

**Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS and Hepatitis C Education, Prevention and Treatment**

**October 8, 2021**

**9am -11am**

**Virtual Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83796877469>**

**Or Telephone:**

**USA 602 333 0032**

**Conference code: 904716**

**Commission Members Present:**

Charles Haywood (proxy for Anthony Basco), Tamara Boutte, Baylor Boyd, Angie Brown, Tanya Brown, Sam Burgess, DeAnn Gruber, Mitchel Handrich, Nick Harris, Tavell L Kindall, Andrea LePlante, Fran Lawless, Austin Matthews, Jacqueline porter, David Mushatt, Tewabetch Negatu, John Ford, Kathleen Kennedy.

**I. Call to Order**

Called to Order by Fran Lawless, Chairperson

**II. Roll Call**

Roll called by Jimmy Gale, Quorum reached.

**III. Old Business**

**a. July Minutes**

In the interest of time, Fran encouraged attendees to review minutes on their own to allow ample time for our packed agenda. Motion was made to approve minutes by Tamara Boutte, seconded by Mitch Handrich.

**b. Reminders**

Fran provided a brief description of the mission and purpose of the Commission, detailing information regarding today's elections for Chair and Vice-Chair.

**IV. New Business:**

**a. HIV Stigma Summit**

Fran invited Austin Matthews to provide updates regarding the HIV Criminalization workgroups progress in planning the upcoming Summit. Austin highlighting progress achieved and next steps. Agenda is posted below. Mitch inquired as to the date of the Summit. It was confirmed to be 12/9/21. Fran introduced the consultant, Aisha McKenzie, hired to assist with organizing the event. She and Austin announced that Commission members will receive invitations to upcoming planning meetings, should they want to get involved and have suggestions for the Summit name and/or speakers. Emails will be sent to community members/organizations to request feedback.

*Summit Agenda:*

*9:00 AM Opening Greeting, Joint Welcome and Overview • Austin Matthews, LCSW (Chair of the Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS, and HCV Education, Prevention and Treatment) • S. Mandisa Moore-O'Neal, JD (Founding Member, the Louisiana Coalition on Criminalization and Health)*

*9:20 AM Panel: Impact of Criminalization Laws on Local People Living With HIV*

*9:40 AM Question and Answers period with Panelists and Hosts*

*9:50 AM Bio Break*

*9:55 AM HIV and Biomedical Prevention of Transmission • Dr. MarkAlain Déry, DO, MPH, FACOI (Infectious Disease Specialist, Access Health Louisiana)*

*10:10 AM What Does Modernization Look Like? • Kamaria Laffrey (Program Director, the SERO Project)*

*10:25 AM Small Group Breakout Discussions*

10:45 AM *The State of Southern Modernization (A Look at Texas & South Carolina)* • Venita Ray, JD (Co-Executive Director, Positive Women's Network– USA) • Tyler Barbarin (Policy Associate, Positive Women's Network–USA)

11:15 AM *Small Group Breakout Discussions*

11:35 AM *Bio Break*

11:45 AM *Closing Plenary and Closing Comments* • Austin Matthews, LCSW (Chair of the Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS, and HCV Education, Prevention and Treatment) • Kim Hood, JD, MHP (Assistant Secretary of Louisiana Office of Public Health) • Harold Phillips, MRP (Director, Office of National AIDS Policy) • S. Mandisa Moore-O'Neal, JD (Founding Member, the Louisiana Coalition on Criminalization and Health)

## **b. Presentations**

### **Statewide Syphilis Update – Jessica Fridge, STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program (SHHP) – Presentations**

Attached.

Jessica provided background on what her unit does within SHHP and explained that today's presentation is about COVID and other conditions. Some declines in some conditions, varied in different regions, resurgence of HIV and Syphilis is almost every region – not a shaming presentation but a re-centering of why we are here – and we need to continue to do the work. Without accessibility and opt – out options cases rise. She shared her screen and presentation. Questions were asked regarding the positivity rates in the presentation as well as the impact of COVID-19 on persons living with HIV. Jessica Fridge will report back regarding positivity rates, directed attendees to view the Quarterly report on the LDH website to find relevant COVID-19 data.

### **STI Testing and Treatment - Christine Brennan, LSU – Presentation Attached.**

Christine explained the impact of COVID on STI screening rates, and the history of the SPNS project she would be presenting during today's session. This project focused on 3 states, and 3 regions within each of those states. The project and data collection began April 2020. She shared her screen and presentation. Questions were asked regarding incentives for participants, Christine Brennan confirmed that \$10 gift cards were provided to those who agreed to share data and fill out surveys.

## **c. Nominations and Election of Committee Chair:**

Fran opened the floor for voting. She highlighted that this has been a productive, but also challenging year. One nomination for chair – Austin Matthews.

Jimmy Gale – Because we have only one nomination, when I call your name please verbally vote with a "yes" or "no" vote.

- i. All yes – Austin Matthews confirmed
  1. Harris – did not vote
  2. Mushatt – did not vote
- ii. Austin Matthews – Proud of the work group on HIV criminalization. Consumers are proud that the group is addressing their concerns and want to keep their voice at the center of the work. New project in January to continue.
- iii. Fran Lawless– new task for new year – This Commission's term will expire Sept. 1, 2022 and therefore needs reappointment through legislation in the next session.

## **b. Nominations and Election of Committee Vice-Chair**

Fran opened the floor for voting. One nomination for vice-chair - Mitchell Handrich.

Jimmy – roll call

- i. All yes – Mitch Handrich confirmed
  1. Harris – Did not vote
  2. Mushatt – Did not vote

V. **Other Business – Fran Lawless, Chair**

a. Announcements

Fran opened the floor to committee members to make announcements.

- i. Julie Fitch: Thank you to Fran and Anthony for serving as chair and vice-chair, lots of work, great working with you, Jimmy and I look forward to working with incoming chair and vice-chair
- ii. Austin Matthews: Be prepared to activate your networks for HIV criminalization.
- iii. Fran Lawless: The summit will need everyone's participation.
- iv. Mitch Handrich: Will the Summit be virtual?
- v. Austin Matthews: Yes.

b. Public Comments

Fran opened the floor to all attendees to comment on today's meeting.

- i. Sam Burgess: Suggestion – It is important for clinics to review data, we have an HIV provider group that agree on quality initiatives and then implement and report back to group. Reviewing STI screening rates make improvements. I will follow up with Christine Brennen to share, but also think the commission would benefit from hearing that information – just an idea
- ii. Fran Lawless: I agree, we need to include certain screenings in routine testing.

c. Next Meeting Date

Fran inquired about the date for the next Commission Meeting, tentatively scheduled for December. Julie Fitch explained that a date is not set, but highlighted the need to prioritize the upcoming Summit in December. Fran suggested hosting a brief meeting prior to the summit, but defers to the new chair and vice-chair. Austin, Mitch, Julie Fitch and Jimmy Gale will meet to discuss scheduling of next Commission meeting.

VI. **Adjournment**

Fran Lawless made a motion to adjourn as the outgoing Chair. Austin Matthews also moved to adjourn, seconded by DeAnn Gruber.