

THE *act* COMMUNITY

AIDS Connecticut (ACT)

February 2017

Board Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Attendance: Barbara Shaw, Lucy Rohena, Kara Capone, Caesar Aleman, Charles Hatheway, Andrew Walter; Staff: John Merz, Shawn Lang, Melanie Alvarez; Guest: Quyen Truong.

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:10. There was a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting. M/S/P.

II. Staff Presentation – Melanie Alvarez. Ms. Alvarez, Director of Treatment and Care of ACT, presented to the Board of Directors on her responsibilities. She provided an overview of the Connections Wellness Center and detailed the multitude of care services ACT provides, including medication adherence, housing support, and medical case management, as well as the funding sources for her programs. Ms. Alvarez noted that ACT's care programs serviced 691 people living with HIV in 2016. The Board appreciated the presentation and overview of the complexity of ACT's services.

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

B. Finance/Audit Committee. The audit process will start in the late spring. Mr. Merz stated that this process will be detailed at the February Board of Directors meeting.

C. Nominations Committee. A guest and interested potential Board of

Directors member, Ms. Truong, attended this Board meeting. The Board will discuss her interest in Executive Session.

D. CQI Committee. Ms. Shaw provided an update, noting the value of the CQI process, but acknowledging the importance of continuing to modify the Standards of Care and the process in a manageable way.

E. Governance. There was no report.

F. Development. The Oscar Night "Red Carpet Experience" is coming up on February 26, 2017.

Executive Session: The Board went into executive session at approximately 7:00. The Board exited executive session at approximately 7:05. After exiting Executive Session, there was a motion to accept a new member to the ACT Board, Quyen Truong. M/S/P.

IV. Director's Report. Mr. Merz reported that the City of New Haven stopped administering a syringe program. A third party is going to be administering the program, and ACT will provide direct technical assistance to the group taking that program over. Funding for this program came from the Department of Public Health.

V. Membership Items. Mr. Merz reported on an Executive Directors Roundtable that had taken place January 17, 2017. Although attendance

was relatively light, the meeting was very successful and lots of information and ideas were shared. Among items discussed were integrating AIDS housing into coordinated access networks (CANs), training topics, staff retreat agendas/ideas, and the importance of making sound business arguments to funders and legislators to support the good work being done. Other roundtables will be forthcoming. Funders are telling programs to form strategic alliances or consider merging to be more competitive and efficient.

VI. Old Business. No old business.

VII. New Business. Mr. Hatheway inquired how the 340B pharmacy initiative was progressing. Mr. Merz reported that the pharmacy is still in early stages of development, but that he will have more to report in coming months.

VIII. Adjournment at 7:25. M/S/P. Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 6-7:30.



Red Carpet Experience

Sunday, February 26, 2017
Spotlight Theatres, Hartford

Early Bird Tickets:
GA: \$50 VIP: \$100

Available at www.aids-ct.org

ACT Calendar - February 2017

ACT Board of
Directors Meeting

February 15
6:00 - 7:30 pm
ACT office, Hartford



The ACT office
will be closed on:

February 20
in observance of
Presidents Day

For more information go to www.aids-ct.org/events.html

ACT Welcomes New Directors to Our Board:

Lucy “Luz” Rohena, Institute for Community Research, serves as an outreach interviewer. Her role is to go out into the community and connect with community residents and community organizations. She has been in the HIV/AIDS prevention field for 26 years. She has a passion for community outreach and HIV prevention/testing. Her goal is to reduce the number of new HIV transmissions in the Hartford area.

Quyen Truong, North Central Regional Mental Health Board, serves as an Evaluation Manager. By partnering with people with behavioral health needs, families, and our communities in evaluating, educating and advocating, NCRMHB informs and influences best practices, local and state policy, and access to resources that leads to the success of people in recovery and to the growth of healthy and inclusive communities.

Cesar Aleman, Connecticut Fair Housing Center, serves as Community Outreach Coordinator. He has volunteered, worked, and fundraised for organizations that support individuals impacted HIV and AIDS for many years. Additionally, his work at the CT Fair Housing Center focuses on ensuring that all individuals who are living with a disability are provided equal access to housing with dignity and respect.

Lucy, Quyen, and Cesar join Andrew Walter, from the CT Lottery, and Theresa Nicholson, from Chrysalis Center, who were voted in at the Annual Meeting on Friday, October 14, 2016. We are proud to have all five on our team!

►► Facts About the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

There has been a lot of news around the president’s Executive Order to Repeal and Replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Here are some facts:

Did the executive order repeal or replace the ACA? No, it did not. The ACA has not been repealed or replaced at this time.

How does the executive order affect 2017 coverage? It Does Not. The CT Insurance Department assures us that plans customers enrolled in during Open Enrollment will be honored for the entire year according to state regulation.

Go to www.aids-ct.org and click on “Join Our Email List Today!” under Quick Links to get the latest ACT updates.

GET INVOLVED

Let’s raise HIV
awareness and
fight stigma together.

www.cdc.gov/together



FEBRUARY 7
**NATIONAL
BLACK
HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS DAY**



February 8, 6:30-9:30pm
Klein Memorial, 910 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport, CT

Hear from medical experts about using PrEP as one of your HIV prevention tools. Speakers include Dr. AC Demidont, DO, AAHIVS, Gary Spinner, PA, MPH, AAHIVS, Dr. Richard Torres, MD, MPH, FACP, FACGS, AAHIVM.

Refreshments, raffles, and more!
Reserve your spot online at www.eventbrite.com. Search “Southwest Prep” to register today!

Did you know...



**Valentine’s Day is also
National Condom Day!**