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## Innovating for Health Justice

Friends and Colleagues –

Thank you for supporting PHIMC and collaborating with us for health justice and equity. PHIMC envisions systems that impact how we live, work, and play as compassionate, affirming, and racially equitable. We are grateful to you for sharing this vision and actively working to support the health and well-being of all people.

As you read on, you will see the recent impact of our shared work. We hope you will find something here that intrigues you or makes you proud as we:

- Celebrate the achievements of National Health Corps Chicago host sites and members;
- Share highlights of our work to integrate routine HIV screening and affirming care practices in a variety of healthcare settings;
- Invite you to participate in an upcoming Corrections Discharge Planning Training, upcoming Summits of Hope, and the AIDS Run and Walk Chicago;
- Offer resources for transgender and gender diverse wellness and equity, routine HIV screening, and affirming care for people who have been systematically marginalized;
- Show you our team out and about in the community, even throwing the first pitch at a recent White Sox game; and
- Welcome the newest members of our team.

PHIMC's work could not exist without you, our allies in health justice.

When you [make a donation](#), you support efforts to advance health justice and strengthen public health through innovation and partnerships that align people, strategies, and resources.

Do you have questions or feedback? Please share. If you reach out to [info@phimc.org](mailto:info@phimc.org), someone on our team will respond.

Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership.



Sincerely,

Karen A. Reitan  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## National Health Corps Chicago: Celebrating Impact

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. National Health Corps Chicago, a program of NHC, is administered by Health Federation of Philadelphia (HFP) and implemented by Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC).

On June 27, 2024, PHIMC and NHC Chicago hosted a ceremony to celebrate and congratulate this year's host site partners and members on the impact of their service in Chicago communities.

### Highlights

- **1,000+ adults, youth, and families** received new health services, education, and benefits
- **Eight community partners** participated, including high schools, health centers, hospitals, and legal non-profit organizations
- **15,000+ total hours** served by members, with host sites and outside service organizations
- **12+ trainings** provided on public health, addressing social determinants of health around trauma-informed care, immigrant health, disability education, substances and opioid use, creating gender affirming environments, conflict management, and more

Members also explored new pathways for health literacy, expanding accessibility for students and adults speaking languages other than English.

**For the first time in NHC Chicago history**, members created, led, and implemented a community-based health fair. Members Elijah Suh and Mina Kim serving with Advocate Trinity Hospital organized the first community-based health fair for residents of south side Chicago communities, offering free health screenings, education, and demonstrations. Other NHC Chicago AmeriCorps members helped to table for the event, educating at least 40 participants on housing insecurity, sexual health, social determinants of health, and public health services throughout the city of Chicago. They even coordinated chef-led cooking demonstrations, chair massages from a health and wellness spa, African dance and Zumba sessions, CPR demonstrations, and free on-site blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, and Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings.





### **NHC Chicago members get things done!**

Thank you to host site partners and members involved in creating a meaningful service impact this year, providing increased access to services and health education.

PHIMC has implemented the NHC Chicago program for over 10 years in partnerships with host site organizations like Erie Family Health Centers, Tapestry 360 Health, Advocate Trinity Hospital, Advocate Children's Hospital, and others over the years. Check out what some host sites say about the impact of this work:

“

Erie Family Health Centers has been partnering with NHC for over 10 years. Since then, we have hosted 30+ members in a variety of capacities from health education to community outreach to social determinants of health. Each year, our members from NHC significantly expand the work we do at Erie, providing impactful services and programs to our patients and communities. Erie would not be able to support these efforts without the dedication and service of the members.”

*-Geoyia Nightengale,  
Erie Family Health Centers*



**Apply to become a Host Site.**

Apply Now

For more information or to get involved, please [visit our website](#) or contact Alisha Jani at [alisha.jani@phimc.org](mailto:alisha.jani@phimc.org).

2024 AIDS Run & Walk Chicago



PHIMC's boots were made for walkin'!

Team PHIMC is gearing up for the 2024 AIDS Run & Walk Chicago, which takes place at Soldier Field on Saturday, September 28. This annual event raises awareness and funds to support those living with and vulnerable to HIV.

As one of AIDS Run & Walk Chicago's CommunityDirect partners, funds raised by Team PHIMC directly enhance PHIMC's HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

Help us reach our goal of \$10,000 by [making a donation](#) today! Every donation supports work aimed at [Getting to Zero](#) in Illinois by 2030.



## POP Routine HIV Screening and Affirming Care

PHIMC's Protecting our Patients (POP) campaign mobilizes care teams to address biases and stigmas that harm the health experiences and outcomes of people in our care, including ourselves. The two core elements of POP are 1) integrating routine HIV screening into general healthcare and 2) providing affirming care for all, especially those who have been systematically marginalized.

### Highlights from Fiscal Year 2024

#### Routine HIV Screening

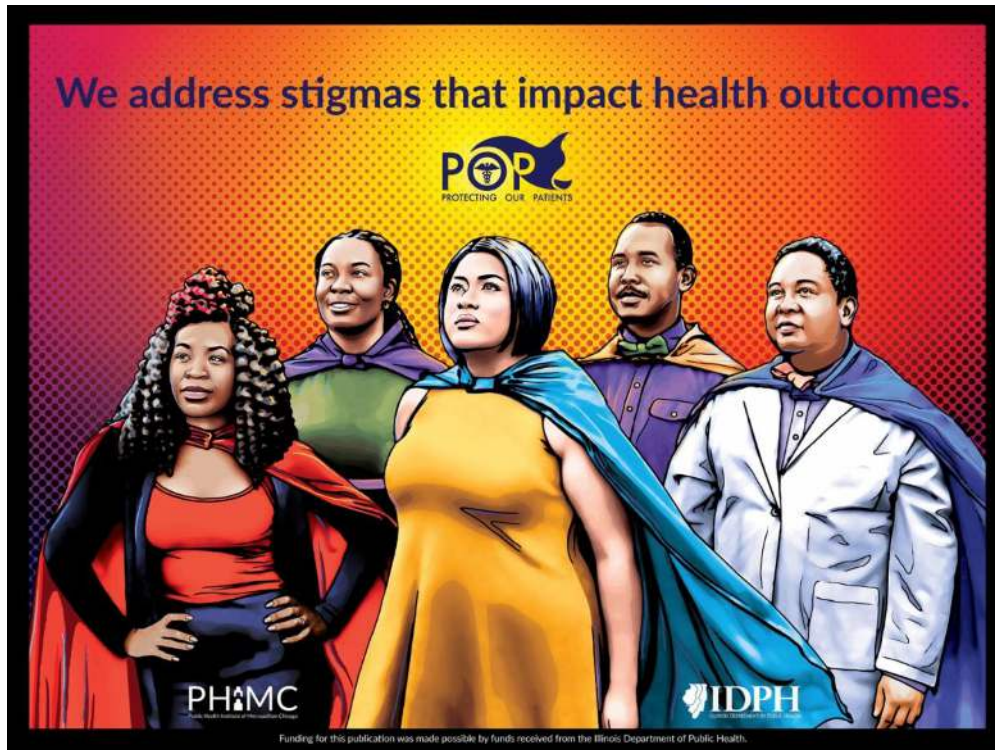
- **Two organizations** were trained in how to offer opt-out routine HIV screening and how to give results without stigma or bias
- **Eight organizations** screened people in their care for HIV
- In total, **1,548 people** were screened from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

#### Affirming Care

- **Five organizations** completed training in POP Affirming Care
- PHIMC worked with [Constellation Collective](#) to **update our Affirming Care training**. Our new opening module introduces the concept of affirming care for the LGBTQ+ community, including respectful language, and lays a stronger foundation for full participation in discussion throughout the rest of the training.
- PHIMC is working with our evaluators to create a **multi-site focus group** to receive patient perceptions of their care providers who were trained in POP Affirming Care

**Join us for Fiscal Year 2025!**

For more information, contact Roslyn Taylor at [roslyn.taylor@phimc.org](mailto:roslyn.taylor@phimc.org).



We invite you to browse our POP Resource Hub for [Routine HIV Screening](#) and [Affirming Care](#).

Do you know someone who might appreciate these resources? Please share. Bias and stigma can be dismantled, but it takes all of us to make it happen.

## Community Reentry News

### Corrections Discharge Planning Training (CDPT)

In June 2024, more than 50 individuals who are justice involved and professionals from corrections and various health care and public health entities from the state of Illinois and neighboring states joined PHIMC and other thought leaders for a free one-day training designed to educate and inform providers in both community-based and healthcare settings, on medical and non-medical discharge planning for formerly incarcerated individuals.

This one-day training consists of four 75-minute modules facilitated by thought leaders and professionals, including individuals with lived experience in both the corrections and public health fields. The training covers:

- Overview of the Corrections System and Reentry Process
- Basic Needs and Barriers for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals
- Trauma-Informed Care for the Corrections Population
- Health-Related Topics that include HIV, Substance Use, and Mental Health



Join us on **Thursday, September 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** for our next CDPT. The training is virtual, but spots are limited to facilitate discussion. Registration details will be available soon.

If you are not on our Community Reentry News email list, you can [sign up here](#) and receive a notification when registration is live.

### Collaboration and Engagement

Community Reentry Project is committed to staying close to our communities and establishing partnerships with organizations that work to support individuals and their families around justice involvement, incarceration, the health care system, and community reintegration.



On June 8, the Community Reentry Project joined [WE Organization](#) as a vendor at the West Pullman Community Resource Fair.

### Summit of Hope: Community Expos

The Summit of Hope is a community expo that brings together local service providers to create a "one-stop" environment for invited parolees and probationers to obtain necessary assistance to move past barriers that may prevent an individual from leading a successful life.

**Tuesday, August 13, 2024**  
 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 Quincy, Illinois

**Thursday, September 5, 2024**  
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 Cahokia, Illinois

The Summit of Hope is a proven program that is sanctioned by Illinois Department of Corrections and Illinois Department of Public Health and organized independently in communities throughout the state.

For more information on the Summit of Hope and upcoming expos, please visit <https://idoc.illinois.gov/communityresources/summitofhoperegistration.html>

Join the Team or Donate Today

### Resource Spotlight





PHIMC launched a resource hub for Transgender and Gender Diverse Wellness and Equity. We encourage you to explore these resources whether you are looking for guidance, community, or are just curious to learn more.

[Check out our new TGD Resource Hub here.](#)

[\*Other resources to support health equity can be found here on our website.\*](#)

## PHIMC Out and About

### White Sox Pride Night

PHIMC staff Alisha Jani and Julio Flores had the opportunity to attend the White Sox Pride Night, where Julio threw the first pitch! Thank you to the [Tap Into Change](#) program for making this possible.







### Getting to Zero in Illinois

Bryan Gooding, PHIMC Program Manager for HIV Prevention, attended a workshop at the University of Illinois Chicago on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, where Illinois Governor JB Pritzker praised efforts to end the HIV epidemic in Illinois. According to WGN News: [Illinois said to have 'momentum' in ending HIV in state](#). If you watch closely, you will see Bryan in a maroon shirt.

### Gender Affirming Care: Illinois Media Roundup

On June 10, 2024, the Illinois Department of Human Services and PHIMC announced the launch of a statewide initiative to support and expand gender-affirming care. Here are some [media highlights](#) that spotlight participating organizations. The new Transgender and Gender Diverse (TGD) Wellness and Equity Program expands comprehensive and medically necessary care for transgender, gender-diverse, and LGBTQ+ people throughout Illinois.

### 2024 Staff Outing

Last month for our annual staff outing, PHIMC staff took the architectural boat tour along the Chicago River and enjoyed a beautiful day in the sun together. We even learned a few things about our lovely city's skyline!







## Calendar

### **Tap Into Change** **Now until August 31, 2024** **Roscoe's Tavern**

PHIMC has been selected as the beneficiary of Molson Coors' Tap Into Change program. A portion of the proceeds from sales of Molson Coors products at Roscoe's Tavern in Lakeview from June 1 through the end of August will be donated to PHIMC.

### **National Recovery Month** **September**

National Recovery Month is held every September to promote evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the nation's strong and proud recovery community, and the service providers and communities who make recovery in all its forms possible.

[Learn more here.](#)



### Community Reentry: Combined Illinois Statewide and Taskforce Meeting

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

10:00 am - 12:00 p.m.

via Zoom

The Combined Community Reentry Illinois Statewide and Taskforce Meeting prioritizes training and discussion around barriers to reentry and health justice in Chicago, Cook County, and areas throughout Illinois to provide a holistic public health response to mass incarceration.

If you provide services in Illinois and would like to participate in future Combined Community Reentry Illinois Statewide and Taskforce Meetings, please contact [reentry@phimc.org](mailto:reentry@phimc.org). To attend the virtual meeting on August 14, please [register here](#).

### International Overdose Awareness Day August 31, 2024

August 31 is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose. This year's theme, "Together we can", highlights the power of our community when we all stand together.

[Learn more here](#).

### Suicide Prevention Month September

During National Suicide Prevention Month, we remember lives lost to suicide and acknowledge the millions of people who have struggled with suicidal ideation and the individuals, families, and communities that have been impacted. We also strive, in the words of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), to "shift public perception, spread hope and share vital information to people affected by suicide." Learn more and find resources for hope and healing through [NAMI](#) and the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMSHA\)](#).

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, call or text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org) to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

### Corrections Discharge Planning Training

Thursday, September 5, 2024

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

via Zoom

Join PHIMC and other thought leaders for a free one-day training designed to educate and inform providers in both community-based and healthcare settings, on medical and non-medical discharge planning for formerly incarcerated individuals. If you are not on our Community Reentry News email list, you can [sign up here](#) and receive a notification when registration is live.

Learn more above.

### SHAC Meeting Tuesday, October 1, 2024 Location TBD

Chicago's School Health Access Collaborative (SHAC) brings together education and health careholders to identify ways to enhance student access to comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable healthcare, improve the health service delivery model for Chicago students, and elevate equity and well-being.

For more information regarding this meeting, please contact [Liz Wilson](#).

***For a full list of PHIMC events and opportunities, please [visit our website](#).***

## PHIMC Welcomes New Team Members

Please join us in welcoming Leaf and Rachel to the team.

**Leaf Ciaz (*they/them*)  
Outreach and Prevention Specialist**

As the newest member of PHIMC’s Regional Substance Use Prevention Center (RSUPIC) team, Leaf engages with and trains partners on coalition building, education, and project management, focusing on substance use prevention among Chicago youth. They have been with PHIMC since June 2024.



Leaf’s professional and organizational experience spans substance use, drug harm reduction, support for survivors of sexual violence, restorative justice, public health, and criminal policy, and addressing issues faced by people in the sex industry. Currently, they are pursuing a Master’s in Psychology. Ultimately, Leaf aims to provide opportunities in public health research and policy advocacy for people using substances and people in the sex industry.

Outside of work, they channel their creativity through poetry, painting, music, and reading. They are deeply passionate about community engagement, often immersing themselves in local art shows and initiatives in their hometown of Chicago.

Leaf can be reached by email at [leaf.ciaz@PHIMC.org](mailto:leaf.ciaz@PHIMC.org).



**Rachel McCann (*she/her*)  
Intern - Alliance and SHAC**

Rachel assists the School Health Access Collaborative and the Alliance with their work to support young people in Illinois. This includes conducting research on the current school health services landscape, supporting the Alliance’s community outreach plan, aiding in program planning, and providing administrative support to both programs.

Rachel joined PHIMC in June 2024. “I am drawn to public health because of my passion for ensuring that healthcare is accessible and equitable for everyone, especially in the Chicagoland community. I am inspired by the power of youth advocacy and community collaboration,” she says.

Rachel is a rising sophomore at Northwestern University, studying Legal Studies, Sociology, and Global Health. When she is not working or studying, she enjoys baking, listening to music, spending time with friends and family, and traveling.

## 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**

*Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC) advances health justice and strengthens public health through innovation and partnerships that align people, strategies, and resources.*

**Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago**

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