

## Illinois Reentry Conference: Advancing Criminal, Health, and Social Justice



Thomas Dart, Sheriff of Cook County Department of Corrections and Karen A. Reitan, Executive Director of Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago

PHIMC's Community Reentry Project hosts a bi-annual conference that 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 current and formerly incarcerated individuals. On October 3, 2019, more than 150 people gathered at UIC Student Center East for our biggest conference yet, honoring the legacy and development of reentry services over the last twenty years. Cook County Sheriff Thomas Dart opened the conference, and Chastity Gunn closed out the day of plenaries and workshops with a spoken word performance and moderated discussion.

You can find conference resources, photos, and the 20-Year Community Reentry Project Timeline [here](#).

Photos by [Shon Gibbs](#)



Award recipients of the Community Reentry Champion Award (L-R) Russell Jackson, Transforming Reentry Services; Norma Cervantes, Christian Community Health Center; and Coleman Goode, AIDS Foundation of Chicago

## Safe Schools for LGBTQ+ Students

PHIMC's merger with Illinois Safe Schools Alliance is [now official](#), and we are [celebrating the union](#) on Sunday, January 26 from 4-6pm at Colvin House.





#### Staff Celebrates the Merger

Back Row (L-R): Meghana Menon, Vince Pagán, Clare Healy, Caitlyn Hicks, Nat Duran, Sarah Boulton, Alisha Jani, Sarah Bergen, and Susanne Schnell

Front Row (L-R): Karen Reitan, Blair Harvey, and Becca McNamara

This merger comes on the heels of Governor J.B. Pritzker signing the [Illinois' LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum Law](#) (formerly HB246), ensuring the inclusion of LGBTQ contributions in curriculum for all Illinois public schools beginning in the 2020-21 school year. Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (ISSA), now a program of PHIMC, continues to work with Equality Illinois and The Legacy Project to implement the new law. ISSA and its partners will be working with the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Education Association, Illinois Federation of Teachers, regional superintendents, and other key stakeholders over the next year to develop guidance, resources, lesson plans, and professional development/training tools to support educators across the state. ISSA is also developing FAQs and is offering training for school districts, teachers, and community organizations regarding implementation of the LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum Law and other strategies for ensuring a safe and affirming learning environment for LGBTQ students.

Please click [here](#) for more information about training and resources and [here](#) for ISSA's professional development offerings. If you are requesting professional development, please complete our [PD Intake Form](#).



Nat Duran, Youth Engagement Manager - Illinois Safe Schools Alliance

ISSA's Youth Engagement Manager Nat Duran was among Governor Pritzker's appointments to [The Affirming and Inclusive Schools Task Force](#). Established in September, the group is tasked with finding strategies and best practices for ensuring "welcoming, safe, supportive and inclusive school environments" for transgender, nonbinary, and gender-nonconforming students. Congratulations, Nat, on this well-deserved honor!

## New Guidelines for Ryan White Part A Services

Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) released [New Guidelines for Ryan White Part A HIV Care and Supportive Services](#) to help ensure that people living with HIV receive the highest quality of care possible. CDPH engaged PHIMC to lead the 18-month planning and development process to update service guidelines and expectations for Ryan White Part A care and service providers.

These standards were revised using a multi-stakeholder process that included clinical best practices, insight from similarly large metropolitan areas, advisement from the Chicago Area



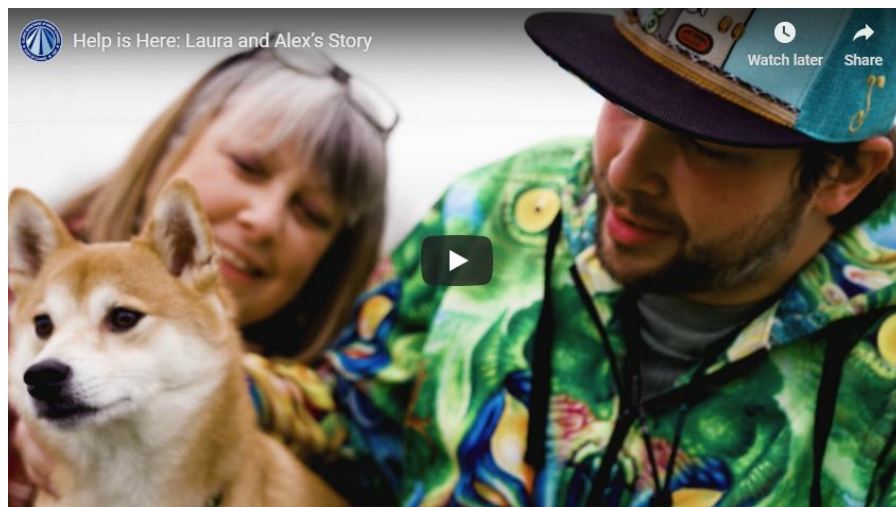
HIV Integrated Services Council (CAHISC), and provider input, as well as recommendations from individuals living with HIV/AIDS from across the region in order to keep people at the center of service.

**"The process was so inclusive and like nothing I have experienced before. Well done! Everyone was visibly committed to the process." ~ Participant Evaluation**

The new Chicago Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) Standards of Care are available for download [here](#).

## Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances

The Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances launched a [video campaign](#) this Fall which was [profiled here](#) by WTTW.



Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances: Video Campaign

Funded by Illinois Department of Human Services, the Helpline is a public resource that connects callers to substance use disorder services throughout Illinois. The Helpline is free, confidential, open 24/7, and is available online at [HelplineIL.org](http://HelplineIL.org). Since December 2017, the Helpline has received over 15,000 calls.

PHIMC continues its outreach work to support the Helpline. If you would like Project Associate Nate Muckley to attend a community event, organizational meeting, or health fair to talk about the Helpline, please contact Nate at [nate.muckley@phimc.org](mailto:nate.muckley@phimc.org).

## Proviso Partners for Health

### Community Forum with Senator Durbin

Following a Roundtable with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin hosted by Proviso Partners for Health (PP4H) last March, the Senator returned to Maywood in August for a Community Forum with PP4H coalition leaders and over 30 community members. During this two-hour community

tour, discussion, and listening session, residents shared their ideas for improving community health and suggested more inclusive actions around community violence to support Maywood's youth, families at the margins, and justice-involved residents. Participants in the Forum also shared suggestions for strengthening a community-hospital relationship with Loyola Medicine, a lead coalition partner in PP4H.

In featuring PP4H's community-driven health equity and systems-change work, the Forum highlighted the need for local and national policies to address food insecurity, entrepreneurship, and community-support infrastructures for healthy, safe communities. Senator Durbin told Maywood residents about his [Chicago HEAL Initiative](#), which works to decrease community violence through upstream preventative efforts that help communities thrive. Loyola Medicine CEO, Shawn Vincent, also presented on Loyola's community benefit and wellness goals.

Local media coverage of the forum can be found [here](#).



Loyola Medicine CEO Shawn Vincent and US Senator Durbin with Lonette Hall, Executive Director of Maywood Park District, standing to tell about the Park District's partnership with VeggieRx

## **VeggieRx: A Community-driven Initiative for Health**

VeggieRx is a produce prescription model that connects both Proviso Township community residents and Loyola Medicine patients experiencing food insecurity with free, organic, and locally grown produce, double-value produce coupons, and nutrition education. VeggieRx is a cross-sector initiative driven by [Proviso Partners for Health \(PP4H\)](#), Chicago Botanic Garden, Windy City Harvest, and Loyola Medicine. Since it was launched in 2018, this initiative has distributed over 7,000 pounds of produce to Proviso residents and sources vegetables and herbs grown from PP4H's Maywood-based Giving Garden urban farm. [VeggieRx](#) currently runs

through November at Loyola's Maywood-based Family Medicine Clinic and will begin again in collaboration with the Maywood Park District in early Winter 2020.

VeggieRx was featured this summer by Nicole Blackwood in the Chicago Tribune:

[VeggieRX provides free vegetables to low-income people and patients in Chicago food deserts](#)

PHIMC is a proud partner of PP4H, a community-driven, multi-sector coalition promoting community health, health equity, and transformational systems change in west suburban Cook County communities of Maywood, Bellwood, Broadview, and Melrose Park. PHIMC provides organizational development services and fiscal management to support the coalition.

## HIV Prevention and Care in Suburban Cook County

On September 4, 2019, PHIMC and AIDS Foundation of Chicago facilitated the Regional Community Engagement Meeting for suburban Cook County (Region 8) in coordination with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). This meeting, hosted by [Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness](#) in Park Forest, brought together 45 community stakeholders to talk about the state of the HIV epidemic and services in the area. After a presentation about regional HIV epidemiological trends, available HIV prevention and care services, and an overview of the [Getting to Zero](#) initiative and the [National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2020](#) goals, attendees engaged in a spirited needs assessment discussion.

The insights from the Regional Community Engagement Meeting have been shared with Illinois HIV Integrated Planning Council (IHIPC) and IDPH to influence HIV prevention and care planning and strategies going forward.

## AmeriCorps Programs: New Members and Host Site Recruitment

### National Health Corps Chicago

Welcome to the [20 National Health Corps \(NHC\) Chicago members](#) who just began their 2019-2020 service term. They are serving as Health Educators, Outreach Coordinators, and Patient Navigators under this year's three priority areas: (1) Increasing physical activity and improving nutrition to reduce obesity and/or chronic conditions related to obesity, (2) Addressing opioid use, and (3) Improving the quality of life for adults 50 years and older.

Over the course of their service term, they will be sharing about themselves and their experiences [here](#).





National Health Corps (NHC) Chicago members for the 2019-2020 service term

We are delighted to be collaborating this year with [12 host site organizations](#): Advocate Children's Hospital, Advocate Trinity Hospital, Erie Family Health Center, Friends of the Park, Girls in the Game, Heartland Health Centers, Illinois Eye Institute - Diabetes Eye Care Center, Illinois Eye Institute - Princeton Vision Clinic, Northwest Side Housing Center, Southwest Organizing Project, Proviso Partners for Health - PHIMC, and Respiratory Health Association.

*Are you -- or is someone you know -- passionate about public health and interested in a year of service?*

**NHC Chicago seeks candidates** for one full-time Outreach Coordinator position for the 2019-2020 service term. If you are interested, you can find the [role description here](#) and learn more about [how to apply here](#).

## **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Allies**

Are you committed to serving your community? Are you passionate about advancing substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery throughout Illinois? Does your agency deliver impactful Substance Use Disorder services? If you answered YES to any of these questions then join PHIMC's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Allies program as a host site or member this year.

**PHIMC seeks host sites** for its SUD Allies AmeriCorps program that supports substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery throughout Illinois. Join partner sites, including Erie Family Health Center, Healthcare Alternative Systems, Lurie Children's Hospital, and Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare for the 2019-2020 service year.



**PHIMC seeks additional SUD Allies members** for the 2019-2020 service year, too. 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.

[\*Learn more and apply here.\*](#)

## PHIMC Presents . . .



**Sarah Boulton, Project Manager - Behavioral Health** presented "Coordinated Care and Partnership: Combating the Opioid Epidemic in Chicago" at the 2019 United States Conference on AIDS (USCA), sharing how we can leverage the lessons learned to combat HIV and AIDS and apply them to the opioid epidemic.

**Blair Harvey, Deputy Director - Strategy and Partnerships, and Meghana Menon, Program Manager - Child and Adolescent Health,** presented "Building partnerships to develop a data sharing strategy across health and education sectors," at the American School Health Association Conference, the [All In: Data for Community Health National Meeting](#), and the American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference, sharing highlights and lessons learned from PHIMC's [School Health Access Collaborative \(SHAC\)](#) work.



PHIMC's Blair Harvey and Meghana Menon with co-presenters from Asemio, at the All In: Data for Community Health National Meeting

## AIDS Run & Walk Chicago: Team PHIMC



Team PHIMC, 2019 AIDS Run & Walk Chicago

PHIMC staff and supporters joined more than 2,000 HIV advocates, survivors, and community leaders in the AIDS Run & Walk Chicago on October 5. "Live True. Be You." was this year's theme. Beginning at Soldier Field and continuing along the lakefront, this event 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 and to everyone involved in making this a successful and vibrant event.

As a Community Direct partner, 90% of the \$5,139 we raised directly supports PHIMC programs and partners that serve people at risk of or living with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you.

## PHIMC Welcomes New Staff

PHIMC is excited to announce four new team members:





**Grecia Magdaleno**

is the new Policy and Advocacy Manager - Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, supporting LGBTQ students in securing their rights to a safe and affirming learning environment.



**RoiAnn Phillips**

is our new Communications Director, developing tools and approaches to effectively communicate and further PHIMC's mission.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our new staff.



**Jacey Hutchinson**

is PHIMC's newest National Health Corps Member, jumping right into her role as Food Justice Coordinator for Proviso Partners for Health (PP4H).



**Odera Ekeh**

rounds out the team as an APEx Intern through the Northwestern MPH program.



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