

# THE **act** COMMUNITY

**AIDS Connecticut (ACT)**

**August 2017**

## **Board Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, July 19, 2017**

Attendance: Robert Freeman, Andrew Walter, Cesar Aleman, Lucy Rohena, Barbara Shaw, J. Tobias Freeman, Theresa Nicholson, Charles Hatheway (via telephone), Quyen Truong (via telephone), and Kara Capone (via telephone at 6:20). Staff: John Merz.

I. Consent Agenda. The meeting was called to order at 6:03. There was a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting and the minutes of the June 28, 2017 Special Telephonic Meeting of the Board of Directors. M/S/P.

II. Special Discussion. CQI and Membership – Ms. Shaw raised, and the Board discussed, the issue brought up in the ongoing strategic planning process of whether ACT should and/or needs to remain a membership coalition. This is a complicated issue that will be further discussed in the strategic planning process but the general sense was that it needs to continue and to “double down” on membership services, in part by reconstituting the Membership Service Committee. There was also a discussion of the contract obligation ACT has with the Department of Housing to coordinate approximately 18 housing programmatic monitoring visits using the Standards of Care. There have been problems implementing this year’s activities, partly due to staff turnover and partly because of conflicting expectations on process and timeline. The process is not broken but needs adjustment. There is a plan in place

to help the CQI committee going forward.

III. Committee Reports. A. HR Committee. There was no report.

B. Finance/Audit Committee. Mr. J. Tobias Freeman reported to the Board on Form 990. He stated that there were no discrepancies between the Form 990 and the financials he also had reviewed. There was a motion to accept the Form 990. M/S/P. The Board received the midyear financial summary, and Mr. J. Tobias Freeman reported that ACT is doing exceptionally well and is in a good cash position. He noted that the budget notes at the end of the budget status report answer any variance discrepancies.

C. Nominations Committee. There was no report.

D. CQI Committee. This report was delivered in Ms. Shaw’s Special Discussion, above.

E. Governance. There was no report.

F. Development. Mr. Merz reported that ACT needs table captains for the upcoming WE CAN Cook event. Mr. Aleman suggested that if a Board member cannot attend, it would be a nice gesture to purchase a ticket to give to someone else.

IV. Executive Director’s Report. Mr. Merz stated that ACT’s clinical nurse

supervisor has recently resigned and the position has been posted. ACT also welcomed a new employee to coordinate the volume of various direct client assistance applications that comes in.

V. Old Business. Strategic Planning process. September 20 from 4-8 for an extended board/staff planning meeting. Several absences of those present; perhaps a Doodle poll is needed.

VI. New Business. Mr. Merz will send a draft investment policy to the Board’s Treasurer for his review, and thereafter the Board will discuss it.

VII. Adjournment at 7:14. M/S/P. Next ACT Board Meeting – Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 6-7:30.



## **Don't Miss AIDS Walk 2017**

Join us for a scenic 5K walk around the MDC Reservoir in West Hartford, CT on Saturday, September 30, 9:30-11:30 am. The event will feature music, zumba warmups, refreshments, t-shirts, and prizes for top fundraisers. Collect donations online by setting up a fundraising page at [crowdrise.com/act-aidswalk](http://crowdrise.com/act-aidswalk). Participants are encouraged to set a pledge goal of at least \$50. Teams are welcome!

## Strapped for Money, Shelter to Close

*Excerpted from New Haven Independent-* A shelter for homeless families will close next month, as its parent agency struggles to balance its books — and meet the need for emergency beds even as industry-wide policy shifts towards longer-term supportive housing.



The Careways Shelter for Women and Children will be shuttered to stabilize two more family shelters and other housing programs that New Reach, Inc., runs in New Haven and Fairfield Counties.

Read the entire article online at: [http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/new\\_reach/](http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/new_reach/)



## Seeking Study Participants

AIDS Connecticut (ACT) is currently seeking people living with HIV to participate in the SAT2HIV project. SAT2HIV is a research study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), facilitated by RTI International. Last year, ACT was selected as one of two AIDS Service Organizations in Connecticut to participate. The aim of the study is to experimentally test the effectiveness of a motivational interviewing-based brief intervention (BI) for substance use within community-based HIV/AIDS service organizations, relative to usual care (UC). If the participants qualify, they may be eligible for up to three \$20 gift cards. For information on how to get involved or to refer participants, please contact Aurelio Lopez, 860-547-1771 ext. 225 or [alopez@aims-ct.org](mailto:alopez@aims-ct.org).

# SAVE the DATE

## HOUSING2017

The Annual Conference of the Connecticut Housing Coalition



Tuesday, September 26, 2017

8:15am-3:00pm

Radisson Hotel, Cromwell, CT



**Clinical Director** - This position will provide individual clinical consultation to each City of Hartford TGA medical case manager at least once per month; facilitate monthly professional development group sessions with the case management team; work with the Director of Treatment and Care to monitor data entry, produce reports, update standards of care, and hire, train, and evaluate case management staff; participate on committees, including ACT's senior leadership, quality management committees and Hartford Ryan White Planning Council; supervise ACT's Member Services and Quality Assurance/Technical Assistance Program Managers. Must be a nurse practitioner, APRN, RN, or LPN with current Connecticut license. Complete job description available at [aids-ct.org/job.html](http://aids-ct.org/job.html).

**Upcoming CMTI >> Register now at [www.aids-ct.org](http://www.aids-ct.org)**

### Crisis Intervention & Dealing with Difficult Persons (August 14)

*Presented by Melanie Alvarez, AIDS Connecticut.* People living with HIV have varying degrees of mental and social functioning and may present to their providers during periods of crisis or agitation. In this training case managers will learn about what constitutes and triggers crisis and suggestions for how to deal with people in crisis. In addition, participants will learn what constitutes a "Difficult Person," receive tips on how to deal with difficult individuals and situations, as well as personal safety planning.

### The HIV Treatment Cascade (August 24)

*Presented by Leif Mitchell, Gilead Sciences, Heidi Jenkins, DPH.* During this training we will talk about the national and local HIV treatment cascade. You will learn how the HIV treatment cascade can help us better understand the gaps in HIV care that so many people with HIV experience. You will also learn how focused efforts to bring about improvements at each stage of the HIV treatment cascade can help stop the spread of the virus and may help end the HIV epidemic. At the conclusion of this presentation, you will have a better understanding of the HIV treatment cascade and the benefits of working closely with your clients to keep them on track and engaged at each stage of their HIV care.

## PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

Want to see your next event listed here? Send event details (pdf flyer preferred) to [jchase@aims-ct.org](mailto:jchase@aims-ct.org).

Go to [www.aids-ct.org](http://www.aids-ct.org) and click on "Join Our Email List Today!" under Quick Links to get the latest ACT updates.