

Working Towards Health Equity

Friends and Colleagues –

We appreciate you. We may not say that enough. We appreciate your commitment, your passion, and your partnership in building a healthier, more equitable society where all of us can thrive.

In the face of recent events – multiple racially-motivated shootings across the nation, two young people killed in Millennium Park, and the looming Supreme Court reversal of Roe V. Wade – it is sometimes hard to feel like our work towards and commitment to justice is moving us forward as a nation.

These are the moments that make our partnership with you all the more important. While PHIMC works across multiple sectors on a variety of issues in pursuit of health equity and access, we do not do this alone. Our amazing staff and board are inspired by your hard work and are proud to be with you on this journey.

Today, we are happy to share with you about efforts to promote a healthier world by:

- Mentoring the new public health workforce,
- Supporting people living with or at risk for HIV and AIDS,
- Creating affirming environments for LGBTQ+ young people to learn and lead,
- Connecting people to resources when they struggle with substance use,
- Strengthening community organizations and developing multi-directional learning practices for a Healthy Chicago, and
- Contributing to mental wellness across the country.

You will find many opportunities below to get involved. Your questions and feedback are always welcome.

Most importantly, as we move into some version of “living with COVID” while still reeling from the devastation of these past two-plus years, know that we at PHIMC appreciate you -- now more than ever.



Sincerely,

Karen A. Reitan
President and Chief Executive Officer

PHIMC continues monitoring guidance provided by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [State of Illinois](#) and [City of Chicago](#) as we consider in-person gatherings. For now, masks are required indoors at all times during PHIMC activities. If you have not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine and all boosters, we highly recommend you do so to help protect our communities. More information on where to get a vaccine in Illinois is [here](#).

Healthy Chicago Equity Zones

We are excited to share with you PHIMC's new role as a lead infrastructure and coordinating support partner for Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)'s groundbreaking initiative to advance health and racial equity. The citywide Healthy Chicago Equity Zones (HCEZ) initiative is a long-term strategy for community-led transformational change, particularly in Black and Latinx communities. Integral to the success of the HCEZ initiative are cross-sector efforts to advance anti-racist systems and policy change, remove obstacles to health, poverty, and discrimination, and improve the quality of life of people most affected by inequities.

The HCEZ initiative aligns with the goals of Healthy Chicago 2025, the City's community health improvement plan that outlines strategies to close the racial life expectancy gap. The HCEZ initiative will work in alignment with Healthy Chicago 2025 for maximum collective community impact.

What is a Health Equity Zone? Health equity zones are community-based infrastructure systems designed for public health investments in neighborhoods to ensure every neighborhood has an equitable and just opportunity for health and well-being. Chicago's Zones will carry out community-prioritized hyper-local strategies and interventions.

Since the launch of this initiative in June 2021, HCEZ Regions have led work to increase vaccine equity and have achieved impressive outcomes, especially reaching residents of Black and Brown communities.

In June 2022, Regions will shift their focus to address Chicago's broader health equity needs, beginning with conducting community assessments and developing action plans for priority interventions. Stay tuned!

Questions?

Please contact Susanne Schnell at susanne.schnell@phimc.org.

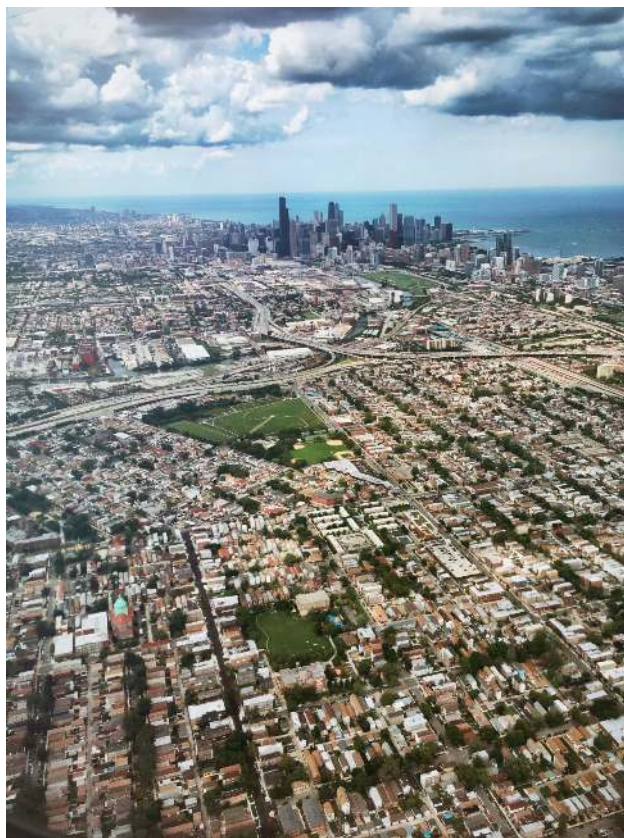


Photo by [Ben Sp](#) on [Unsplash](#)

[Learn more](#)

Planting the Seeds of Recovery

PHIMC manages outreach and community engagement for the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances, in partnership with Health Resources in Action (HRIA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

[The Helpline](#) is a centralized information and referral hub connecting folks to harm reduction, recovery, and support services across the state. It is the only statewide, public resource for finding substance use treatment and recovery services in Illinois.

Since March 2018, the Helpline has received over 56,000 calls, including more than 36,300 referral calls. 35,100 service searches have been conducted through the website and more than 1,000 people have connected with an information specialist for an online chat.

Planting the Seeds of Recovery

Monthly Online Webinars

Learn more about the Illinois
Helpline for Opioids and
Other Substances.

The last Thursday of every
month, 11-12 CT
HelplineIL.org

[Register here](#)

bit.ly/HelplineWebinarIL



Participate in a Monthly Webinar

Please join us on the last Thursday of any month, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, to learn about the [Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances](#).

Participating in this webinar will leave you with a greater understanding of the Illinois Helpline, including how to connect with us, how to connect people in your care to appropriate Substance Use Disorder services, and/or how to offer your services to Helpline callers. You will have a chance to ask questions about how the Illinois Helpline is organized and how to engage with the [Provider Portal](#), and you will be invited to share feedback on your experience with the Helpline. You will also have an opportunity to network with others who support individuals experiencing Substance Use Disorder in Illinois.

Next opportunity to participate: Thursday, May 26, 2022, from 11:00 am until 12:00 pm CT

Please register in advance for this event.

Register for
Webinar

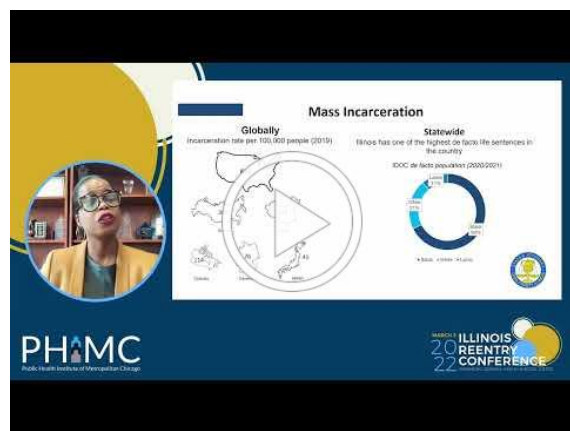
Schedule a Presentation for Your Organization

You can help get these resources into Illinois communities by scheduling a Helpline presentation tailored to the group or organization you belong to. For more information on this or other outreach opportunities, please contact Bryan Gooding at bryan.gooding@phimc.org.

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

PHIMC's Illinois Reentry Conference brings together public health professionals, healthcare providers, social service professionals, and members of the community to build skills around health equity, social justice, and reentry services for current and formerly incarcerated individuals in Illinois. Our 2022 conference on Thursday, March 3, 2022, was held virtually for the second time.

We are proud to share that the Illinois Reentry Conference has become quite popular, even in a virtual environment. Our 2021 conference reached capacity within two weeks of opening registration. This year, more than 170 people attended, identifying themselves as members of more than 20 stakeholder groups.



[Video Playlist: Illinois Reentry Conference](#)

2022 Presentations Included:

- **Healthy Communities through Meaningful Opportunities for Release** - *Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx*
- **Reentry and Public Health** - *Dr. Fredrick Echols, City of St. Louis Department of Health*
- **Reentry, Transition, and No-entry** - *Transforming Reentry Services*
- **Mapping Your Future: Facilitating Reentry Through the Use of the Education Justice Project's Illinois Reentry Guide** - *Education Justice Project*
- **Program Driven Corrections: The Pathway to Successful Reentry** - *Kenneth Osborne, Illinois Department of Corrections*
- **The Intersection of HIV, COVID-19, & Correctional Facilities** - *Dr. Roslyn Taylor, PHIMC*
- **Reentry and Aging During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: What Have We Learned and How Must We Do Better?** - *UIC Jane Addams Center for Social Policy and Research*
- **HIV Decriminalization** - *Michael Maginn, Illinois Public Health Association*
- **A special presentation by Prison Performing Arts' Alumni Eric Satterfield and LaWanda Jackson**

Thank you to our partners with Education Justice Project at the University of Illinois, for sending a Reentry Mapping Guide to each registrant, and thank you to our conference sponsors, ViiV Healthcare and Illinois HIV Care Connect at Illinois Public Health Association.

Congratulations to this year's Community Reentry Champion Awardees



Willette Benford
*Decarceration Organizer,
Live Free Illinois*



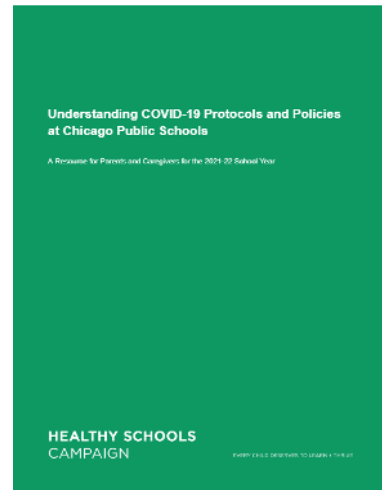
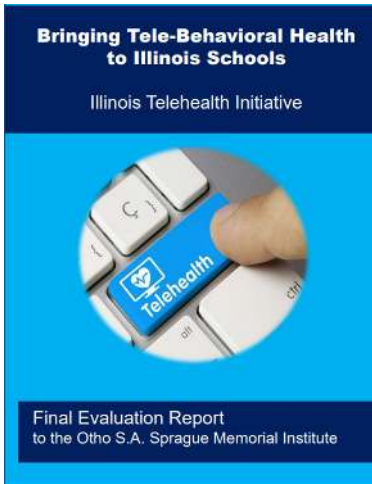
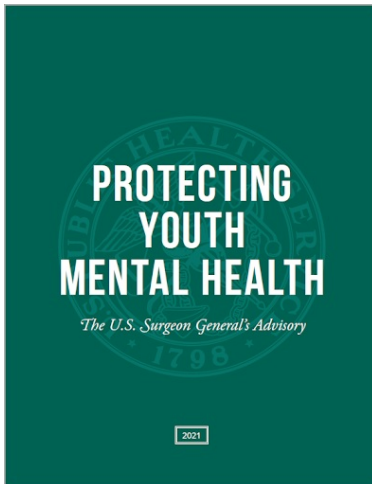
Marlon Chamberlain
*Campaign Manager,
Fully Free Campaign*



William Johnson
Reentry Consultant

We hope you will join us next March for the 2023 Illinois Reentry Conference!

Making Space for Student Health



Chicago's School Health Access Collaborative (SHAC) brings together education and health stakeholders to enhance student access to comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable healthcare, improve the health service delivery model for Chicago students, and elevate equity and wellbeing. Co-managed by Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC) and Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC), SHAC leverages the knowledge and expertise of its members to envision a school health system that provides all students with the health and wellness services they need.

SHAC offers school health service providers, advocates of comprehensive school-based healthcare, and city agencies a space to network with each other, share best practices, and identify opportunities to reduce barriers to healthcare. Chicago Department of Public Health and Chicago Public Schools representatives participate in SHAC events and keep SHAC constituents informed on current city-wide student health priorities and initiatives. Attendees share their expertise by presenting the latest developments in the healthcare field and discussing local, state, and national policy updates. [Learn more.](#)

New participants are always welcome.
Next Meeting: May 26, 2022, 10 a.m. CT - Virtual

SHAC members are encouraged to initiate projects and take on leadership roles that match their interests. Current SHAC projects include building a student health data network and expanding school health services via Medicaid.

SHAC Projects

Meeting Invitation

Questions?

Please contact Meghana Menon at meghana.menon@phimc.org.

Day of Silence, Night of Noise

Each year, Illinois Safe Schools Alliance supports youth organizing activities for the Day of Silence and Night of Noise in Illinois. Day of Silence is a national student-led demonstration in April where LGBTQ+ students and allies take a vow of silence to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in schools. Night of Noise events are organized locally

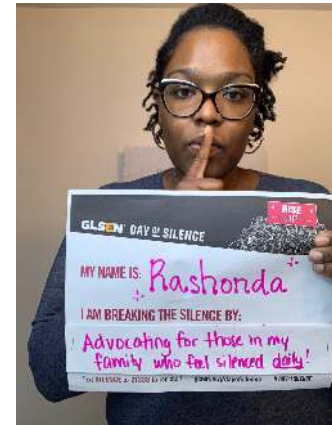
throughout the state for communities to come together, break the silence, rally for the safer schools movement, and celebrate their own participation in Day of Silence.

This year, more than 60 schools and several communities throughout Illinois came together for Day of Silence and/or Night of Noise activities.

Learn more [here](#) about youth organizing and leadership through Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.

Questions?

Please contact Nat Duran at nat.duran@phimc.org or William Collier at william.collier@phimc.org.



LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Support Strategies for Teachers and Youth Providers

Illinois Safe Schools Alliance provides high-quality, accessible professional development for school personnel – including teachers, school-based support staff, and administrators – as well as for social service providers, youth-serving organizations, and government officials. These educational workshops and training programs focus on sexual orientation and gender identity within a broader social justice and anti-oppression framework, and our staff works closely with participants to create specially tailored sessions for each audience that are both engaging and educational.

Following are the [workshops](#) we currently offer:

- Creating Affirming Learning Environments
- Supporting Transgender and Gender Expansive Students
- Deepening Our History: Implementing the Illinois Inclusive Curriculum Law
- Legal Rights of Transgender Youth

As students, teachers, and staff were returning to in-person school across the country in September, Donnie Dicus and Angelia Ebner, co-hosts of 3Ps in a Pod: An Education Podcast, interviewed Nat Duran, Youth Engagement Manager for Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, about LGBTQ+ inclusion and support in the classroom.

To better understand the Alliance approach to training:

[Listen here.](#)

We are proud to report that the Alliance has trained 755 staff and personnel across 11 Illinois schools already this school year.

[Learn more](#)

Routine HIV Screening

Routine HIV screening reduces barriers to HIV screening by making it part of routine healthcare for everyone ages 13 to 64 regardless of any known risk factors or symptoms, according to

[recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Nearly 40% of new HIV infections are transmitted by people who are undiagnosed and do not know they are living with HIV. Routine HIV screening is a critical step in diagnosing people with HIV and getting them into care to prevent HIV transmission and improve their quality of life.

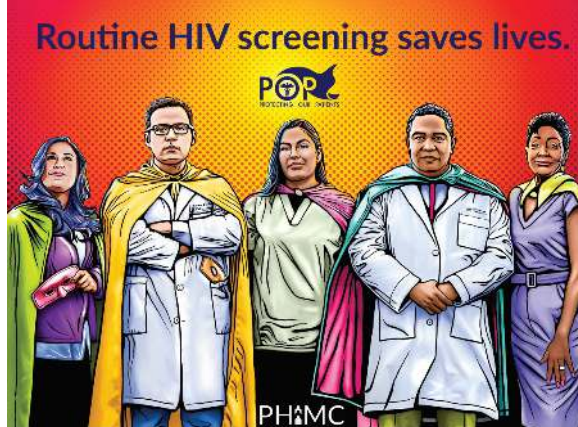
Since 2007, PHIMC has supported the expansion of routine HIV screening in over 40 sites throughout Illinois, providing direct oversight, management, monitoring, and evaluation of sites, including clinics, county jails, emergency departments, juvenile detention centers, and a methadone clinic.

Learn more about becoming a model site for our [Routine HIV Screening initiative](#).

Affirming care is vital to the success of routine HIV screening. By decreasing experiences of discrimination and stigma, affirming care increases the number of people who access and remain in care.

PHIMC's Affirming Care Initiative supports care organizations that are currently conducting routine HIV screening by striving to reduce staff behaviors that convey HIV stigma and biases, homophobia, transphobia, or racism. Eligible care organizations must be located in Illinois.

Learn more about our [Affirming Care Initiative](#) and how your organization can get involved.



POP
PROTECTING OUR PATIENTS

**All my patients
deserve affirming care.**

THIS IS MY COMMITMENT:

- Ⓢ I will consider how my words and actions **impact** your visit.
- Ⓢ I will treat you as a **unique** individual influenced by cultural **experience**.
- Ⓢ I will **reflect** your language when discussing your health.
- Ⓢ I will create a **safe space** for you to ask questions about your body.
- Ⓢ We will make a health plan **together**.

PHIMC
POP is a project of PHIMC funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Care and Prevention in the U.S. demonstration project.

Questions?

Please contact Roslyn Taylor at roslyn.taylor@phimc.org.

Foster Healthy Communities through Mentorship and Service

PHIMC manages a network of AmeriCorps Members who are placed with partner organizations through our National Health Corps (NHC) Chicago program. These AmeriCorps members serve for one year, providing vital services to address the social determinants of health specific to each community.

We seek Host Site and Member applicants for 2022-2023.

NHC Chicago members support COVID vaccine and contact tracing efforts, increase access to care for underserved populations, provide health education, develop tools and curricula, conduct community outreach, link people to care for mental and physical health, and in many other ways address the social determinants of health specific to each host site's community. NHC AmeriCorps members also serve to build each host organization's capacity in a way that lasts beyond their term of service.

Become a Host Site

Those of us involved with mission-driven organizations in the middle of a global pandemic are experiencing challenges related to growing service needs, budgetary constraints, and new demands for the expansion and transformation of delivery systems. AmeriCorps members with NHC Chicago can address these challenges and enhance Host Sites' efforts to address social determinants of health and underlying structural oppression.

We seek applications from organizations interested in hosting NHC Chicago members for 2022-2023. Organizations may apply to host more than one member. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until all slots are filled.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

Become a Member

NHC Chicago seeks AmeriCorps member applicants interested in serving 40 hours/week on average from August 2022 through July 2023. This service opportunity is open to any U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or lawful permanent resident who is at least 18 years of age by the start of service. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

HOST SITE SUPERVISORS SAY ...

"Because of what the [AmeriCorps] member is doing, there is now city-wide attention to our organization and our mission."

Linda Peters
Northwest Center

"Last year, our AmeriCorps member created a new substance use curriculum to use in schools and has specific resources and materials for our city. This year, our member is implementing this curriculum and it's going great!"

Dawn Ravine
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital

Questions?

Please contact NHC Chicago Program Staff at
nhcchicago@phimc.org

#WeHealUS

May is Mental Health and Trauma Awareness Month. PHIMC is proud to join organizations, businesses, and individuals across and beyond Illinois to raise awareness around mental health and trauma.

Learn more about efforts in [Illinois](#) and [throughout the country](#).

Join the movement this month and beyond!



Media Spotlight: Illinois Safe Schools Alliance

['Unprecedented' number of reports of harassment, bullying of LGBTQ students, advocates say](#) by Clare Spaulding, Chicago Sun-Times, Nov 16, 2021

[National fight is creeping into Illinois schools over what is read, taught and who belongs](#) by Susie An, WBEZ Chicago, Nov. 17, 2021

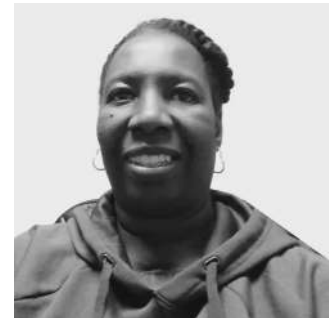
[LGBTQ+ youth advocates call for action after increased bullying reports](#) by Matt Simonette, Windy City Times, Nov. 24, 2021

Chicago Community Trust featured Illinois Safe Schools Alliance in their [LGBTQ Community Fund Report](#) (p. 4)

[Could Queer-Inclusive Sex Ed Halt Trans Homicides? Advocates Say Yes](#) by Kate Sosin, Reporter for The 19th, published by Ms. Magazine on 8/27/2021

PHIMC Welcomes New Staff

Shanda Avery (*she/her*), Accounts Payable Specialist, previously served as a Personal Assistant Supervisor at Department of Human Services, where she consulted with the care team and collaborated with doctors and nurses to ensure a specialized care plan for each client while maintaining timesheets, budgets, and invoices. At PHIMC, she is responsible for billing, invoices, and other accounting activities at PHIMC.



Autumn Gage (*she/her*), Program Associate, supports School Health Access Collaborative (SHAC), a city-wide, cross-sector coalition that aims to strengthen the school health system to improve outcomes for Chicago students. Her current SHAC activities include supporting the School Health Data Transformation Pilot Project, report writing, cross-sector communications with partnering agencies, event planning, surveying, and more. Autumn's work reflects her passion of serving and addressing the needs of youth populations from various cultural backgrounds across the city of Chicago.

Christopher Harrison (*he/him*), RIG Program Manager, manages HIV prevention services through Illinois Department of Public Health's Regional Implementation Group (RIG). A Georgia native, Christopher started his career in healthcare at Memorial Health University (MHU), where he was trained in Patient/Family-Centered Care, a concept that fueled his drive for servitude and ultimately led him to a career serving marginalized populations. Christopher remains passionate about providing and aiding services that are centered around the needs of the client and is eager to do great things with the support of the PHIMC team.



Lisa Martinez (*she/her*), RIG Project Coordinator, supports HIV prevention services through Illinois Department of Public Health's Regional Implementation Group (RIG). After receiving her MA from DePaul University, Lisa worked in direct service for over 10 years, providing outreach and counseling to persons with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders throughout Chicago. In addition to



her role at PHIMC, she is currently adjunct faculty at DePaul University in the Department of Sociology and frequently serves on panels discussing drug policy reform, harm reduction education, and advocacy for people who use substances.

Tracie Screven (*she/her*), Project Manager - Healthy Chicago Equity Zones, is a servant leader with a proven track record in successful strategic planning, developing and managing people, cross-functional collaboration, and anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI) programming. She has more than 18 years of experience in project management within the food industry and non-profit education with a focus on equity and inclusion in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).



Invest in Public Health

Do you like what you see? Your support ensures we can maximize our impact and expand our reach to improve health.

DONATE TODAY

PHIMC enhances the capacity of public health and healthcare systems to promote health equity and expand access to services. Through organizational development, systems transformation, fiscal management, and program implementation, PHIMC leads efforts to strengthen public health infrastructure in Illinois.

Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago

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