

RESEARCH & EVALUATION COMMITTEE (REC) MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024 - 3:00PM
ZOOM CONFERENCE AND VIDEO CALL
 ELECTRONIC – ONLINE MEETING

ATTENDEES/ROLL CALL					
COMMISSIONERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
Clark, Lamont (Govt. Co-Chair)	X				
Corbett, Wallace	X				
Dean, Traci		X			
Fogal, Doug		X			
Hickson, DeMarc		X			
McLain, Lenora	X				
Mekonnen, Betelhem	X				
Rakhmanina, Natella	X		COMMUNITY PARTNERS/ GUESTS	PRESENT	ABSENT
Yocum, Ashley	X		Sichone-Cameron, Martha	X	
			Wu, Wei	X	
			CONSULTANTS	PRESENT	ABSENT
			Dwyer, Greg	X	
RYAN WHITE RECIPIENT STAFF			COMMISSION SUPPORT STAFF	PRESENT	ABSENT
			Bailey, Patrice	X	
			Johnson, Alan	X	
HAHSTA STAFF	PRESENT	ABSENT			
Jefferson, Regina	X				
Orban, Julie	X				
Torre, Andrew	X				

HIGHLIGHTS

NOTE: This is a draft of the January 16, 2024, Research and Evaluation Committee (REC) Meeting minutes. The final version will be approved at the March 19, 2024, meeting and made available thereafter.

AGENDA

ITEM	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm by Lamont C. followed by a moment of silence and introductions.



Review and Approval of the Agenda	<p>Hearing no corrections or additions to the REC Agenda for January 16, 2024, Lamont assumed the motion to adopt the agenda as presented.</p>
Review and Approval of the Minutes	<p>Hearing no revisions to the December 12, 2023, REC Meeting Minutes, Lamont assumed the motion to approve the minutes as presented.</p>
POWAB Needs Assessment Development	<p>Lamont indicated that on Friday January 12, 2024, the POWAB had a strategic planning meeting and discussed how they could move forward, using a needs assessment as a tool in soliciting funds and helping their community.</p> <p>Regina J. asked if there are other governmental agencies doing what POWAB is doing. Alan J. indicated that he is aware of several Chicago organizations that engage the faith-based community. The Trinity United Methodist Church under Pastor Moss’s leadership has a HIV ministry, and on the west side there are community mobilization projects, and Gilead Sciences. Alan added that CHA is also doing something with faith-based programs and southern states like Mississippi, Texas, and Louisiana are worth looking into. Julie O. indicated that New York State conducted a statewide survey of faith communities and HIV/AIDS prevention. She sent the principal investigator a request to share his survey but hasn’t gotten a response yet. Julie and Greg D. of George Washington University (GW) continue researching other surveys that may be out there. They will gather best practices from entities across the country to help build out the needs assessment. They are in the middle of drafting some questions based off the surveys they have found so far.</p> <p>Julie asked what the distribution method will be for the POWAB surveys and what the expected response rate is. Regina responded that the surveys will be given to the board members of the POWAB first (in-reach). Those members will then distribute to their respective congregations and present it in a way that speaks their language, (out-reach) to receive a good response. Regina added that the Balm of Gilead is also doing something.</p> <p>Wallace C. indicated that there are several organizations listed in the Blade that already have AIDS services or service organizations. The Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) has already conducted internal studies with their own congregation around mental health and offered his assistance in working with MCC.</p> <p>The POWAB is looking to expand their network to include more places of worship. Now is a great time to come on board.</p>
Refining the Status Neutral Needs Assessment Discussion	<p>Julie is working with Greg on a 2-pager for distribution to the public and non-research readers to share the findings in the Status Neutral Needs Assessment that is easier to comprehend. Julie asked for feedback about the draft 2-pager.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wallace indicated that 400 people is a very small number to rationalize the population it is supposed to represent, the paper as presented doesn't divide the population among the three (3) jurisdictions that it's trying to indicate, and it does not give statistical information on ethnicity nor aging. Alan recommended giving the Office of Communications (COM) clearer guidance on the presentation of the flyer and having a page snapshot of each specific area in the region. He indicated that it will be difficult to translate the paper into the seven required languages as presented. Natella R. suggested displaying the information on three pages. Page one needs to reflect that the survey was done as part of a regional strategy to eliminate AIDS. Consider aligning the strategy by cascade. It is not clear that the survey is a status neutral survey from the introduction. People who are not familiar with the work will believe there is a high prevalence of HIV in the city due to the statement in the introduction that says, "people with known HIV status was 43%." Change the fonts and redesign the flyer to help people understand what they should take away from the information. Highlight the excellent recommendations you've made. Betelhem suggested adding "a sample of the population group" to the language where it talks about numbers to clarify that the numbers are not the total population. 		
Other Business	None noted		
Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POWAB Needs Assessment Development Refining the Status-Neutral Needs Assessment findings 		
ANNOUNCEMENTS/ OTHER DISCUSSION	Lamont announced that all COHAH committee meetings are cancelled in February due to the office move on February 23, 2024.		
HANDOUTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 12, 2023, Research and Evaluation Committee Meeting Minutes January 16, 2024, Research and Evaluation Committee Meeting Agenda 			
MEETING ADJOURNED	4:06 PM	NEXT MEETING	TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024 3:00pm to 5:00pm ZOOM CONFERENCE AND VIDEO CALL