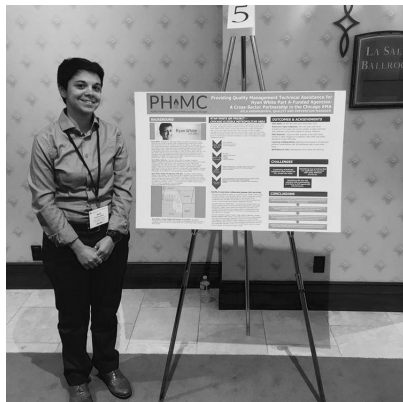


Spring Newsletter

PHIMC Demonstrates Public Health Expertise at NNPHI Conferences

PHIMC is grateful for the recent opportunities to work with National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI). Being part of the network allows us to strengthen partnerships, learn from colleagues across the county, and share knowledge with stakeholders in the field.



PHIMC Deputy Director - Strategy and Partnerships, Blair Harvey, served on the NNPHI Annual Conference Planning Committee for 2017. She was one of 14 members who helped to plan the conference themed Navigating Uncertainty, Spanning Boundaries, Improving Health.

PHIMC Quality and Prevention Manager, Ayla Karamustafa, participated in NNPHI's Open Forum for Quality Improvement in Public Health in New Orleans on April 20-21. She presented a poster on quality management for Ryan White Part A

funded agencies in the Chicago area.

Our executive team members Karen A. Reitan, Blair Harvey, Jenny Epstein, and Julio Rodriguez attended and presented at NNPHI's annual conference in New Orleans on May 17-19. They lead a variety of presentations on PHIMC initiatives, including the POP Campaign, Ryan White Part A Quality Management, Substance Use Disorder Services, and Integrating Innovation.

Congratulations to NNPHI on hosting successful conferences this year that fostered discussions and generated ideas for improving health for all. These conferences allow us to enhance public health capacity in Illinois and learn innovative ways to reach our goals.



Join Us at the 2017 Illinois Reentry Conference

The 2017 Illinois Reentry Conference: Health Equity and Social Justice is a two-day event hosted by Community Reentry Project and curated by PHIMC and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The goal of the conference is to bring together bright minds to build skills around health equity and social justice for the incarcerated population. On Thursday, June 15, 2017, the conference will commence with an opening reception from 6:00-8:00pm, featuring

live music and a keynote address from Nneka Jones Tapia, Psy.D, Executive Director of Cook County Department of Corrections. On Friday, June 16, 2017, the conference will run from 9:00 am-3:30 pm and will include a panel presentation on mental health along with workshops, plenaries, and personal stories. Lunch will be provided. It is our hope that we address issues impacting the reentry community and create awareness, reduce stigma, and provoke conversations that matter.

There is no cost to attend, however, all participants must RSVP. Please [register](#) early as space is limited. [Click here](#) to learn more about the conference.

National Health Corps Chicago Member Receives Governor's Volunteer Service Award

PHIMC congratulates National Health Corps Chicago AmeriCorps member Genesis Rios for receiving the Governor's Volunteer Service Award. Genesis is completing her term of service at CommunityHealth, the largest volunteer-based free medical clinic in the nation. Genesis was nominated for the Illinois Governor's Volunteer Service Award by her site supervisor, Adelle White, for demonstrating innovation in creating promotional materials, educating patients, and leading a team of six volunteers to support uninsured patients.

Genesis' service at CommunityHealth includes teaching patients about health and nutrition and linking individuals to health insurance and services. Additionally, she collaborates with the entire National Health Corps Chicago team on a broad range of service projects across the city. We are very proud of Genesis and all of the National Health Corps Chicago members for their commitment to improving health and wellness in Chicago.



PHIMC Hosts On the Table 2017 Discussion

Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), United Way of Metropolitan Chicago (UWMC), and PHIMC hosted a luncheon discussion for On the Table on May 15, 2017. The topic of the conversation was "How can business support a culture of health?" and featured CDPH Commissioner Julie Morita, PHIMC Executive Director Karen A. Reitan, and UWMC President/CEO Wendy DuBoe as speakers. More than 15 individuals representing large and small businesses in the region attended and participated in a productive dialogue about how best to engage the corporate community in promoting health.

On the Table is the Chicago Community Trust's annual forum designed to engage community members in discussion about issues that are important to them and to inspire collective action in the region. We are excited about the opportunities identified in this discussion and look forward to working with partners to build a culture of health in Chicago.



PHIMC Welcomes New Team Member

PHIMC introduces the most recent member of the team, Caitlyn Hicks, our new Administrative Associate. As PHIMC grows and evolves, we are excited about the skills she will bring to the organization. As Administrative Associate, Ms. Hicks provides administrative support across the agency to increase organizational efficiency, streamline systems and processes, and contribute to organizational growth and development.

For more information about Ms. Hicks, please take a look at her bio on our [website](#).



Community Reentry Project Salutes Fikirte Wagaw

Community Reentry Project (CRP) recently honored Fikirte Wagaw with an award of appreciation for her integral role in advancing the goals of the initiative. Fikirte served as a consultant to help coordinate this multi-stakeholder initiative for over six years and left last year to join Chicago Department of Public Health as First Deputy Commissioner. We congratulate and thank Fikirte for her hard work and dedication to the project and PHIMC. We look forward to seeing what CRP will accomplish this year, and are excited to announce that the work of CRP will be presented at the 2017 meeting of the American Public Health Association in Atlanta.

Chicago Torture Justice Center Celebrates Opening

Congratulations to our partner, Chicago Torture Justice Center (CTJC), on their official opening Friday, May 26, 2017. The launch included a celebration recognizing the individuals who created the center. CTJC addresses the traumas of police violence and institutionalized racism through access to healing and wellness services, trauma-

informed resources, and community connection. We are excited to see the impact of their work!



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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