

# Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Joins PHIMC



We are excited to announce that the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (Alliance), a statewide organization dedicated to policy, public education, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth organizing, has found its new home here at PHIMC. This partnership will offer the Alliance program sustainability and a stronger infrastructure, while preserving the essence of the organization's longstanding core work.

"PHIMC is thrilled," stated Karen A. Reitan, PHIMC Executive Director. "The Alliance's work advocating with and for LGBTQ youth to create safe and affirming schools and communities is critically important. The connection between supportive school environments and health is indisputable, and PHIMC looks forward to supporting and growing this work."

# PHIMC Routine HIV Screening Program Published



PHIMC's nationally recognized model for integrating routine HIV screening in diverse healthcare settings is featured in the most recent issue of the peer-reviewed journal, Public Health Reports. "Routine HIV Screening as a Standard of Care: Implementing HIV Screening in General Medical Settings, 2013-2015" details PHIMC's implementation of routine HIV screening in seven healthcare systems in Illinois.

The article, written by PHIMC's Blair Harvey and Karen A. Reitan, former staff Laura Roche and Saul Zepeda, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Raekiel D. Taylor, appears in a special supplement: The Care and Prevention in the United States (CAPUS) Demonstration Project: Reducing HIV/AIDS-Related Morbidity and Mortality Among Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups. Through CAPUS, PHIMC provided capacity-building assistance

focused on systems, operational infrastructure, staff member skills, organizational structure, and clinic culture. Read the full story in [our newsroom](#), including how PHIMC increased the number of tests by more than 40% each year.

# PHIMC Team Debut at AIDS Run & Walk

PHIMC staff and supporters joined 2,500 HIV advocates, survivors, and community leaders in the AIDS Run & Walk Chicago. The event, held on September 23, is AIDS Foundation of Chicago's (AFC) annual fundraiser for programs that decrease stigma, raise awareness about the epidemic, and support healthcare and services for people living with HIV/AIDS. Congratulations to AFC for hosting a successful event at Soldier Field.

PHIMC thanks everyone who walked with us and/or donated to our team, helping us raise \$7,588. It was PHIMC's first year hosting a team for the AIDS Run & Walk, and we are grateful for the amount of support that we received. Given the enthusiasm and dedication our team inspired, we are sure to be back next year.



Team PHIMC included people and pups in support of AFC; PHIMC's Meghana Menon leads the way.

## Expanding Resources for Opioid/Substance Use Helpline

PHIMC continues its outreach work in support of the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances. The Helpline, funded by Illinois Department of Human Services, is a public resource that connects callers to substance use disorder services throughout Illinois. The Helpline is free, confidential, open 24/7, and available online at [HelplineIL.org](https://www.helplineil.org).

You can help PHIMC promote the Helpline. PHIMC Project Associate Nate Muckley is available to attend community events, organizational meetings, and health fairs related to health promotion and the opioid epidemic in Illinois. If you are interested, please contact Nate at [nate.muckley@phimc.org](mailto:nate.muckley@phimc.org). Your agency can also order bilingual Helpline posters and wallet-sized cards directly to your address at no cost. Head to [HelplineIL.org/app/order](https://www.helplineil.org/app/order) to place your order.



**ILLINOIS HELPLINE**  
for Opioids & Other Substances

## AmeriCorps Programs Seek Members and Host Sites

### [Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Allies](#)

PHIMC seeks members and one more host site for the current service year to join SUD Allies, an AmeriCorps program supporting



prevention, treatment, and recovery agencies throughout Chicago and suburban Cook County. [SUD Allies members](#) engage clients, youth, and providers through a variety of comprehensive services, including case management, health insurance enrollment assistance, prevention education, and anti-stigma education. [Host sites](#) provide SUD services and/or prevention and agree to host an AmeriCorps member for a period of eleven months.

### [National Health Corps \(NHC\) Chicago](#)

PHIMC will release a Request for Applications for 2019-2020 host sites for our other AmeriCorps program, NHC Chicago, on January 3, 2019. Applications are due by 5pm on February 1, 2019. NHC Chicago places members at local organizations to provide services including health and wellness education, linkage to healthcare, case management, and patient navigation assistance. If you are interested in becoming an NHC Chicago host site, [please complete this brief survey](#) to convey your intent to apply.

## Save the Date: Illinois Reentry Conference 2019

Convening twice a year throughout the state, this two-day conference brings together public health professionals, healthcare providers, social service professionals, and community members to build skills around health equity, social justice, and reentry services for formerly incarcerated individuals.

**When:** March 12-13, 2019

**Where:** University of Illinois at Springfield

Registration will begin in late January. For more information, please contact Reentry Manager Rashonda Johnson at [rashonda.williams@phimc.org](mailto:rashonda.williams@phimc.org).

We are delighted to present the fourth semi-annual Illinois Reentry Conference in partnership with AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Children's Home & Aid, Christian Community Health Center, Cook County Health & Hospitals System, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Midwest AIDS Training + Education Center.

## PHIMC Welcomes New Staff



PHIMC is thrilled to announce the addition of four new team members: Alisha Jani joins as Project Manager - National Health Corps Chicago, managing one of PHIMC's two AmeriCorps programs. Sarah Boulton is spearheading PHIMC's mental and behavioral health services as Project Manager -

Behavioral Health. Donna Blackwell steps in as Deputy Director - Finance, joined by Christine Yartz as Staff Accountant.

PHIMC would also like to congratulate several of our ongoing staff who have recently taken new roles. Clare Healy directs PHIMC's second AmeriCorps program as Program Coordinator - Substance Use Disorder Allies. Caitlyn Hicks has stepped up as Project Coordinator supporting both the Quality Management and Community Reentry initiatives. Nate Muckley has moved to Project Associate - Behavioral Health, supporting substance use initiatives including the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances. Finally, Caitlin Stack has become Program Director - Workforce Development, overseeing both PHIMC AmeriCorps programs and expanding our workforce development portfolio.

[Website](#) [About Us](#) [News](#) [Initiatives](#) [Resources](#) [Contact](#) [POP](#)



**SIGN UP FOR  
OUR EMAILS**



**SHARE THIS  
EMAIL**

**Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago**

<http://www.phimc.org>

[info@phimc.org](mailto:info@phimc.org)

Copyright © 2018. All Rights Reserved.