

AIRN Blended Leadership Committee

Thursday January 14th from 9:30am-11:00am ADT

In attendance: Susan Kirkland (Co-Chair, Dal), Marni Amirault (CAAN and AHA Centre), Stacey Burns (PEI DHW), Julie Dingwell (Co-Chair, AIDS SJ), Lois Jackson (Dal), Michael Liddell (Community), Jeanine McNeil (PHAC), Michelle Proctor-Simms (NSACA), Cybelle Rieber (AIDS PEI), Julez Thomas (HON)

AIRN Staff: Caroline Ploem (Minutes)

Regrets: Larry Baxter (Community), Greg Harris (MUN), Gerry Mugford (MUN)

Absent: Diane Bailey (Mainline), Carla Densmore (HepNS), Jacquie Gahagan (Dal), Jo-Ann MacDonald (UPEI), Zack Marshall (MUN), Sean Rourke/Sonia Gaudry (REACH), Gerard Yetman (ACNL)¹

MINUTES

1) Welcome and check-in (Susan)

- Susan welcomed everyone and a round of introductions was made to benefit Caroline who has not yet met everyone and our newest member, Cybelle Rieber, who is the Acting Executive Director of AIDS PEI.

2) Approval of current agenda and minutes from December 10th

- There were no additions to the agenda. A few changes were made to the minutes.

ACTION: Caroline will review the minutes to include Michelle Bowden under attendance and to clarify her involvement in the ACTION item.

3) ABLC Membership: Update

NB call for applicants

- We are still missing a First Voice representative from New Brunswick. Julie explained that the call that went out through ASOs in the fall was unsuccessful. She suggested that the form should be simplified and should go out to a wider audience (e.g. Infectious Disease Clinics, Community Health Clinic in Fredericton, John Howard Society, Hepatitis Outreach Society in NS).

ACTION: Caroline and Susan will look at simplifying the form before resending.

NS, NB, and NL Government reps

- A letter for NS has been drafted and will be adapted for NB and NL.

ACTION: Caroline will contact Sarah Peddle to determine who from the governments in NB and NL have been involved previously. The information will be incorporated into the letters.

¹ ACNL=AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador; AHA Centre=Aboriginal HIV & AIDS Community-Based Research Collaborative Centre; AIDS SJ=AIDS Saint John; CAAN=Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network; Dal=Dalhousie University; HepNS=Hepatitis Outreach Society of Nova Scotia; HON=Healing Our Nations; MUN=Memorial University of Newfoundland; NSACA=Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS; PHAC=Public Health Agency of Canada; UPEI=University of Prince Edward Island.

4) In-person Meeting with REACH Leadership (early Feb/early March)

- REACH has agreed to fund the Atlantic Research Manager position for another year, but would like to work with us to figure out how we can be sustainable in the longer term.
- It is important for us to figure out how we can benefit both AIRN and REACH, while fulfilling the CBR and Implementation Science agendas.

Preliminary Logistics

- REACH suggested some potential dates in late Feb/16 which do not work for Susan. We are waiting for some other potential dates based on Sean's availability.
- Depending on the date confirmed, all expressed interest in attending the full-day meeting (subject to availability).
- Teleconferencing will be an option for those not able to travel due to government restrictions, workload, or weather.
- ABLC Members not at today's meeting will need to be contacted about interest/availability.
- It would be helpful to have the government reps on the ABLC identified and invited to the meeting. Even if they have not yet been identified, we should invite someone from each provincial government to attend.
- Location will be Halifax because of logistical considerations (e.g. REACH Leadership will be flying in to Halifax; limited timeline; and winter weather).
- Potential items for the agenda: (1) What do we want to achieve in the next year in terms of CBR and Implementation Science that meets our regional needs and contributes to REACH's national agenda? (2) How does this impact our workplan and the role and responsibilities of the Atlantic Research Manager? (3) Long-term sustainability – what does it look like for us? What is feasible and realistic in terms of the Atlantic context?

Considerations: Being funded 100% by one organization makes AIRN vulnerable; we need additional sources of funding; having a staff person is essential to keeping the work going; our issues are often different than those in other regions; the Atlantic voice is very important – we do not want to lose that collective voice.

ACTIONS:

- Once a date is set, Caroline will connect with all ABLC members to determine interest, availability, and financial support required.
 - Caroline and Susan will set up a meeting with Maureen Summers and Lois Jackson at the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre to discuss potential ideas for sustainability prior to the meeting with REACH.
 - Meeting space in the Tupper building with web conferencing capabilities will be explored and considered if IT can provide support (potential glitches minimized).
 - Caroline and Susan will begin drafting an agenda in collaboration with the REACH Leadership.
- 5) 2015-2016 AIRN, CBR and REACH 2.0 - Work plan review and discussion
- On hold based on meeting with REACH Leadership – will stem from the outcomes.

6) REACH Logic Model

- Discussion about an Atlantic version

ACTION: Caroline will adapt the logic model as a tool for discussion for the in-person meeting with the REACH Leadership. The logic model will likely be modified following the meeting.

7) PHAC Community Action Fund

Jeanine provided an overview of the webinars held in late 2015 and again in Jan/16 around the revised funding priorities and solicitation process. Main points included:

- The priority populations have been expanded
- There will be a 2-stage solicitation process: (1) Call for Letters of Intent (LOI) within a few weeks – will have 2 months to prepare; (2) Invitation to submit full proposal with go out in April (based on successful LOIs) – will have approx. 2 months to complete
- Burden of disease (incidence and prevalence) will be weighted heavily in the decision making process but it will not be the only factor. For example, principles of equity and vulnerability (e.g., remote and rural areas) will also be considered.
- The allocation weighting has not yet been determined, but it is possible that the Atlantic Region will receive less money than in the past given that we do not have the numbers of HIV and HCV found in other areas.
- There will be three funding streams: (1) Grant; (2) Individual contribution agreement; and (3) Community alliance contribution.

Questions raised: Will trends in disease transmission be considered in relation to burden of disease? Will the fact that we have relatively fewer funding options be considered in terms of equity?

ACTIONS:

- Anyone who would like a copy of the webinar slides to contact Caroline
- Jeanine will look into the questions raised

Discussion re. Atlantic Canada CAF submission intentions

- ASOs in New Brunswick: Going with a Community Alliance Model - had reached out to Healing our Nations and the John Howard Society but they are currently not involved.
- ACNS and AIDS PEI: Submitting together under the Community Alliance Model
- Healing our Nations: Submitting individually
- No word on NL – Gerard not on the call.
- ACCB and Northern AIDS Connection possibly going in separately on their own
- Ancillary groups in Nova Scotia (e.g. Mainline, Direction 180, North End CHC) have been talking about forming an Alliance but there was no one from these organizations on the call.

ACTION: Caroline will follow up with Gerard Yetman about NL intentions, Mainline, Direction 180 about their plans. AIRN to help out as possible, needed.

8) Grants in Development:

- Project Scheme
 - POCT (Jacquie) is going ahead
 - Banking on Oil (Susan) – on hold due to oil prices and crisis in Alberta. May consider submitting at another time.
- CIHR CBR Catalyst in HIV/AIDS (Matt Numer) – No report

9) Research Funding/Proposal Development Opportunities: Link to CIHR funding opportunities page: <http://tinyurl.com/careah9>

- CIHR Project Scheme – 1st live pilot (registration – deadline originally Jan 18/16 but moved to Jan 20/16 due to IT glitch in CCVs.

10) Ongoing Research Projects – Updates

- Mainline Evaluation – We are awaiting feedback and should be finished within one month.
- Others

11) Updates – No updates available today from CBR Centre/REACH.

CBR Collaborative Centre

- Updates from the REACH and CBR Centre Manager, Sonia Gaudry
 - i. Stigma and Resilience Working Group
 - ii. Rapid Point of Care Testing
 - iii. PEER Working Group
 - iv. Other Centre updates

REACH 2.0

- Trans Research Initiative (Zack)
- Evaluation Committee
- GIPA/MIPA Committee
- Status of other population specific groups

12) AHA Centre/CAAN updates (Marni)

- The next edition of their journal will be online next week
- They have been invited to collaborate with the International Journal of Indigenous Health (U of Victoria)
- Will be having their first in-person National Advisory Committee meeting in March/16
- Considering hosting a workshop at CAHR re. working collaboratively in the context of Aboriginal communities.

13) Upcoming conferences/events (new listings in green):

- [5th Canadian Symposium on HCV](#)
National CIHR Research Training Program in Hepatitis C
February 26, 2016
Montreal, QC
- [2016 International Conference on Viral Hepatitis \(ICVH 2016\)](#)
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC)
March 14 to 15, 2016
San Francisco, CA, USA
- [CAHR Conference, 2016, 25th Annual](#)
Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR)
May 12 to 15, 2016
Winnipeg, MB
- [CANAC Conference, 2016, 24th Annual](#)
Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (CANAC)
May 19 to 21, 2016
Halifax, NS
- [Public Health 2016](#)
Canadian Public Health Association
June 13 to 16, 2016
Toronto, ON
- [Guelph Sexuality Conference, 38th Annual](#)
University of Guelph
June 23 to 24, 2016
Guelph, ON
- [AIDS 2016, International AIDS Conference, 21st annual](#)
International AIDS Society
July 18 to 22, 2016
Durban, South Africa

14) Anything else?
Nothing reported.

Next meeting: Second Thursday of the month from 9:30am-11:00am ADT
2016 dates: February 11, March 10 and April 14