



## PAN 2016 PHA Forum Minutes

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 to 2:30pm

**Location:** Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel, 7571 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC

1. **Introductions**
2. **Motion to approve the agenda**
  - Sandy motions, Darren seconds, motion carried.
3. **Motion to approve the minutes of 2015 forum**
  - Rhonda motions, motion carried.
4. **Priority issues identified at last year's 2015 PHA Forum**
  - Focus on education and youth.
    - PAN wanted to highlight organizations already doing that work in the community.
    - YouthCo invited to present at this year's 2016 Fall Conference.
    - Want PAN membership to know about the services available.
  - PAN to work on a letter to all of the unsung heroes, especially in DTES.
    - This letter has been drafted and finalized, hope to have it launched on World AIDS Day, get out through all channels.
    - Ensure that the people that are not big names are thanked for the work they do.
    - Will probably not go out to national newspapers unless it gets picked up by interested reporter.
5. **Setting new priorities for PAN**
  - Each year at the Positive Forum, advocacy issues that the positive community wants PAN to work on are brought to and discussed on the floor. For example, stigma related to HIV was identified as a priority at the PHA Forum; since then, *BC People Living with HIV Stigma Index* has been brought to BC. Similarly, Positive Living Positive Homes came from forum priority identification of housing being a critical issue in the positive community.
  - This year, a survey sent out to membership prior to this conference to begin discussion on this year's priorities. Responses from this survey included:
    - Issues pertaining to the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure.
    - Continue to support research and advocacy around HIV/AIDS research and stigma.
    - Document and collect and share best practices of GIPA/MIPA with community based

organizations, health authorities, and include PAN in discussions.

- Building resources and services to support living with mental health illness and HIV.

## 6. Update about ED meeting

- Discussions going on about PHAC funding issues.
  - PAN has put together proposed key messages for a letter to the Health Minister about the LOI application process.
  - Key messages presented at the ED meeting for membership/key stakeholder feedback.
  - If anyone has thoughts on missing information, forward those thoughts to PAN.

## 7. Results of priorities discussion

- Discussion items and **identified priorities**.
  - **HIV and Aging** – many components, housing issues, future home support, community engagement, bringing people out of isolation, financial concerns, fixed incomes, work opportunities.
  - Newcomers to Canada – education around HIV, accessing resources, dealing with cultural sensitivity.
  - Criminalization – PAN has already done some work on this.
  - Education for service providers – increase awareness and sensitivity in health care providers like doctors and nurses; how to treat people who are trying to stop using drugs and understand what their experiences are.
  - International travel – immigration issues with having to disclose HIV status and support around this.
  - **Peer based advocacy, promotion of harm reduction** – engaging of people who use drugs (PWUD) community and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) community; creating access and space where PWUD and vulnerable people feel safe to ask questions; addressing issues of homelessness and barriers to accessing services.
  - **Long-term survivors/aging** – how do we re-engage, re-think how we expect a long-term survivor to look; continued need for programming and sustainability of funding.
  - Counselling, peer and professional support – need for professional knowledge when requirements exceed the knowledge base of peers.
  - Recognize and value the struggles and work of the agencies and organizations.
- Identification of advocacy priorities for PAN to support in the upcoming year:
  - HIV and Aging
  - Long-term survivors
  - Peer Based Advocacy and Support

## 8. Election of Designated PHA seats to the PAN board

- Antonio Marante, running for designated PHA Seat for the Island Region – at the PHA Forum.
  - Elected by acclamation.
- Vacant Northern seat: if someone was interested, they can submit an application to be reviewed by the board.
  - Sheldon from Positive Living North is interested.

9. **Hopes for the Future of the HIV Movement**

- More opportunity for HIV community engagement.
- End of stigma and discrimination, and for HIV to be acknowledged as “just another illness.”
- More youth and indigenous inclusive.
- Drug issue can be addressed appropriately and successfully by the medical profession, community and peers.
- More financial and grant help for the homeless.
- A cure.
- No more deaths.
- Funding to engage more health programs in the community.
- Everyone in BC living with HIV feels supported.
- Improved and more counselling.
- We stay united and continue to have a voice in the process.

10. **Close meeting**

- Joel moves to close meeting, Darren seconds, meeting closed 2:30pm.