

Inaugural Mary F. Morten Award for Justice



(L to R) PHIMC Board Members Sidney Thomas, Aisha Davis, Esq., Mary F. Morten, Melissa Ockerman, and Jaime Dirksen, Executive Director Karen A. Reitan, and Board Member Casey Horton - Photo by Gracie Meier

In a surprise move during the January 26, 2020 reception to celebrate the union between Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (the Alliance) and Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC), PHIMC Executive Director Karen A. Reitan presented the [Inaugural Mary F. Morten Award for Justice](#) to its namesake.

A nationally recognized advocate for equity and justice, Mary F. Morten is the President of Morten Group, LLC, a national consulting firm established in November 2001 to focus on clients in the nonprofit, for profit, and foundation fields. Mary is a founding member of the Alliance and will continue her leadership role by serving on the Board of Directors at PHIMC.

"The Institute has never given an award before, and we are excited to start by creating the Inaugural Mary F. Morten Award for Justice," said Karen, who spoke about Mary's leadership in shepherding the merger with PHIMC and noted how Mary's work over the years for diversity, equity, and inclusion has changed people's workplaces and people's lives all over the country.

Thank you to Alphawood, Crossroads Fund, Forefront - Mission Sustainability Initiative, and Polk Bros. Foundation for supporting the merger between the Alliance and PHIMC.

[See photos.](#)

Substance Use Disorder Allies



SUD Allies participate in 2020 MLK Day of Service

PHIMC is excited to see the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Allies team expand capacity for substance use disorder in Illinois communities. For the 2019-2020 service term, SUD Allies has five full-time members. Meghana Atre, David Ferreira-Hersh, and Agnes Park serve as Case Managers at Healthcare Alternative Systems; Tara Hartnett serves as a Substance Use Prevention Educator at Erie Family Health Center; and Okwuchi "Chi" Onwubu serves as a Health Educator at Lurie Children's Hospital.

Administered by PHIMC, SUD Allies is a state AmeriCorps program that supports substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services throughout Chicago and suburban Cook County.

Member applications for the 2020-2021 program year open in March 2020. [Learn more.](#)

National Health Corps Chicago

National Health Corps (NHC) fosters healthy communities by connecting those who need it most with health and wellness education, benefits, and services, while developing tomorrow's compassionate health leaders. In 2018-2019, services provided by NHC members in all four cities - Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and North Florida - resulted in:

- **164,211 new clients** receiving health education and accessing services in their communities, exceeding totals for each of the past five years
- **22,454 new clients** receiving information on health insurance, access and benefits, exceeding the target by 748%
- **104,671 new clients** participating in health education programs, exceeding target by 1,047%

Congratulations to NHC Chicago's 2018-2019 service term members and partners for providing access and services to Chicago communities!



NHC Chicago, 2019-2020



NHC Chicago 2019-2020 service term members participated in MLK National Day of Service with City Year Chicago on January 20 by painting classrooms at Robert Nathaniel Dett Elementary School in Chicago. NHC Chicago members joined over 400 volunteers and elected officials including Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Senator Dick Durbin, Senator Tammy Duckworth, Governor JB Pritzker, State's Attorney Kim Foxx, and more in discussion around values of service and volunteerism in Chicago.

NHC Chicago, a program of NHC, is administered by [Health Federation of Philadelphia](#) and implemented by Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago.

Member applications for the 2020-2021 program year open in March 2020.

[Learn more.](#)

Community Reentry Project



Illinois Reentry Conference - October 2019 - Photo by Shon Gibbs Imagery

2020 Illinois Reentry Conference: March 3-4, 2020 in Springfield

Join PHIMC's Community Reentry Project for the second annual Illinois Reentry Conference taking place in Springfield, Illinois on March 3-4, 2020. This two-day conference, Advancing Criminal, Health, and Social Justice, will be held at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre. It is open to the public and free, but registration is required to attend. Meals are provided and continuing education credits are available upon request.

There will be several guest speakers and presenters, including Alyssa Williams, Chief of Programs and Support Services at Illinois Department of Corrections, and Andrea Perez, HIV/AIDS Section Chief for Illinois Department of Public Health. See [brief video](#) from past conference.

[Register here.](#)

Protecting our Patients Campaign

[Protecting our Patients \(POP\)](#) is a campaign designed to address stigmas that impact client experiences and outcomes in healthcare and other community-based settings. PHIMC will host four POP trainings in February and March for community-based agencies and healthcare teams serving incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals.

For more information or to inquire about your agency participating in these trainings, please email reentry@phimc.org.

Statewide Reentry Meeting

Community Reentry Project hosted the biannual Statewide Teleconference Reentry Meeting in Chicago and Springfield on January 23, 2020. The goal of this meeting was to increase the number of organizations that are aware of reentry services and to enhance the reentry services provided by community-based organizations and local health departments. A combined total of 45 participants were in attendance and discussed topics such as the [Sequential Intercept Model](#), correctional telemedicine and release planning, and health policy updates.

Illinois Safe Schools Alliance

Honoring One of Our Own: Alex McCray

Last month, we learned the heartbreaking news that we lost a young champion who embodied the fierce brilliance often seen in the youth with whom we work. In the weeks since his death, countless individuals have commented on Alex's huge heart and sharp wit, always accentuated by his shy smile - traits that we at the Alliance hold dearly as we recall our own times shared with him. We are grateful for the opportunity to help bring Alex's vision for professional development and affirming policy to his Williamsville school and even more so, to bring his story, which offers so much hope, to other trans and gender expansive youth throughout the state.

We love and miss you, Alex.

See also tribute by Steven Spearie at The State Journal-Register:
[Student activist for LGBTQ issues remembered as 'trailblazer'](#)

Affirming and Inclusive Schools Task Force Report

In June 2019, Governor Pritzker signed an Executive Order to create the Affirming and Inclusive Schools Task Force. In February, this group delivered their completed [report](#) which details recommended practices for educators and administrators regarding school-based supports for transgender, nonbinary, and gender expansive students. PHIMC's Youth Engagement Manager Nat Duran served on this Task Force, and was recently interviewed about the report along with two other Task Force members on Illinois Public Radio's [The 21st Show](#).

Youth Leadership Summit

The Alliance's annual Youth Leadership Summit was a smashing success! PHIMC extends deep gratitude to Ottawa Township High School for being gracious hosts to LGBTQ+ youth leaders and their adult supports from all across the state. A huge thanks also goes out to Youth Committee members and community partners. Their workshops ignited reflection on the importance of LGBTQ+ history, community-building, transformative and racial justice,

and decolonizing gender and sexual identities.

[Learn more here](#) about the youth leadership summit and other youth organizing opportunities.

Day of Silence

The Alliance participates annually in [GLSEN's Day of Silence](#), "... a national student-led demonstration where LGBTQ students and allies all around the country -- and the world -- take a vow of silence to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination of LGBTQ people in schools."



This year's Day of Silence is Friday, April 24, 2020.

The Alliance provides a Day of Silence (DoS) kit to any Illinois Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) registered with the GSA Network, containing Illinois-specific resources, locally developed DoS swag, and curricular materials developed by the Alliance Youth Committee.

Learn more and order your *FREE* Day of Silence kit today: <http://bit.ly/DoS20>

Proviso Partners for Health



Proviso Partners for Health - Fall Summit 2019

Community Wellness Hub in Maywood

[Proviso Partners for Health](#) (PP4H) continues planning for a Community Wellness Hub in the Village of Maywood. PP4H partnered with a volunteer team of urban planners from the

Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association ([APA-IL](#)) to engage Maywood community members in visioning discussions about local entrepreneurship and community wellness. More than 30 residents, local entrepreneurs, and business owners who attended a summer workshop shared their ideas for growing Maywood's local economy and creating a community hub of opportunity for the Village.

[PP4H's summary report](#) captures community members' ideas, suggestions, and broad themes that will help guide next steps for the Community Wellness Hub.

Fall Summit

More than 60 PP4H coalition members, including community stakeholders, partners, and Maywood residents, attended the PP4H Fall Summit on November 15. The Summit featured updates on PP4H program hubs: Food Justice, School Wellness, Smart Routes to School, Community Leadership Academy, and Anti-Vaping, as well as keynote presentations on adolescent mental health awareness and an analysis of video gambling in Illinois.

Also at the Summit, PP4H facilitated roundtable discussions with coalition members, residents, and business owners to further explore a mix of local retail and business ideas, entrepreneurial opportunities, and nonprofits that promote health and wellness. The PP4H team will draw on these ideas in ongoing concept development plans for the Community Wellness Hub.

Commercial Property Tax Reform in Maywood

PP4H is devoting attention to Maywood's disproportionately high commercial property taxes, which pose a serious deterrent to local economic development. Residents who participated in the PP4H Wellness Hub Workshop raised concerns that inflated commercial taxes are a longstanding structural barrier to attracting new and supporting existing community businesses. PP4H is working with [ChangeLab Solutions](#) on strategies to address inequitable residential and commercial property tax assessments that would better position Maywood's depressed and vacant downtown as business-friendly and affordable to local entrepreneurs.

Forbes Nonprofit Council

PHIMC's Deputy Director of Finance, Donna Blackwell, was accepted into the Forbes Nonprofit Council on December 23, 2019. The Council is an invite-only, fee-based organization primarily for senior level executives in successful nonprofit organizations. Members are selected based on their "depth and diversity of experience," according to Forbes Nonprofit Council.

Donna came across an announcement for the Forbes Nonprofit Council while reading articles in Forbes and started the application process in early November. Once she completed the final phone call, she received an acceptance email. She is excited to learn from others who have managed situations similar to those she encounters, by using



Donna Blackwell

the database that is provided to all members. She also looks forward to being part of and writing for Forbes. Stay tuned!

Substance Use Services

Illinois Helpline

PHIMC continues to manage outreach for the [Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances \(the Helpline\)](#), and this year, the Helpline surpassed 20,000 calls!

In December, Nate Muckley, PHIMC Program Associate, partnered with [Path to Recovery Foundation](#) to discuss the Helpline with residents and staff at Rush Copley Hospital. Thank you to the Path to Recovery Foundation for offering time and expertise to connect Illinois residents to the Helpline. Learn more about the Path to Recovery Foundation here in Naperville Magazine: [Navigating a Difficult Path](#)

If you would like PHIMC to attend a community event, organizational meeting, or health fair to talk about the Helpline, please contact Nate Muckley at nate.muckley@phimc.org.

HIV Prevention: Region 8

In December, PHIMC's sixteen Region 8 partners and program staff met at Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness in Park Forest for their second quarterly provider meeting. They reviewed the most recent data on HIV incidence and prevalence in the Region, shared best practices for recruiting and engaging specific populations via social media and for diversifying the HIV workforce through peer hiring, and were trained on use of the Determine™ HIV test kits.

In the News . . .

PHIMC in the News

- [Teaching LGBT history](#): "The teaching of history has been too straight. A new Illinois law says it's time to tell the whole story," reads the subtitle on a recent Illinois Times article by David Blanchette. Mr. Blanchette interviews multiple stakeholders, including Grecia Magdaleno, PHIMC Policy and Advocacy Manager for Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.
- [Safe Schools Alliance advances PHIMC partnership](#): Windy City Times Managing Editor Matt Simonette sits down with Karen A. Reitan, Mary F. Morten, and Nat Duran to talk about how Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (the Alliance) came to live at Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC).
- [LGBTQ advocates hope Palatine transgender locker room decision leads to more change](#): Grecia Magdaleno, PHIMC Policy and Advocacy Manager for Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, speaks to ABC-7 about the four years of youth advocacy that resulted in District 211 allowing transgender students access to the locker rooms that align with their gender identity.

Other News you can use

- [Harm Reduction programs distribute one million doses of naloxone in 2019](#) : PHIMC's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) team is excited to see the tremendous reach of naloxone in 2019, as detailed in this article by Eliza Wheeler and Maya Doe-Simkins with backstory on [Chicago Recovery Alliance](#) (CRA). PHIMC has supported CRA's overdose prevention work from the beginning.
- [CDC Releases 2018 School Health Profiles](#) PHIMC's school health team is happy to share that CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) released 2018 School Health Profile results at www.cdc.gov/schoolhealthprofiles.

Upcoming Events



[Do Good BINGO](#)

Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Chicago Athletic Association
12 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60603

This event benefits Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.

[2020 Illinois Reentry Conference: Advancing Criminal, Health, and Social Justice](#)

Tuesday & Wednesday, March 3-4, 2020
Wyndham Springfield City Centre
700 East Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701



[Night of Noise: Don't Stop Us Now](#)

Sunday, May 31, 2020, 5:00 PM
SAVE THE DATE

Thank You

Thank you to Odera Ekeh, PHIMC's AmeriCorps Intern who helped to refine National Health Corps (NHC) Chicago's program recruitment materials and conducted program improvement evaluations with NHC Chicago members and site supervisors.

"Interning at PHIMC has granted me the unique experience of collaborating with a team of dedicated public health practitioners to strengthen the quality of services provided by the NHC Chicago program. I have

learned about non-profit management and strategies used to implement health programs for the underserved in Chicago. This has been an eye-opening experience for me as I have also been able to travel to host sites like Advocate Children's Hospital to witness how their mobile clinic provides health services to children in need. Overall, my time here has greatly informed my future public health aspirations! I really enjoyed my time here at PHIMC. The team has been so welcoming and supportive!"

~ Odera Ekeh



Odera Ekeh
PHIMC's AmeriCorps Intern

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