

**Washington Syndemic Planning Group Meeting  
Notes/Minutes  
Tuesday, July 25, 2023**



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Tuesday July 25, 2023  
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm  
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Conference Call**

**WSPG Members Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Away</b>
Monte Levine	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
JJ Baker	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Crutsinger-Perry	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amy Hernandez	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann Mumford	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brigette Young	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christopher Archiopoli	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Howard Russell	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Sammuels	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Tillet	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Away</b>
Jsani Henry	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Lara West	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Lisa Al-Hakim	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Omero Perez	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Stephen Zeller	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walter McKenzie	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
William Harrison	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yob Benami	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Chris Wukash-DOH	X	
Zandt Bryant-DOH	X	
Steven Erly-DOH	X	
Rachel Amiya-DOH	X	
Gina King-Potential New Member		
Katelyn Carter public	X	
Lin Crowley public	X	
Dale Briese public	X	

**HMA SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT:** Charles Robbins

**DOH SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT:** Starleen Maharaj-Lewis, Genee Grimmett

TOPIC	FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS & DUE DATES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
I. Call to Order/ Welcome by Tri-Chairs (10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting commenced at 6:02 pm</li> <li>• Agenda approved as written</li> <li>• Beth addressed the group with an icebreaker concerning pets               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Beth, JJ, Monte, Genee, Howard, the group members that didn't speak added pics and notes in chat</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		JJ and Yob  Group
II. DOH Program updates (10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timeline 2022-2023</li> <li>• Letter of Concurrence</li> <li>• Launch of Community Caucus</li> <li>• Syndemic RFA</li> <li>• WSPHA Abstract Submission</li> <li>• Innovations Committees</li> <li>• Inaugural WSPG In-Person Convening</li> </ul>		Starleen Maharaj- Lewis

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<p>III. WSPG updates: New Members, Steering Committee Succession planning, (25 mins)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-Boarding of new members</li> <li>• Christopher Archiopoli (excused) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of Syndemics: There is significant overlap between the populations impacted by each of these conditions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• William Harrison <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of Syndemics: With a combined effort; WE can offer a wider range of effective solutions...and; WE can better address the challenges and/or needs of an individual by discussing those variables as a whole.</li> <li>• Steering Membership Succession Planning (Article IV, section III)</li> <li>• See fig. 2 for details and responsibilities for this role</li> <li>• Start of new service term</li> <li>• JJ proposed that we have had our planning year, we laid the foundations, so proposed that we stay in our steering committees roles for the next year, so we can actually do some of the things we planned to have a work year</li> <li>• James seconded the proposal and Yob supported it for the same reasons JJ stated</li> <li>• Bridgette agreed that bringing in new members seemed rushed, so would like to have the opportunity to do some work</li> <li>• Ann agreed that we had time to plan, not any time to implement what we planned to do</li> <li>• Howard agreed, and asked that he thought the term was for 2 years, not one term. It was corrected that general membership was two years, but the Steering Committee was just one year. But all current members completed surveys to remain on the Steering Committee.</li> <li>• Starleen stated that we propose that we classify the past year as a planning year, and moving forward with the next term for implementation.</li> <li>• “I believe once we do some work we can meet in Spring to add the new members and allow for mentoring “</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<p>Starleen Maharaj-Lewis</p> <p>William Harrison</p> <p>JJ Baker, James Sammuels, Ann Mumford, Brigette Young</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey will be sent out and reviewed based on level of interest and commitment.</li> <li>• Ann proposed a resolution to propose last year would serve as a planning year, and that the By-Laws be revisited to change the term. Opting to extend Steering Members as well as General Membership. Extension of a year for development and an extension through July of 2024. Designating last year as a planning year. Create a Succession Plan and a Development of the Applications, and select a committee to revise the By-Laws</li> <li>• A vote was taken, as we have quorum</li> <li>• Yes: JJ, James Tillett, James, Howard Russell, Yob, Stephen Z, Bridgette, Ann, Monte, Walter,</li> <li>• No: None</li> </ul>		
<p>IV. Caucus leads report out (35 Minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Tillet shared about Drug User Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wanted to maintain equity in the room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Out of 20 possible participants</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ 4 individuals relocated to WA due to the provision of HIV services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10 were confirmed users</li> <li>○ 3 had lived experience with all three syndemics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Made up of African Americans,</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ From three different counties including Thurston and Snohomish counties</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Provider accountability was the number one need as was transportation</li> <li>○ Peer advocacy and support was desired during the appointment to keep the providers balanced</li> <li>• JJ Caucus lead from the Transgender/ Gender Expansive Caucus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had 3 transgender men participate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needed mobile access, HIV testing vans are needed for the rural community, where as a brick and mortar didn't allow privacy for appointment seekers</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brigitte led the <a href="#">People impacted by mental health diagnosis or cognitive disabilities</a>:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education and resources were in needed</li></ul></li><li>• Yob Benami: led HIV long-term survivors group pre HAART (1996)</li><li>• In the first listening session, I dealt with what everyone else was dealing with and that was bots but</li><li>• I feel it worked out OK for me because the two individuals that I had in the session were not as experienced in HIV as they had led on as we talked,</li><li>• I could see just how much trouble they were going through adjusting. We had a really good talk, and I'm glad to say that by the end of the session both were definitely in a better headspace.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provider accountability</li><li>• An app of provider satisfaction</li></ul></li><li>• Really was able to connect with the participants to really hear their stories</li><li>• Questions:</li><li>• Beth asked if it is thought that we continue our community conversations work with these defined communities in the currently established caucuses or should we choose new ones?</li><li>• There were other caucus subjects, and the caucus leads should reflect the caucuses they represent</li><li>• JJ suggested submitting caucus groups based on RFAs received</li><li>• William shared about getting more data making sure it was more accurate, and an app would be a great way to capture this information</li><li>• A peer network can share the survey and offer solutions to problems posed</li><li>• We are offering a round of applause concerning all the wonderful work we do. The caucus leads did a wonderful job doing the work. Also wanted to give credit to the caucus leads for the work they have done with the community conversation caucus groups. It has been shared that more questions than that can be answered in this one session. The</li></ul>		
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	<p>WSPG’s 13 goals were informed by the HIV Integrated Plan, the CDC, HRSA and input from groups with Seattle King County Public Health, the Medical Monitoring Project across the syndemics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/150186-IntegratedHIVCarePreventionPlan2022-2026.pdf?uid=64c06eff3dc0a</li> </ul>		
V. Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kudos by Chris Wukasch especially overcoming problems with bots, and all that is being done with those aging with HIV</li> <li>Lin Crowley asked about availability of these resources to the public, and the link was provided to chat: <a href="https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/illness-and-disease-z/hiv/syndemic-planning-group">https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/illness-and-disease-z/hiv/syndemic-planning-group</a></li> <li>Beth invited Lin to contact her via email to speak about ways to share this good work with the public</li> </ul>		
VI. Closing Thoughts/Adjourn	<p>Beth shared that Lydia Guy-Ortiz has taken another temporary position within the DOH, but maintains the same contact information if you wish to contact her</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on payment process, the checks will be in the mail on Friday, the payments have been processed</li> <li>Everyone thanked Starleen and Charles along with his HMA Team for all of their help and valued their contribution siting that it wouldn’t have been possible to do this work without them</li> </ul>	Send draft Minutes for review	

**Minutes prepared by:** Genee Grimmitt

**Minutes respectfully submitted by:** Starleen Maharaj-Lewis

**Minutes reviewed and approved by Tri-Chairs:** JJ Baker, Monte Levine, Beth Crutsinger-Perry