

Fall 2016 Newsletter

Staff Volunteers at Walk for Recovery Event

PHIMC staff volunteered at Chicago Department of Public Health's 13th Annual Walk for Recovery on Saturday, September 24. The walk was a successful event, drawing participants from across the city. Momentum to support substance abuse prevention and treatment is building throughout Chicago. Mayor Rahm Emanuel **recently announced** an additional city investment of \$700,000 for substance abuse treatment. As lead agency for substance abuse, we are excited to continue working with organizations and departments that further substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.



Check out more pictures from the event on our Instagram [@phimcnews](#).

NHC Chicago Members Begin New Service Year



On August 22, PHIMC kicked off the 2016-17 National Health Corps Chicago (NHC Chicago) service term with Pre-Service Orientation. This year, through NHC Chicago, 20 AmeriCorps members are placed at nine different community organizations throughout Chicagoland. For 10.5 months, each member will play a role in fostering healthy communities by connecting those who need it most with health and wellness education, benefits, and services.

Karen A. Reitan Honored by University of Chicago

PHIMC Executive Director Karen A. Reitan was honored at a reception on October 15 by University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. She was awarded the Alumni Vision Award that recognizes an alumna whose work is exceptionally creative, innovative, and/or interdisciplinary. Karen received this award for her

vision, commitment, and success in the field of social work and public health. Congratulations to Karen and her fellow awardees for their leadership in social change!



PHIMC Co-Sponsors Black Lives Matters Series



On Thursday, October 6, PHIMC's Community Reentry Project co-sponsored the Black Lives Matter Series: Race, Politics, and Restorative Justice Conference. The conference explored the relationship between mass incarceration, racial equity, and social justice in the criminal justice system. The event was highly successful with over 125 in attendance. Inspiring speakers and presenters, including our Executive Director Karen A. Reitan, facilitated deep and expansive dialogue about these critical issues.

[Learn More](#)

Staff Participates in Statewide HIV/STD Conference

One third of PHIMC's staff of committed leaders went to Springfield to take part in the Illinois 25th Annual Silver Edition HIV/STD Conference. Sponsored by Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois Public Health Association, the conference provides an opportunity for leaders in Illinois to gather, learn, and mobilize in the fight against HIV and other STDs.



Community Reentry Project staff hosted a plenary luncheon for nearly 300 individuals on trauma-informed care in corrections. POP Campaign staff celebrated heroes in the fight against stigma through a POP-UP.

Blair Harvey Presenting at APHA Conference

PHIMC Deputy Director - Strategy and Partnerships Blair Harvey, is presenting November 1 on a panel for the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. Blair is presenting on the innovative approach PHIMC took in designing the **Protecting our Patients (POP) Campaign**. POP mobilizes health care teams to reduce stigmas that hinder healthy patient outcomes. The panel, "Eradicating Stigma Through Effective Health Communication," will also

feature leaders working to reduce stigmas related to epilepsy among young adults, menstrual hygiene education in rural India, childhood obesity, and Ebola.

Thank you for supporting the work of PHIMC. Because of partners like you, PHIMC is able to enhance the capacity of public health and health care systems to promote health equity and expand access to services.

Sincerely,

Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC)

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