

Office of AIDS (OA) California Planning Group (CPG):
HIV, STD, Hepatitis C & Harm Reduction

***Adapting to a Changing Landscape – Advocacy in Community
Engagement, Organization, and Mobilization***

**Fall In-Person Meeting Notes
Holiday Inn, Sacramento**

November 13 – 15, 2023

Decisions – CPG By-Laws Amendment

- The Membership Committee has been working on proposed amendments to the CPG By-Laws that would include language on making a committee your “home committee” and processes to move to a different committee. It also includes an updated definition of quorum.
- CPG Members reviewed and discussed the proposed amendments.
 - Initially, Membership Committee was a committee that members joined in addition to an ad hoc committee (i.e. Women’s, Aging, Youth, and Drug User Health). But this can be difficult if members have limited time. So the Membership Committee wanted to clarify having a “home committee” and the process for joining or leaving a committee.
 - The definition of quorum was updated to be consistent throughout the By-Laws and clarify that 2/3 of member attendance would be needed to make quorum.
 - If a CPG member is a part of two committees, then they will count as a voting member of both committees.
- Dean Jackson motioned to vote on the proposed amendments to the CPG By-Laws.
 - Carl Baker, Miguel Martinez, and John Paul Soto seconded the motion.
- Vote
 - Quorum – 26 CPG members in attendance out of 35 total CPG members
 - Passed unanimously, no objections or abstains.

Committee Reports

- ***Women’s Committee***
 - Two new committee members: Vivian Gallardo and Angie Percam
 - The Committee is currently working on a capacity building assistance request to improve viral suppression among women in the Central Valley. The Committee plans to bring a 3-part webinar series and a conference to providers, case managers, nurses, and the community in the Central Valley.

- The Committee discussed context around these issues including the need to educate and empower women and providers, including transwomen.
- The Committee is also in the process of recruiting women with lived experiences for the 3-part webinar series and discussed the possibility of having their Women and PrEP infographic ready by that time.
- ***Drug User Health Committee***
 - The Committee wants to update their harm reduction framework.
 - The Committee wants to include drug checking, not in the way of testing to see if people are using drugs, but to see what is in the substance so that folks have the knowledge of what they're actually using. This is an important piece to harm reduction and where harm reduction communities are going on.
 - The Committee will look at health policies and prioritize folks to have their anonymity for substance use/drug use or sex work or whatever it is so that folks can have control over their own lives and decide what's good for them instead of having us tell them what they need to do.
 - The Committee will use the updated framework to build charter.
- ***Youth Committee***
 - The Committee wants to bring more youth to the committee. Once the committee brings in more youth, then they want to work on dismantling the concept of adultism.
 - They also want to have youth evaluate the Ending the Epidemic Strategic Plan and bring their feedback and perspective to it and getting to learn from that.
 - They also want to have youth give a webinar/presentation on accessing PrEP and PEP as a minor, how they can go through the PrEP-AP process, and learning about the Apretude injections while being under 18 and needing parental/guardian permission. So this is about getting a youth perspective for youth and by youth around PrEP and PEP.
 - They also discussed how to get youth perspective about sex education on school boards and bring that to the table of our work.
 - The Committee is looking for 2 new Committee Co-Chairs.
- ***HIV & Aging Committee***
 - The Committee's work moving forward is looking at eligibility and trying to figure out what they can do with regards to eligibility. It's confusing and there's a lot of significant pit holes that can present for individuals who are aging and trying to navigate those systems. So they want to do what they can to communicate those pitfalls and make sure that populations can get access to it. They also want to keep in mind the folks that are undocumented and the extra layers of complexity that go into that situation as well. So this larger bucket of work includes communication and simplifying the messaging that needs to go out.

- Currently, the Committee is primarily a cis-gendered male space. So they want to acknowledge that and diversity it by calling it out and leaning into a space that is inclusive and invites other people/other genders to be a part of the process.
 - Thomas Knoble stepped down as Co-Chair. The Committee voted for Kevin Stalter to be a Co-chair.
 - The Committee also discussed making sure that the HIV & Aging Infographic is legible by computer/ADA compliant and available in other languages. OA staff clarified that the infographic is already ADA compliant as it's a requirement.
- **Membership Committee**
 - The Committee wants to prioritize getting the mentorship program going for new members. They are looking at adopting the San Francisco Membership Committee mentorship guidelines. The Committee will be asking members if they're interested in being a mentor. Ideally, a mentor would be someone who has been here for some time (maybe pre-pandemic).
 - They reviewed the roster of members, who are going to term out in the spring, in preparation for the next targeted recruitment.
 - John Paul Soto is interested in stepping up to the Committee Co-Chair position.

Suggestions/Recommendations from the Public

- Crista Bastita, Community Advocate – Requesting information on false positives and false negatives and what the federal and state government is doing to combat oversight on these missed results. What is being done in regards to missed results? Is there an oversight committee? What's being done to rectify that and get people to care in a timely fashion?
 - Phil Peters, OA Medical Officer
 - One way to address this is on the manufacturer level. HIV tests are classified as Class 3 and are required to go through clinical trials to determine the true sensitivity of that test. This is the oversight on the federal level.
 - In CA, we have electronic test reporting. Those who have positive results will be monitored for follow-up services. Also, they will be required to get a second HIV test. If the two tests are discordant, then they would need to do an even more sensitive test like the RNA test.
 - There's a new recommendation that if someone is receiving PrEP, then they should do the more sensitive RNA test in addition to doing regular HIV tests.

Action Items

- Tai Few from Denver Prevention Training Center to send definition of intersectionality and racial equity assessment to CPG members.

- Reach out to Building Healthy Online Communities to see if their webpage could have information on where young people can access testing resources.
- Community Co-Chair to compile notes from the CPG Member Connection session and share it with State Co-Chairs.