

## PHIMC Leads at National Network of Public Health Institutes Annual Conference



Rashonda Johnson, Karen A. Reitan, Katie Morin, and Donna Blackwell participate in the opioid prevention design lab at the NNPHI Conference.

PHIMC staff participated in the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) annual conference, *From Innovation to Ideas: Partnerships, Policy, and Practice*, in Washington, DC in May. The conference brought together multi-sector stakeholders to share strategies for improving public health practice and improving population health at the local, state, and federal levels. Topics included preventing opioid overdose, linking behavioral health and public health, healthy aging, and skill building for health strategists.

Executive Director Karen A. Reitan was on the development and implementation team for a pre-conference interactive design lab: "Urgency, Opportunity, Hope: Designing Opioid Misuse Prevention Strategies." She presented at this hands-on learning lab for health practitioners working at the state, tribal, and community levels to prevent opioid misuse.

Program Manager Meghana Menon led a round table discussion entitled "Building Partnerships to Develop a Data Sharing Strategy Across Health and Education Sectors." Meghana manages PHIMC's maternal and child health initiatives, including the School Health Access Collaborative, a city-wide, cross-sector coalition that aims to strengthen the school health system to improve outcomes for Chicago students.

## Opioid Helpline Assists 10,000 Callers

The Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances has [surpassed 10,000 calls](#) since its launch in

December 2017. PHIMC's behavioral health division supports the Helpline, which provides free, confidential help for individuals experiencing opioid use disorders, their families, and anyone affected by opioid misuse. The Helpline is available 24/7 at 1-833-2FINDHELP and online at [HelplineIL.org](http://HelplineIL.org).

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).

## Proviso Partners for Health Host Senator Durbin



Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) met with Proviso Partners for Health (PP4H) leaders and community partners to discuss health equity and learn about PP4H's systems-change work. PHIMC is a proud partner of PP4H, a community-driven, multi-sector coalition promoting community health, health equity, and transformational systemic change in the Proviso neighborhoods of Maywood, Bellwood, Broadview, and Melrose Park. Senator Durbin connected with PP4H as part of his [Chicago HEAL \(Hospital Engagement, Action, and Leadership\) Initiative](#), which is dedicated to reducing community violence by working with ten Chicago-area hospitals and the communities they serve. Read more and see photos from Senator Durbin's visit [here](#).

PHIMC also congratulates PP4H and its partners who worked to successfully pass Tobacco 21 legislation which raises the minimum age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 at the state level; Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed the legislation into law in May. Senator Durbin has now taken the legislation to the national stage, co-sponsoring the bipartisan Tobacco 21 Act in the Senate. Learn more about Tobacco 21 and PP4H's advocacy on behalf of teens' respiratory health [here](#).

## Illinois Reentry Conference Tackles Incarceration as a Public Health Issue





NBC News interviewed conference emcee Marcus King.

PHIMC hosted the 2019 Illinois Reentry Conference: In These Shoes at University of Illinois Springfield's Public Affairs Center in March and drew nearly 100 participants. Among the attendees was State Representative Sue Scherer (D-IL 96), who commended [Community Reentry Project](#) and its partner agencies for their important and life-saving work with communities impacted by incarceration and the justice system throughout Illinois.

Emcee Marcus King of the Office of the Comptroller and Gladyse C. Taylor, Assistant Director of Illinois Department of Corrections, received Community Reentry Champion Awards, presented annually in recognition of exemplary service and dedication to the reentry community. PHIMC Reentry Manager Rashonda Johnson and Project Coordinator Caitlyn Hicks also received awards from the Office of the Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza in honor of their dedication to promoting health equity and reducing recidivism. Read the [press release](#) to learn more.

## AmeriCorps Marks Silver Anniversary



This year AmeriCorps celebrates 25 years of national service and, as their motto states, getting things done. PHIMC manages two AmeriCorps programs: [National Health Corps \(NHC\) Chicago](#) and [Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Allies](#). Follow PHIMC on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to find out how our AmeriCorps members embody this spirit of service. Share your own AmeriCorps stories online with the hashtags #AmeriCorps25 and #NationalService25.

## PHIMC Seeks Host Sites for Substance Use Disorder Allies

PHIMC is pleased to announce host sites for [Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Allies](#), an AmeriCorps program that supports substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery throughout Chicago and suburban Cook County. Erie Family Health Center, Healthcare Alternative Systems, McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition, and Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare have been selected as host sites for the 2019-2020 service year. PHIMC seeks additional host sites; learn more and apply [here](#) by September 6, 2019. We accept applications for members on a rolling basis; learn more [here](#).

# National Health Corps Chicago Holds Graduation, Seeks New Members



[National Health Corps \(NHC\) Chicago](#), PHIMC's AmeriCorps program devoted to providing health education and services, completed its service year on July 12 with the annual culmination event which recognized the achievements of its 2018-2019 members. NHC Chicago members each completed 1700 hours of service over the past year at eight host sites. The ceremony took place at Matilda bar and restaurant, with speeches by PHIMC Project Manager Alisha Jani and host site supervisors Alejandra Corral (Northwest Side Housing Center), Megan Erskine and Emily Rivera (Heartland Health Centers), Bridget Magner (Erie Family Health Centers - Humboldt Park), Amanda Robinson (Erie Family Health Centers), and Mary Rosenwinkel (Respiratory Health Association).

Many thanks to these supervisors and those at our other 2018-2019 host sites: Dr. Sandra Block and Dr. Adrianna Hempelmann (Illinois Eye Institute - Princeton Vision Clinic), Rukiyat Lawal (Advocate Trinity Hospital), Kate Palmer and Alicia Williams (Howard Brown Health), and Lisa Parsons (Legal Council for Health Justice)!

Interested in serving with NHC Chicago? PHIMC seeks member applications on a rolling basis through the end of August for the August 26, 2019 through July 10, 2020 program year. Apply via the [MyAmeriCorps Portal](#).

## PHIMC and Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Advocate for LGBTQ Youth

PHIMC Program Manager Meghana Menon and Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (the Alliance) Policy & Advocacy Manager Rodrigo Anzures-Oyorzabal joined Equality Illinois in Springfield in May to



advocate for LGBTQ youth, especially the [Inclusive Curriculum Bill](#), which would ensure the contributions of LGBTQ people are included in Illinois public school curricula. The bill has passed the Illinois House and Senate and now awaits Governor JB Pritzker's signature.

Soon after, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed an [executive order](#) in support of non-binary, transgender, and gender nonconforming students. The executive order will create a task force to make recommendations regarding how to create affirming learning environments for all students and how Illinois State Board of Education can implement such policies. Congratulations to the Alliance and all the partners working to create safe and affirming environments for LGBTQ+ young people in schools.



Blair Harvey, Governor JB Pritzker, Rodrigo Anzures-Oyozabal, and Mary Morten celebrate pride month at the Governor's first annual Pride Reception.

## PHIMC Awards Grants to Promote Equity in Built Environment

In partnership with Chicago Department of Public Health, PHIMC awarded the 2019 Healthy Chicago 2.0 Community Seed Grants. Six community-based organizations received a total of \$150,000 to support locally-driven activities and solutions aimed at improving the built environment to promote community walkability in connection to public transit.

"These Seed Grants support lasting and meaningful health equity, for communities by communities," said former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "It is critical that, as a city, we work to systematically address the health challenges that each community may face. Together, we can support better health for everyone." Read more about the grant recipients and their projects [here](#).

## PHIMC Welcomes New Staff



PHIMC is thrilled to announce the addition of three new team members: Naomi Sugar joins as Deputy Director - Programs. Whitney Allen, a former intern, returns as Project Manager - HIV Prevention, while Victoria Pettis joins the finance team as Accounts Payable Specialist. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our new staff.



PHIMC would also like to welcome our new cohort of interns, pictured left to right:

Deirdre McGovern,  
Seedo Ijir,  
Claire Reitan,  
and Sarah Bergen.

## Join PHIMC Team for AIDS Run & Walk Chicago



People and pups alike came out to support AIDS Foundation of Chicago on behalf of PHIMC last year.

For the second year, PHIMC staff and supporters will join HIV advocates, survivors, and community leaders in the AIDS Run & Walk Chicago. The event, to be held on October 5, 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. PHIMC is a Community Direct Partner of AFC, so funds raised by the Run & Walk will benefit both AFC and PHIMC's own HIV/AIDS programming.

Show your support by [making a donation](#) or even [joining our team](#) and walking with us. To join us, register [here](#) (click "register," then select "join a team" and search "PHIMC" before completing



your registration). If you can't be there in person, you may still participate as a virtual walker, which allows you to fundraise, recruit friends, and join the fun online. Follow PHIMC on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to learn more about our HIV/AIDS programs, the history of AIDS activism, and our team's fundraising progress.

## Save the Date: RIG8 Community Meeting and Reentry Conference

### Region 8 Community Engagement Meeting

Regional Implementation Groups for HIV prevention hold annual community engagement meetings open to clients who are living with HIV/AIDS, providers, Illinois HIV Integrated Planning Council members, social service agencies, and community members. This meeting will include a needs assessment, the results of which will be used to update the Illinois Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need and develop the next care and prevention integrated plan. We encourage you to join us.

**When:** September 4, 2019, 10am-2pm

**Where:** Aunt Martha's, Park Forest

Register online [here](#). For more information, contact Project Manager Whitney Allen at [whitney.allen@phimc.org](mailto:whitney.allen@phimc.org).

### Illinois Reentry Conference

Twice annually PHIMC convenes a statewide conference which 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:** October 2-3, 2019

**Where:** University of Illinois at Chicago

Registration is free and will begin in late August [here](#). For more information, contact Reentry Manager Rashonda Johnson at [rashonda.johnson@phimc.org](mailto:rashonda.johnson@phimc.org).

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