

ABLC Meeting April 12, 2018: 10:00 – 11:00 AM Atlantic

In Attendance: Marni Amirault (CAAN & AHA Centre), Larry Baxter (Community), Lois Jackson (Dal), Susan Kirkland (Co-Chair, Dal), Michael Liddell (Community), Caroline Ploem (AIRN), Michelle Proctor-Simms (NSACA), Dena Simon (ACNS), Cybelle Rieber (PEERS Alliance), Julie Thomas (HON)¹

Regrets: Diane Bailey (Mainline), Donna Bulman (UNB), Stacey Burns-MacKinnon (PEI DHW), Julie Dingwell (AIDS SJ), Jacquie Gahagan (Dal), Greg Harris (MUN), Jo-Ann MacDonald (UPEI), Jeannine McNeil (PHAC), Karen Pitts (Hep NS), Gerard Yetman (Co-Chair, ACNL)²

MINUTES

1) Welcome and Check-in (Susan)

- Cybelle – Showing *The Stairs* May 1st at a soup kitchen as a movie screening and report back to participants of a focus group on the needs of PWUD (held Oct-Nov/18). They will also be asking participants what they think of using the film as an educational tool for service providers. The PEERS Alliance purchased a copy of *The Stairs* for \$100. This is a busy time of year, as they continue with programming, as well as budgeting, AGM planning, report and grant writing.
- Michael – Involved in planning the first regional CPPN symposium for Vancouver. Will be in Vancouver for almost one week, including the CPPN Symposium and the CAHR ancillary events, but not the actual CAHR Conference (return flight is Apr 27th). Susan suggested that Michael review the program to see if it would be worthwhile for him to stay for the conference. If CPPN is not able to cover the costs, AIRN may be able to find some funding. Folks from CPPN, AIRN and REACH will all be at CAHR, and it may be a good opportunity to discuss the REACH Stigma proposal.
- Marni – See Agenda Item 3 for update.
- Julez – Healing Our Nations was short one staff for 4-5 months but hired someone in Jan/18 who completed the workplan. Now, it's reporting time and starting the workplan for the new fiscal year.
- Michelle – No specific updates. Noted that Caroline was going to add something more specific about testing in response to Jacquie's email this morning.
- Dena – Just finished their "Bid for Life" fundraiser which was a success despite the lower than hoped-for numbers. ACNS is busy with an upcoming audit, PHAC reporting, implementing their current PHAC workplan, and looking for funding through foundations. In partnership with CATIE, they will soon be running the online *HIV Basics* course for ~ 44 service providers (expecting 20) from different areas of the Atlantic. The last session will be held in-person in conjunction with their AGM.
- Lois – Agreed to provide an update on her two main research projects later in the agenda.

ACTIONS:

- ✓ Caroline will check with Dal's Medical School to see if they bought *The Stairs*. If not, AIRN will consider buying a copy for educational purposes.
- ✓ Michael will talk to Jeff at CPPN about the extra days at CAHR and get back to AIRN as described above.

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.

2) Review and Approval of Current Agenda and Minutes from March 8th

- The agenda was reviewed and approved as circulated, with the addition of testing per Jacquie's email: *I wanted to ask if the issue of testing will be discussed on the call, particularly in relation to the Harm Reduction fund. I would be interested in knowing if we can work with bioLytical to offer multiplex testing (HIV & HCV) as part of this work. This issue came up at a recent meeting with Dr. Strang and his colleagues and I hope we can really take a look at this in NS (added as Item #6).*
- While not on the agenda, we spent some time talking about the devastating news about Patti's health which was shared in an email she distributed to colleagues and asked to share with others. The letter includes "Patti's Top 10", a list of awe-inspiring things that we can do for MOSH and the larger cause.
- The action items from the March 8th agenda were reviewed and approved as circulated. Most actions were completed except for the first three items carried forward below.

ACTIONS:

- ✓ Ask Gerard and/or Jeannine to report on the highlights of Dr. Theresa Tam's visit.
- ✓ Continue to assist Michael in spreading the word about CPPN membership.
- ✓ ABLC encouraged to review the two papers that Jacquie forwarded re. ethnic, racial and cultural diversity.

3) National Organization Updates

a) PHAC update (Jeannine)

- Jeannine sent regrets but provided a written update to the ABLC prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

b) AHA Centre/CAAN update (Marni)

- Marni and Sherri Pooyak will be co-presenting a poster on "Capacity Bridging" and an oral presentation on doing "Research in a Good Way." There will be various other presentations and they are preparing a "CAHR 2018 Roadmap" to all of the Indigenous-focused presentations.
- REACH and the AHA Centre will be co-facilitating a CBR workshop for Tlicho communities (NWT). The workshop will be in Toronto in May and will be aimed at orienting new Tlicho staff to community-based research, with a particular emphasis on survey design related to addictions and drug use.
- Started planning their AGM for September. Will be partnering with CATIE, but few details are yet available.
- Working with a fundraiser to assist them in securing additional funds from foundations.

ACTIONS:

- ✓ Marni will send the "CAHR 2018 Roadmap" once finalized to Caroline for circulation.

c) CPPN update (Michael)

- Beyond the CPPN information shared during the check-in, Michael noted that Ann Livingston, a long-term harm reduction advocate in Vancouver's Downtown East Side, will be presenting at the April CPPN Symposium in Vancouver. The next symposium will be held in June in Saskatoon, but there will likely be no need for him to attend.

d) REACH update (Caroline)

- The last meeting of the REACH Leadership was held Mar 9th; the Apr 13th meeting has been cancelled due to the number of regrets. The minutes from Mar 9th have not yet circulated.
- The INSTI Self-Testing proposal will be resubmitted to CIHR in September. The project was stalled due to challenges encountered between bioLytical (test developers) and government.
- Had a great discussion about increasing the collaboration between REACH and the AHA Centre. This collaboration is seen as a critical piece of work and folks are really keen to move forward. In addition to co-facilitating the CBR workshop for Tlicho staff in May, a conversation has started about co-planning some type of Learning Institute.
- Today's weekly REACH staff meeting will focus solely on HIV-related stigma and Colt Burrows (Canadian HIV Stigma Index Coordinator) will be on the call to add to the discussion.
- A full-day REACH staff meeting will be held in Vancouver. Agenda items include: (1) Measuring the impact of the REACH Centre 2.0 and communicating that impact toward the REACH 3.0 proposal; and (2) Peer engagement and mapping partnerships.

ACTIONS:

- ✓ Caroline will forward the minutes of the Mar 9th REACH Leadership meeting when they are available.

e) Action Hepatitis Canada - AHC (Cybelle)

- Cybelle is on the AHC Steering Committee and participated in the AGM Mar 20th. The teleconference was a good opportunity to look at some of the impacts the organization has had in 2017. A copy of the presentation is available.
- Highlights included:
 - ✓ Poster, panel presentation, and advocacy with treating physicians and nurses at the 6th Canadian Symposium on HCV (Banff, Mar/17).
 - ✓ Learning Events with five MPs on Parliament Hill (Ottawa, May/17).
 - ✓ World Hepatitis Day focusing on the need for a National Hep C Action Plan (July/17).
 - ✓ Prairies Regional Meeting (Saskatoon, Oct/17) – Focus on prevention, treatment and care.
 - ✓ World Hepatitis Summit (Brazil, Nov/17) – Learnings from countries on track to meet the 2030 targets.
 - ✓ CATIE Forum Presentation (Toronto, Nov/17) – Shared the learnings from the World Hepatitis Summit
 - ✓ Advocacy around: ↑ HCV testing, including recommendations for age-cohort testing; ↑ treatment access by eliminating fibrosis requirements (recent success in ON and QC); the draft PHAC STBBI Framework; and the need for a national HCV-specific action plan.
- AHC has seen a significant ↓ in funding for 2018. With a cure for hepatitis C, pharma funding is much more difficult to access. Priorities for 2018 include: Partnering on the CANHepC Elimination Blueprint; participation in the Global Hepatitis Summit; continued advocacy for dropping fibrosis restrictions for treatment eligibility; and exploring no cost/low cost methods for advocating for WHO targets
- A new AHC Chair will be selected next week, as Patricia Bacon is stepping down. Cybelle and Gerard remain the only two Steering Committee members from the Atlantic Region.

ACTIONS:

- ✓ Cybelle will send the 2017 *Impact Highlights* presentation to Caroline for dissemination to the ABLC.

4) HIV Stigma Project Funding (Susan)

- The HIV Stigma Project funding proposal was sent to REACH at the beginning of April and has been shared with the ABLC. We hope that it will be positively reviewed, but we have not received any word yet from REACH. Jeff Potts from CPPN and who has extensive experience reviewing proposals for PHAC and other organizations has reviewed it as a potential partner (not funder) and believes that it is very strong.
- The proposal will not be going through the usual review process by the REACH Leadership. It will be reviewed by the team that is most involved in stigma (i.e. Sonia, Francisco, Sean, and Colt). We have no idea yet about the timeline for the results of our proposal, but it will need to be soon if we are to piggy back on the CPPN Symposium planned for the third week of June.

ACTIONS:

- ✓ Susan will connect with Sonia to determine if there is any possibility of meeting informally while we are in Vancouver to discuss the proposal. Folks from CPPN, AIRN and REACH will all be at CAHR.

5) Continued Brainstorming for next AIRN Webinar re. trauma-informed care & harm reduction (Susan)

- Caroline has prepared a document as a starting framework for planning an event related to using trauma-informed care in conjunction with harm reduction in our work. This topic was suggested and agreed upon by members of the ABLC at a recent meeting and four potential speakers have been suggested: (1) Dale Gruchy; (2) John Gill; (3) Nancy Poole; and (4) Art Fisher.
- The document consists of a table listing a few things to consider whether we hold an in-person presentation(s), a webinar, or a combination of both.
e.g. What are the learning objectives? What is our working title? Who will be invited to speak and moderate? Who is our target audience? What format and software platform would we use for a webinar? When and where will this held? How will we promote it? Do we need a planning team?
- While there was not enough time to properly discuss the items, suggestions and comments included:

Learning Objectives

- *To increase knowledge about trauma-informed care (TIC)* – While most of us are engaged in harm reduction (HR), we may not be as engaged or familiar with TIC.
- *To explore where TIC and HR intersect in our work and where they do not interest* – These approaches already do intersect a lot in our work but we do not often put the words to them or use the terminology together.

e.g. What is TIC? What is trauma-informed practice? Where does TIC intersect with HR? What is different about the two approaches?

Target Audience

- AIRN members are an obvious choice, but webinar technology provides a good opportunity to open the event to a broader audience and to grow our membership. We should consider including folks from the broader Dalhousie Community (e.g. Medicine, Global Health, Health, Social Work, Nursing) and beyond.

Potential Speakers

- Caroline has compiled bios for the four suggested speakers. All are excellent, but we need to decide how we want to proceed — e.g. Do we want a panel presentation with brief presentations by four speakers? Do we want longer presentations by two speakers followed by a longer Q & A session?

- Susan suggests that our speakers should have unique perspectives. Her current preference is John Gill and Dale Gruchy. She knows John Gill and he works directly with people living with HIV; Dale Gruchy has extensive experience in mental health and addictions. While Nancy Poole does excellent work, her work is not as clearly aligned to AIRN as is that of John or Dale. Susan does not know Art Fisher but is open to comments/suggestions from others.
- Larry agrees that we should have fewer than four speakers. Too many speakers can get boring if perspectives are not unique. It also eliminates time for discussion. He suggests the possibility of having someone who could speak from the personal perspective of a client or patient.
- In response to this suggestion, we agreed that finding someone appropriate would be very difficult for various reasons. They would need to be in a very safe and comfortable place and have healed significantly from their trauma.

Since TIC is an overall approach to dealing with clients, they may not even know that they have received care from a trauma-informed lens.

Asking someone like Dale Gruchy for suggestions is a possibility. Perhaps we think of inviting someone who has experienced trauma to respond to the speakers' approaches? This poses challenges as well, although is worth considering.

- As we ran out of time, it was agreed that a smaller working group would get together for a few meetings to think through these questions, as well as the others outlined in the document prepared by Caroline. Jeannine and Cybelle agreed to participate.

ACTIONS:

- ✓ Caroline will follow-up with Jeannine and Cybelle as well as with the larger ABLC to finalize the smaller webinar planning team.
- ✓ Ask Lois to provide an update on the two research projects outlined in Item 9.0.

6) Multiplex Testing

- ACNS co-hosted a KT event on "Moving Beyond Piloting" March 21st. Michelle explained that Jacquie had a brief discussion with Dr. Strang in relation to the increased funding provided to the harm reduction organizations and the possibility of offering multiplex testing to harm reduction clients. This would be building on the Halifax HIV POCT pilot project from several years ago. Jacquie was wondering if this was an opportunity to partner with the CBOs to increase access HIV and HCV testing among people who use drugs. Michelle did not have any information beyond, but will be meeting tomorrow with Dr. Strang and Elaine Holmes to discuss further.

ACTIONS:

- ✓ Michelle will provide an update on her meeting with Dr. Strang and Elaine Holmes.

7) Grants Recently Funded/Pending

Pending Decisions

- REACH HIV Stigma Project Funding: Building Capacity for the Stigma Index Implementation in Atlantic Canada" (S. Kirkland & L. Baxter) – Decision: TBD
- CIHR Project Grant Spring 2018 – Decision: July/18
 - "Mobilizing Indigenous Community-led HIV and AIDS Research to Increase Impact and Advance New Knowledge " (CAAN/AHA Centre)
 - "APROACH 2.0 – A Scaled-Up "APPROACH" to HIV & Other STBBI Testing through Pharmacies" (D. Kelly)

8) Current/Upcoming Research Funding Opportunities

- 2018 Harm Reduction Fund Open Call for Proposals (to be launched in May/18)

9) Ongoing Research Projects

- “Preventing the spread of HIV: The critical role of addiction treatment services” (L. Jackson)
- “New Technologies and Chemical Culture: Examining Deployment and Effects among MSM” (M. Numer)
- The **PANACHE** study (Preferences And Needs for Aging Care among HIV Elders in Canada)” (S. Walmsley & K. Murzin)
- “Harm reduction and addictions interventions among people hospitalized with injection drug use-associated infective endocarditis” (T. Brothers)
- Canadian Blood Services “ACB and MSM – it’s not an oxymoron” (O. Dryden)
- “Project PEER (People living with HIV Engaged in Employment Roles): Uncovering the Impact of GIPA/MIPA and the Wise Practices of Informal and Formal Supports” (G. Harris)
- “Additional Harm Reduction Services in two Sites in Nova Scotia: An Exploration of Advantages, Community Interest, and Methods of Delivery” (L. Jackson & D. Bailey)
- “The Canadian HIV Stigma Index CBR Project” (F. Ibáñez-Carrasco)
- Ending HIV Stigma in Canada: Adapting & Applying Contact-Based Interventions (S. Rourke)
- “Halifax Area Network of Drug Users Stands Up” (HANDUP Stands Up) (C. MacIsaac)
- Catalyst Grant: “Moving Beyond Piloting POCT: A Social Ecological Exploration of Barriers and Facilitators to Scaling up HIV POCT in Canada” (J. Gahagan)
- “A New APPROACH to HIV Testing: Adaptation of POCT for Pharmacies to Reduce risk and Optimize access to Care in HIV” (D. Kelly)

10) Recently Held and Upcoming Events (March 2018 –)

- [PHAC Webinar: Barriers and Facilitators to Hepatitis C Virus Screening and Testing](#) – Mar 1/18
 - [Community Meetings - How Anti-black racism impacts the blood system in Canada](#) – Mar 8-10
 - [Crossroads Interdisciplinary Health Research Conference](#) – Mar 9-10
 - [BMO Bid for Life Dinner and Auction for ACNS](#) – Mar 22
 - [CBRC for Gay Men’s Health Webinar: Criminalization of HIV & Poz Youth Response](#) – Mar 22
 - [Sounding the Alarm: Harm Reduction Symposium](#) – Mar 23-24
 - [CATIE Webinar: U=U Community Perspectives](#) – Mar 27
 - [CATIE Webinar: HIV self-testing in Canada](#) – Mar 28
 - [PHAC Webinar on the 2018 Harm Reduction Fund Open Call for Proposals](#) – Apr 10
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- [Healing Our Nations Fundraiser Draw](#) – Apr 17
 - [CAHR 2018](#) – Apr 26-29 [Vancouver]
 - [Mainline’s 26th Anniversary Celebration](#) – May 2 [Halifax]
 - [Canadian Public Health Association 2018](#) – May 28-31 [Montreal]
 - [Global Hepatitis Summit 2018](#) – June 14-17 [Toronto]
 - [Realize: Translating HIV, Aging & Rehabilitation Interventions into Practice](#) – June 15-16 [Toronto]
 - [IAS, AIDS 2018, 22nd International AIDS Conference](#) – July 23-27 [Amsterdam]

11) Next Meetings (every second Thursday of the month from 10:00 – 11:00 am)

- May 10/18 and June 14/18