo shared the following information:

- CHPC meeting participation continues to average approximately 75 total participants.
- Meeting satisfaction from the July 2019 CHPC meeting was 100% for public participants and CHPC members.
- The featured question on the feedback form asked about the value of conducting a CHPC networking activity at a CHPC meeting. 30 respondents answered yes, 0 respondents answered no, and 4 answered unsure. The CHPC Executive Committee members will discuss some type of networking activities for the 2020 meeting schedule.

Committee Updates. Ms. D’Angelo shared information for each committee on the work they accomplished in July and the focus of the work for the August meeting.

Committee	Focus of the Committee Work	
	July	August
Ad Hoc Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop recommendation for Prevention Committee – including priority work areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial meeting pending vote to continue as a standing committee • Identify partners, work plan, and approach to meeting September to December
Membership & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review August newsletter draft • CHPC member recruitment & selection for 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 CHPC member selection process • Recruitment and retention updates
Needs Assessment Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce survey instrument • Review stigma data from survey of people living with HIV (PLWH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review workforce survey pilot data and user experience questions • Focus group updates
Quality & Performance Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHPC indicator review • QM Summit planning (Sep 2019) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QM Summit planning (Sep 2019) • Plan for 2020 + accomplishments
Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHPC process improvement • End-of-year planning (August) • Focus group logistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting process check • September to December transition • Focus groups • New member orientation

Featured Update. Ms. D’Angelo described the process underway to conduct focus groups as an enhancement to the 2019 persons living with HIV (PLWH) needs assessment survey findings. The CHPC co-chairs will facilitate up to three focus groups for PLWH who are between the ages of 18 and 28 and/or newly or recently infected. This focus represents a segment of survey respondents that from which the CHPC felt it was important to gather additional information. The CHPC will coordinate with at least three organizations in Waterbury, Bridgeport, New Haven, and/or Hartford. These are also G2Z communities.



Ms. D'Angelo reminded the group that the CHPC will not meet in September to December. The new member orientation typically occurs in December, and the HIV Funders Group will lead the coordination of data collection for the HIV workforce survey.

CHPC VOTE: JULY MEETING SUMMARY

Ms. D'Angelo explained that the CHPC operates as a public planning group and therefore records a meeting summary. The CHPC members reviewed the notes and took a formal vote to approve the meeting summary. The table below shows the outcome of the voting process.

CHPC Vote Summary: July Meeting Summary

Motion to approve	Second the motion	# Yes Votes	# No Votes	# Abstain
Clara Langley O'Quinn	Jeffrey Snell	15	0	5

Discussion, additions and/or corrections prior to the vote:

- None

CHPC VOTE: ESTABLISH A G2Z STANDING COMMITTEE

Ms. D'Angelo stated that she has served as the chair of the CHPC's ad hoc prevention committee. The committee was charged to develop recommendations for how the CHPC could support the recommendations of the Statewide Getting to Zero (G2Z) report which included identifying a mechanism to facilitate statewide coordination. The ad hoc prevention committee met three times. The committee: 1) explored how G2Z recommendations could be integrated into other existing CHPC committees; 2) identified the benefits, limitations, and implications of establishing a new standing committee; and 3) developed a recommendation about future action. The CHPC members received information about this vote in the meeting information sent in advance of the CHPC meeting. Ms. D'Angelo reviewed the handout and provided additional explanation or clarification on several matters including:

- The ad hoc prevention committee had invited the G2Z commissioners and representatives from all G2Z communities as well as Danbury – which has been included in the G2Z process by the Ryan White Part A Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) for New Haven / Fairfield Counties. Commissioners received invitations and meeting notes.
- The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) will assign a resource liaison to the G2Z committee. Ms. D'Angelo would be that resource liaison as she has been involved in the process since its inception. Ideally, another CHPC member will serve as the G2Z chair in the event the CHPC votes to establish a new standing committee.
- The G2Z committee will address prevention priorities and will also require integration of prevention and care activities. The G2Z committee will not focus only on prevention, and will require close coordination with all other CHPC committees. For example, the Quality Performance Measures (QPM) team will establish CHPC indicators relevant to G2Z. The Needs Assessment Projects (NAP) team may be involved in needs assessment activities relevant to G2Z. The Membership and Awareness Committee (MAC) may play a critical role in coordinating communication processes. Currently, the CHPC tends to be more care/treatment focused. This G2Z committee would help rebalance the CHPC process.



- Ms. D’Angelo reiterated that this will include an emphasis on integrating prevention and care. For example, this includes the emphasis on the strategy of HIV treatment as prevention.
- Some CHPC members expressed concern about engaging stakeholders outside of the Ryan White Parts and getting their buy-in to support G2Z activities. It may be the case that the CHPC will identify outcomes that it cannot influence. For example, the viral suppression rates for PLWH with private insurance tend to be much lower than for PLWH affiliated with Ryan White services. This continues to be an opportunity for the state.
- Several ad hoc prevention committee members pointed out that all of the issues identified as concerns were discussed at the ad hoc prevention committee meetings. The committee members understood this requires a balanced and integrated approach between care and prevention. The committee members discussed other alternatives such as integrating G2Z activities more visibly into existing CHPC committees. The proposed recommendation creates a new standing committee and will increase the focus on G2Z activities across all committees. The CHPC has been moving in this direction over time and this is reflected in the statewide HIV plan.
- Ms. D’Angelo stated that a G2Z committee would include the voice of youth – those with HIV and those in priority or focus populations.

The CHPC moved to a formal vote process with the understanding that the G2Z committee would include an integrated focus on prevention and care/treatment. The table below shows the outcome of the voting process.

CHPC Vote Summary: Establish a G2Z Standing Committee

Motion to approve	Second the motion	# Yes Votes	# No Votes	# Abstain
Ad Hoc Prevention Committee	Not applicable	16	2	1

Discussion, additions and/or corrections prior to the vote:

- Ms. D’Angelo clarified that the proposed recommendation can be amended to reflect more explicitly an emphasis on prevention and care. CHPC members voiced their general consensus with this clarification.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Gilchrist invited CHPC members and public participants to share announcements, success stories, or any emerging issues in their communities. The table contains the highlights of the announcements.

Summary of August Announcements

Date	Community / type	Description / Information
8/15/2019	Hartford event	45 people attended a showing of the movie “5B” at the Hartford Public Library. The event costs approximately \$135 to stream (and will be available at no cost soon) and offers a great approach to engage the community.



Summary of August Announcements

Date	Community / type	Description / Information
9/9/2019	Meriden meeting	The Positive Prevention Connecticut group will meet September 9, 2019 at the Meriden Health Department from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Information fliers are available at the CHPC registration table in the lobby.
8/23/2019	New Haven job posting	The City of New Haven has posted a job position for a G2Z Coordinator. Applicants should have skills relevant to HIV prevention and care, community organizing, capacity building, and should reflect the HIV epidemic and/or communities at risk of HIV. Additional information is available on the City of New Haven website. ¹
8/29/2019	New Haven event	The Connecticut Gay Black Pride event will occur on September 14, 2019 at Goffe Street Park in New Haven. The event will include live music, food trucks, and health screenings.
9/18/2019	Statewide conference	The September 2019 Quality Summit has been oversold with establishment of a waiting list.
9/6/2019	Waterbury event	Waterbury Health Department will hold a condoms and cupcakes event on September 6, 2019. This event will focus on engaging women and offering health screenings, and food will be served.
N/A	Statewide policy information	Clarification was given about a new public charge rule that affects immigrants attempting to get permanent status. Ryan White services will not be affected by this new rule.
Coming soon	New Haven job posting	APNH will be posting job positions related to a grant that it recently received to focus on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) awareness and navigation.
10/1-10/3/2019	Statewide training	DPH has been conducting a high level of training on topics such as rapid test administration. Please check with your organization to make sure that your organization benefits from these DPH trainings and other trainings coordinated by DPH such as an October 1 to 3 training offered by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for HIV Navigation Services. DPH will send this information to contractors and will also use the CHPC infoshare process.

CHPC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

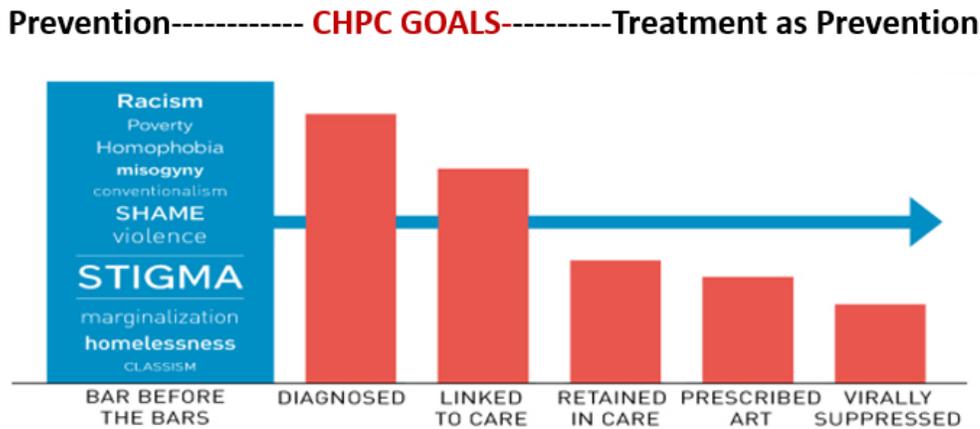
Mr. Gilchrist reminded CHPC members and meeting participants about the room locations and time frames for CHPC committee meetings. Committee meetings will end at approximately 11:50 a.m., at which time lunch will be available.

¹ Mr. Tom Butcher clarified that a Master's degree was listed as preferred because it reflected a pre-approved job description. This requirement may be negotiable depending on experience, skills, and other factors.



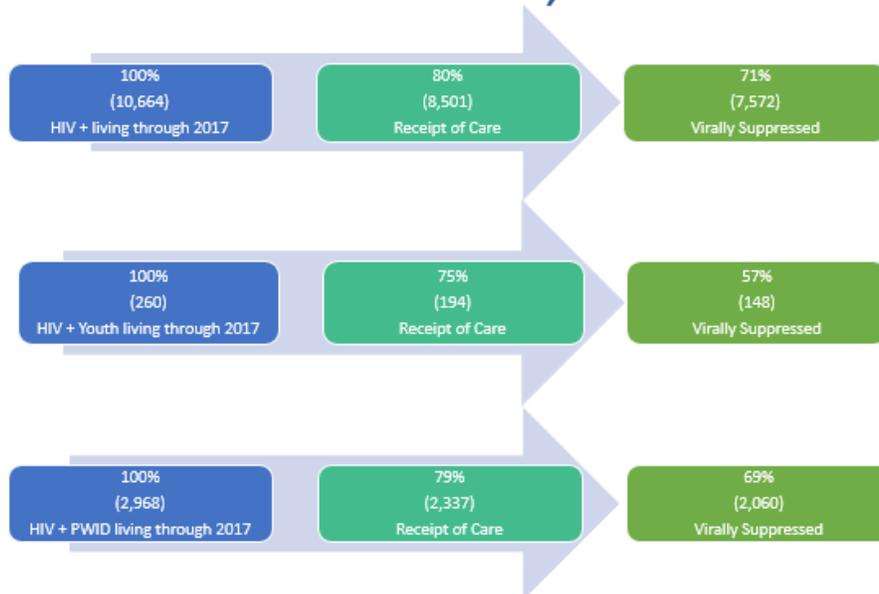
CHPC PRESENTATION: 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ms. D’Angelo explained that, each year, the CHPC takes time to reflect on accomplishments and areas for improvement in the context of the statewide HIV plan. The figure below shows the conceptual framework the CHPC uses for its work.



CHPC Indicators. Ms. Suzanne Speers, MPH, DPH Epidemiologist, provided a mini-presentation titled, “HIV in Connecticut: CHPC 2019 Annual Epidemiological Update.” Ms. Speers reviewed the CHPC statewide progress indicators shown in the table, and presented additional information about these indicators using charts and graphs (available on the CHPC and DPH websites). The figure below shows HIV Care Continuum by select populations (Connecticut, 2017).

HIV Care Continuum, by Select Populations, Connecticut, 2017



Note: National HIV/AIDS Strategy, 2020: Increase the proportion of HIV diagnosed individuals whose virus is effectively suppressed to 80%, with emphasis on youth and persons who inject drugs. Source: Preliminary HIV surveillance data through June 2019



Ms. Speers or other DPH subject matter experts provided these clarifications to questions about the information shared with the CHPC:

- DPH will contact the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) and/or Gilead to get a better understanding of who is prescribing Truvada (and how this relates to the PrEP indicator).
- The higher the PrEP-to-need ratio (PNR) the better. The national average now stands at 5.4 and Connecticut should set a goal to exceed the national average. Data by sex and race will be available on AIDSVu.
- Connecticut must continue to improve viral suppression outcomes, particularly for the non-Ryan White populations. Efforts such as Data to Care should help facilitate improvement.

CHPC Committees.

- The QPM team held 8 meetings in 2019 and averaged approximately 29 participants. Major accomplishments included adding a PrEP indicator, removing or retiring an indicator on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) among persons in medical care, and changing an indicator for linkage to HIV care (within one month of diagnosis). Planning a September G2Z though Quality Management summit represents another highlight of the group.
- The NAP team held 8 meetings in 2019 and averaged approximately 16 participants per meeting. Major accomplishments included sharing the results of the 2018 PLWH needs assessment survey, designing the focus group protocols for PLWH ages 18 to 28 or newly infected, and developing a preliminary instrument for the 2019 HIV workforce needs assessment.
 - Ms. D'Angelo stated that DPH has been participating in several meetings relevant to expanding the number of Community Health Workers and peer support providers.
- The MAC held 8 meetings in 2019 and averaged approximately 16 participants per meeting. Major accomplishments included increasing their ability to understand member attendance issues, supporting the NAP team by providing input on the focus group protocols, recruiting 16 new member applicants for 2020, and publishing three, improved *HIV/AIDS Planning News & Notes* newsletters.

HIV Funders Group and DPH. Representatives from several organizations summarized 2019 accomplishments.

- Ryan White Part A: Getting to Zero capacity building; Continuous quality improvement
- Ryan White Part B (DPH): Expanded Services; Free CD4, viral load testing available to eligible Ryan White clients through the state lab
- Connecticut AIDS Drug Assistance Program (CADAP): Advisory Group meetings; Hired a pharmacist / manager; Web-based platform
- Ryan White Part C: ongoing expansion of early intervention services and supplemental projects that focus on quality improvement.



- Ryan White D. Danielle Warren-Dias reported that Connecticut Children’s Medical Center received a 1-year RWD Supplemental Grant to identify best practices to help youth who are unstably housed. Housing is a critical issue: 93% of their youth who are unstably housed are not virally suppressed.
- Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA). Melanie Alvarez stated that HOPWA providers are getting ready for program reviews starting in September. Melanie encouraged HOPWA providers to join the AIDS CT Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Committee, which is developing quality standards.
- DPH representatives briefly described progress in areas including: Getting to Zero Campaign (G2Z); Positive Prevention CT; Routine Testing (Expanded); Outreach Testing and Linkage; Drug User Health Programs (Expanded); Syringe Services, Harm Reduction Education, Overdose Prevention Education and Naloxone Distribution; Partner Services; Data to Care (D2C); PrEP access and navigation; Community Mobilization; use of Effective Behavioral Interventions; and National Partnerships (e.g. Prevention Access Campaign’s U=U (undetectable = untransmittable))

CHPC Co-Chairs / Participants. CHPC co-chairs pointed out how the 2019 presentations reflected priorities in the statewide HIV plan (e.g., housing, Community Health Workers, G2Z, equity); how the CHPC continues to encourage critical thinking (e.g., address health equity, G2Z partnerships, use of social marketing), and the value of creating a diverse, productive conversation space.

CHPC participants shared some of their individual accomplishments with the group and also wrote down accomplishments on meeting feedback forms. Other suggestions included:

- Include prevention efforts related to Hepatitis C, particularly for baby boomers (via senior centers and other similar programs or services).
- Expansion of mental health resources. Ms. D’Angelo reported that DPH is planning a “Mental Health First Aid” training.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gilchrist reminded participants to fill out their feedback forms, thanked everyone for a productive 2019 planning year, and adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.



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Member Attendance*	1/16	2/20	3/20	4/17	5/15	6/19	7/17	8/21
1. Laura Aponte	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
2. Kat Auguste	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
3. Clifford Batson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
4. Susan Bouffard	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
5. Thomas Butcher	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P
6. Angelique Croasdale-Mills	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P
7. Carmen Cruz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
8. Gina D'Angelo	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
9. Stephen Feathers	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
10. Nilda Fernandez	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
11. Carl Ferris	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
12. Jose Figueroa	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
13. Ann Galloway Johnson	A	A	P	P	P	P	A	P
14. Lauren Gau	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A
15. Dante Gennaro	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
16. Blaise Gilchrist	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
17. Clara Langley O'Quinn	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
18. Ron Lee	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
19. Andrea Lombard	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	A
20. Luis Magana	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A
21. Angel Medina	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
22. Waleska Mercado	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
23. Glenn Scott	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A
24. Jeffrey Snell	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P
25. Roberta Stewart	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
26. Barry Walters	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Total Present	26	29	23	24	25	21	21	20

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

Public participants (54)

Melanie Alvarez; Joyce Boone; Jahmyia Boyette; Samuel Bowens; Alison Campbell; Andre Campos; Jimmy Cataquet; Allison Champlin; Cherry Chan; Belinda Clark; David Colbert; Doel Colon; Daniel Davidson; Xavier Day; Martina De La Cruz; Luis Diaz; Maria Diaz; Dulce Dones; Taylor Edelmann; Alsamendi Fleurival; Brittany Gardner; Cynthia Hall; Shanay Hall; Daniel Hulton; Clunie Jean-Baptiste; Coley Jones; Marcelin Joseph; Dionne Kotey; Barbara Ligon; Debra Lombardo; Maria Lorenzo; Sarah Macone; Erin Malgioglio; Sue Major; Kristine Mazon; Zoey Melendez; Mukhtar Mohamed; Kelly Moore; Erika Mott; Consuelo Munóz; Mitchell Namias; Stephen Novis; Kathyleen Pitner; Jackie Robertson; Joselyn Rodriguez; Rosie Rodriguez; William Rosa; DeLita Rose-Daniels; Angel Ruiz; Donna Sciacca; Sue Speers; Pamela Studley; Abigail Torres; Idiana Velez; Danielle Warren-Dias