



MEETING SUMMARY

Date: March 16, 2022 **Location:** Virtual Meeting
Start Time: 11:35 a.m. **End Time:** 12:50 p.m.
Participants: Melanie Alvarez, Marianne Buchelli, Angelique Croasdale-Mills, Christopher Cole, Xavier Day, Luis Diaz, Cynthia Hall, Joanne Montgomery and Mitchell Namias. Dante Gennaro joined at the end of the meeting.
Recorder/Staff: Lisa Mason and Ken Plourd

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Needs Assessment Projects (NAP) Team members approved the February 16, 2022 NAP meeting summary.
- NAP members continued review of NAP responsibilities in the draft of 2022–2026 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan.
- NAP members clarified the mission of the committee and discussed the decision to return to its original goal of coordinating and conducting needs assessment projects to further understand people living with HIV (PWH) and service providers.
- NAP members confirmed **The Universal Experience of Trauma: Socio-Cultural Guidance for a Developmental Trauma-Informed Approach** (formerly the **Gender and Trauma Informed Care**) training is scheduled for March 31, 2022 from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm.

NEW NAP COMMITTEE CHAIR(S) ANNOUNCEMENT

Anthony Santella has been selected as the new NAP Team Chair. Anthony was unable to attend today’s meeting and will return for the April 2022 meeting. In addition, Venesha Heron is no longer serving on the NAP Team.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING SUMMARY

NAP members approved the February 16, 2022 meeting summary.

REVIEW NAP RESPONSIBILITIES IN 2022-2026 INTEGRATED PLAN DEVELOPMENT

NAP members continued its discussion of the 2022–2026 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan development logic model and proposed responsibilities for the NAP Team, and had the following feedback.

- PReP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) uptake should be integrated into the workforce training along with other training providers
- Add the number of trainings as an indicator under goal 1 in the logic model

This task was not completed.

CLARIFICATION OF NAP COMMITTEE MISSION

NAP members discussed the mission of the NAP Team. The original mission was to conduct or coordinate projects that provide information about needs, gaps, and resources in the statewide HIV prevention and care system. One focus area is gaps in current data. The focus of NAP evolved over the last year to identify priority HIV workforce competencies and offer workforce training in these priority competencies. Going forward, the NAP Team will



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resume its original mission and focus on needs assessment projects along with supporting or collaborating on workforce training.

Chris Cole and Joanne Montgomery questioned whether NAP is a needs assessment planning committee. They asked if participating in NAP might replace the need to conduct needs assessment in their region (New Haven and Fairfield County). Lisa Mason clarified that NAP is not need assessment planning but needs assessment projects – coordinating and conducting projects.

NAP members discussed gaps among the varied and multiple needs assessments that funders and providers conduct.

- Ryan White A Greater Hartford and New Haven/Fairfield County have shared some of their recent needs assessments with the CHPC. Staff created an inventory of these assessments with the goal of NAP members identifying gaps and opportunities to conduct needs assessment projects for missing data.
- Mitchell Namias reported that DPH is currently conducting a needs assessment among Ryan White B (medical care) consumers. This DPH survey deployed in February 2022 and will wrap up in April 2022. To date, they have received 196 responses. Some early trends include needs related to dental, substance abuse, mental health and support, housing, and information about PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis).
- **Rural areas** are not represented in the current inventory of Ryan White A Greater Hartford and New Haven/Fairfield County (understandably) or sometimes in other needs assessments. Xavier Day reported that the needs are different in the New London region. They fund dental services but the **need is for more dental providers**; they have three. There is also a need to include **partner organizations** providing services in needs assessments: what are the barriers and what do they need? Do they need more education and training about serving PWH?
- **Housing for PWH** and assessing **housing providers** for their ability to serve PWH were mentioned as other topics that may not be addressed in current needs assessments. Greater Hartford does not have enough housing providers. What about engaging other housing providers and funders (e.g., Dept. of Housing) in a needs assessment? To quote Shawn Lang, “housing is healthcare.” The need for treating partners with respect is critical. Angelique mentioned a best practice housing model for PWH that could be shared with funders and HIV program providers.
- Angelique encouraged NAP members to think creatively about needs assessment projects to address underserved populations, especially **African American/Black females** and the need to increase awareness of HIV testing with this population.
- NAP members discussed conducting a needs assessment regarding HIV information among the **general population** to identify gaps in knowledge and raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing.
- Angelique recommended that we use this opportunity to ask new questions and use the data to tell a story to more effectively engage partners - to talk about our partners, promising practices, and how to use data to impact policy.
- Engaging the Funders Group and the Quality and Performance Measures (QPM) Team was also recommended to ask for additional needs assessment direction and about potential trainings for 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS

Former NAP chair Laura Aponte has announced her upcoming retirement from DPH.



HIV WORKFORCE TRAINING

Xavier reminded everyone that Dr. Jose Michael Gonzalez will conduct **The Universal Experience of Trauma: Socio-Cultural Guidance for a Developmental Trauma-Informed Approach** previously referred to as **Gender and Trauma Informed Care Training** on March 31, 2022, 10:00 am – 12:30 via CT Train. The registration link on CT Train is https://www.train.org/connecticut/course/1102506/live_event or search CT Train using ID **1102506**. The training was posted on the CHPC website and listserv.

The NAP Team will meet on April 20, 2022 at 11:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

The NAP Team meeting adjourned the meeting at 12:50 pm.

TRAINING CHART – UPDATED MARCH 2022

HIV Training Topics	Training Providers	Training Updates and Next Steps
Self-care for HIV workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundaries, Ethics and Self-Care training conducted by Melanie Alvarez on March 16, 2021 for 40 participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training not recorded due to the sensitive nature of topic and confidentiality.
Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidentiality and HIPPA Law Training conducted by Olinda Morales, DPH HIPPA Attorney, on Sept. 22, 2021 for 11 participants. Original date, Sept. 21st was changed due at late notice to accommodate presenter’s scheduling conflict. The date change may have resulted in fewer participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorded training will be uploaded to CT Train. • Recommendations for next time shared with presenter.
Motivational Interviewing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The four-part Motivational Interviewing training with Chip Tafrate, CCSU was completed on Nov. 12 and 18, 2021 and January 20 and 21, 2022. Feedback from participants was very positive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Motivational Interviewing training was not recorded. The trainer reported that providing an opportunity for participants to practice skills and receive feedback is critical and cannot be done in a recorded format.
Gender and Trauma Informed Care Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xavier Day confirmed that Dr. Jose Michael Gonzalez will present The Universal Experience of Trauma: Socio-Cultural Guidance for a Developmental Trauma-Informed Approach on March 31, 2022, from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training announcement will be posted on CT Train and shared with CHPC listserv. • Training will be recorded and uploaded to CT Train.



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HIV Training Topics	Training Providers	Training Updates and Next Steps
Substance Misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Misuse and Harm Reduction training will feature 3 parts – biology of addiction, harm reduction strategies, resources and strategies to help clients engage in treatment (possible panel) • Cathy Eggert from APT Foundation was recommended as possible trainer for biology of addiction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa will contact Cathy Eggert about conducting the Substance Misuse training in spring 2022.
Mental Health Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elia Vechieto, CRT, has retired. Angelique will contact CRT about another trainer. • Lisa will talk with Mark Nickel about a potential trainer and/or collaborating with DMHAS staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm trainer – Angelique will contact CRT, Lisa will contact Mark Nickel or DMHAS. • Recruit panelists.
Social Drivers of Health Equity (New training topic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing discussion. Dr. Wisdom Powell, UCONN Health Disparities Institute, was recommended along with Deidre McDaniel who addressed the CHPC in May 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select first trainer to contact.
Cultural Humility & Cultural Competency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •