



Membership & Awareness Committee
January 20, 2021 Meeting Summary



Date: January 20, 2021

Location: Virtual Meeting **Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 12:17 p.m.

Attendance: MAC Members: Victor Acevedo, Stephen Feathers, Carl Ferris, Dante Gennaro, Debra Lombardo

Public Participants: Dulce Dones-Mendez

CHPC Staff: Michael Nogelo

Meeting Accomplishments

1. The group approved the October 2020 Membership and Awareness Committee (MAC) meeting summary with no changes.
2. The group reviewed a draft of the 2021 MAC work plan.
3. The group reviewed the current CHPC membership and identified a desire to increase the engagement of community groups in the CHPC.
4. The group discussed the emerging partnership between MAC and Positive Prevention CT (PPCT).
5. The group planned article topics and possible authors for the March newsletter.
6. The group conducted a process check.

Identified Tasks

1. Staff will draft the January MAC meeting summary.
 2. MAC leaders will ask CHPC leaders for guidance on possible ways to engage community groups in the CHPC.
 3. Staff will work with the identified newsletter authors to pull together a draft of the newsletter for review at the February MAC meeting.
 4. Staff will work to make sure all MAC members will be able to connect to future virtual meetings.
 5. Staff will check in with all new members to identify any mentor-mentee connection issues.
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A. WELCOME

Membership and Awareness Committee (MAC) co-chair Stephen Feathers called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed committee members and guests. All participants introduced themselves.

B. OCTOBER 2020 MEETING SUMMARY

The group approved the October 2020 MAC meeting summary by consensus, with no changes.

C. REVIEW 2021 MAC WORK PLAN

Mr. Feathers asked the group to review a draft of the MAC work plan for 2021. Mr. Feathers noted that MAC meetings will include a standing agenda item to check in on the collaboration with Positive Prevention CT (PPCT).

- Dante Gennaro said CHPC members will be encouraged to attend public groups as CHPC representatives to increase community engagement and representation from consumers.
- Mr. Gennaro reported that the CHPC may hold meetings, summits, and/or forums in September, October, and/or November, and that MAC can re-visit the need for more meetings later in the year, if needed.

D. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Mr. Feathers reported that 10 new CHPC members completed orientation and started their two-year terms in January. Corey Gerena resigned because he was hired as a pastor in New Jersey and moved out of state. Mr. Feathers asked the group to look at the membership diversity chart to see the current membership composition.

- Michael Nogelo noted that MAC's targeted member recruitment efforts had significantly reduced the biggest membership gaps.
- Mr. Gennaro suggested developing a group of CHPC "advisors" who represent required or suggested membership categories but who cannot commit to monthly participation in meetings. Advisors would be invited to participate as needed.
- Mr. Feathers noted that there seems to be an informal advisor network that could be formalized.
- Mr. Gennaro stated that he and other CHPC leaders have been talking about engaging other HIV planning groups in Connecticut.
- Carl Ferris said the Aging Positively group in New Haven has roughly 30 members, many of whom would be interested in participating in CHPC. All members were given iPads to allow them to participate in virtual meetings.
- The group discussed possible ways to engage groups such as Aging Positively, including: a) sending groups a brief, written CHPC update each month; b) having a MAC staff person or co-chair join the group for a few minutes to give a verbal update and answer questions; or c) asking CHPC members to serve as CHPC ambassadors to their groups.



Mr. Feathers said the 10 first-time, new members were each assigned an experienced CHPC member as their mentor, and pointed to a list of the mentor-new member matches.

E. POSITIVE PREVENTION CT COORDINATION

Mr. Feathers provided an update on discussions among the CHPC and MAC co-chairs and PPCT leaders regarding plans for collaboration between MAC and PPCT. PPCT is a group of Connecticut HIV prevention providers and consumers that creates health communication strategies. The PPCT mission lines up with MAC's work to get information about HIV prevention and care out to people in Connecticut. The discussions produced several agreements on ways to collaborate: a) MAC meetings will have a standing agenda item for PPCT updates, as needed; b) Mr. Gennaro (who is the PPCT chair from the CT Department of Public Health – CTDPH) and Mr. Feathers will participate in MAC meetings to make sure the PPCT perspective can be shared; c) Mr. Nogelo will provide staff support to PPCT, including attending PPCT meetings and taking meeting notes, so there will be no need to coordinate two staff; d) PPCT may sometimes ask MAC members for their feedback on draft PPCT messages during MAC meetings or as people are signing into MAC meetings; e) The CHPC may post PPCT campaigns and upcoming events to the CHPC website; f) PPCT will share links to the CHPC newsletter on the PPCT Facebook and Instagram pages; and g) The CHPC newsletter will reserve a page for the PPCT “provider’s corner” in each edition.

- Mr. Gennaro expressed gratitude for the opportunity for PPCT to partner with MAC. MAC members will have opportunities to tell PPCT about what types of messages they would like to see (e.g., topics, target populations).
- Mr. Feathers said PPCT will recruit people to share their personal stories about stigma for an upcoming PPCT campaign.

F. PLAN MARCH NEWSLETTER

Mr. Feathers said MAC produces a newsletter three times each year. The group would need to plan the articles and possible authors for the March newsletter. The CHPC Update and the CTDPH Corner are the two regular features, and PPCT will provide one page of content. Mr. Feathers asked the group for ideas for the remaining 5-6 articles, and reminded the group that, when MAC polled everyone who attended the October CHPC meeting about what they would like to see in the newsletter, the top interest areas were: a) mental and emotional health tips and news, and b) personal stories.

The group agreed on the following article topics and potential authors:

- Two articles related to the COVID-19 vaccine: a) a personal story co-written by Debra Lombardo and one of her clients; and b) an informational article by Mr. Nogelo pulling from the presentation given by Dr. Juan Salazar at that morning's CHPC meeting, with a focus on debunking myths and a QR code to information about where to get vaccinated and vaccine eligibility.
- A healthy, budget-friendly, “pantry” recipe by Mr. Nogelo.
- An article on sound bowl healing with a link to a YouTube video. Mr. Gennaro will ask Alixe Dittmore and/or someone from InterCommunity to draft the article.



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- An article about how COVID has illuminated health inequities and social determinants of health. Anchor Health Initiative or a community health center may be resources for this article.

Mr. Feathers said Mr. Nogelo would work with the identified authors to pull together a draft of the newsletter for review at the February MAC meeting.

G. PROCESS CHECK

Mr. Feathers asked the group for feedback on the meeting.

- Mr. Nogelo noted that CHPC staff would need to work with Ron Lee to make sure he will be able to connect to future virtual meetings.
- Mr. Ferris noted that his attempts to connect with his mentee had been unsuccessful.
- Ms. Lombardo noted that she had not heard from her mentor.
- The group agreed that staff should check in with all new members to identify any mentor-mentee connection issues.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Feathers thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.