

Northeast Indiana Positive Resource Connection, INC.

Serving northeast Indiana since 1985

Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Jay, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, Whitley

Report for the year ending December 31, 2017

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Northeast Indiana Positive Resource Connection, Inc. is to prevent new cases of HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis, and STDs and advance a compassionate and stigma-free community response.

STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES

We believe that individuals who are HIV positive deserve compassionate and comprehensive assistance in living full and productive lives. We believe that with proper medical care and treatment, people with HIV can achieve an undetectable viral load even with several barriers in which they may face such as poverty. We believe that public knowledge about HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis and STDs can contribute to lower rates of infection, better understanding of the diseases, and less discrimination against those who are HIV positive. Finally, we believe that participation of diverse populations in all aspects of the organization improves the quality of service for everyone involved with the Positive Resource Connection.

PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2018, the Positive Resource Connection (PRC) addressed its strategic priorities by working to ensure those living with HIV had access to direct medical care and other supportive services for increased adherence to medical care and treatment; targeted populations heavily impacted by new HIV infection through prevention education and HIV testing; linked people diagnosed with HIV into care coordination services and medical care; and developed relationships with medical providers and other supportive service agencies for direct and indirect services. The Positive Resource Connection is contracted with the Indiana State Department of Health to provide HIV Services to individuals living with HIV, HIV and Hepatitis C testing targeting populations heavily impacted by new HIV infection, a specialized support program for persons living with HIV who have substance use disorder, and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Navigation Services. Because PRC is contracted with the state department of health, the agency serves eleven counties in northeast Indiana for HIV Services and twelve counties for HIV and Hepatitis C testing and PrEP Navigation Services.

In 2018, the Positive Resource Connection completed a marketing campaign to raise awareness regarding HIV and Hepatitis C infection, PRC services, and testing in Kosciusko County. This campaign included digital ads and billboards so agency is more visible in Kosciusko County.

The Positive Resource Connection and Parkview Hospital's Infectious Disease staff continued its partnership with the on-site specialized clinic specifically for high risk clients who are not adhering to treatment and vulnerable to dropping out of care and treatment and for clients who are newly diagnosed or have re-engaged back into care and have not been prescribed antiretroviral therapy. The clinic, which is housed at the Positive Resource Connection, not only expedites medical care and treatment from a few months to only a few weeks but breaks down transportation barriers for high risk clients not able to make traditional appointments; allows for quicker turnaround time of getting lab work so clients can start medication therapy for viral load suppression; and enables medical providers and care coordinators to monitor clients' adherence to medication protocols. In 2018, 32 HIV positive clients have accessed the clinic.

In 2018, PRC received funds from the Indiana State Department of Health to hire a full time Biomedical Prevention Coordinator for PrEP navigation services. This new position works in tandem with PRC's PrEP clinic which is offered weekly through its collaboration with Parkview Hospital's Infectious Disease staff. By implementing PrEP navigation services and continuing with the PrEP clinic, more individuals in northeast

Indiana will have access to PrEP for the prevention of HIV which will greatly reduce overall infection rates in northeast Indiana. In 2018, 24 unduplicated individuals accessed PRC's PrEP clinic.

In 2018, through a grant from the Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis, the Positive Resource Connection continued providing on-site mental health counseling for HIV positive clients. PRC partnered with Headwaters Counseling to provide counseling to clients three days a week who are struggling with issues of substance use, mental health issues such as depression, or psychosocial issues of living with HIV/AIDS. In 2018, PRC expanded mental health counselling for HIV positive clients and collaborated with Volunteers of America to assist in providing tele-med psychiatric services for persons needing additional counseling including medication therapy for their mental health issues. In 2018, 33 clients accessed on-site mental health counseling and/or tele-med psychiatric services.

The Syringe Services Program has been hugely successful in reducing HIV infection rates among people who inject drugs. Once housed at PRC, the Fort Wayne-Allen County Health Department relocated the program to the health department in 2018. Since November 2016, a total of 2,888 individuals have visited the program with 793 new visits and 2,095 returning visits. A total of 152,517 needles have been distributed with 23,690 given out in first visit where no needles are exchanged and 130,827 needles have been distributed with used needles being brought back. Exchange rate of used needles being brought back after the initial visit is 99%.

Through Ryan White Supplemental Funding through the state department of health, PRC purchased cell phones to better connect with HIV positive clients and to increase medical care and treatment adherence for the suppression of viral load. PRC is able send text message reminders to clients on taking their medications or reminders for medical appointments, hold conference calls when care coordinators are not able to attend medical appointments, and be more accessible to clients when care coordinators are not in office.

The board approved PRC's new strategic plan that would be effective through the end of 2019. The new strategic plan focuses on four major goals: 1) A facilities analysis – analyzing the best use of the agency owned residential facility as well as an analysis of our current office location and functionality. 2) Funding Review – reviewing our current sources of income and identifying untapped resources as well as improving the manner in which donors and supports are acknowledged and honored. 3) Program analysis – analyzing current programs for efficiency and effectiveness and identifying new methods of executing programs to ensure they are aligned with client needs and the agency's mission. 4) Staff recruitment, retention, and development – fostering a culture of long-term employment for high performing staff including salary reviews, job description updates, continuing education and training, and staff appreciation activities.

Through a contract with the Indiana State Department of Health, in 2018, PRC began renovating its current office space. These renovations include building more office space for existing and new staff positions, improving phone and electrical lines, moving the lobby area (front entrance) to Oxford Street entrance; sound proofing offices for improving client confidentiality; adding a testing room and consulting room for care coordinators to meet with clients; added more storage space; and increased security measures for staff and client safety.

Through HIV Services in 2018, the care coordination department provided services to 437 individuals living with HIV and worked with them on adherence to medical care and treatment for viral load suppression and provided assistance to eliminate any barriers that may prohibit them from staying engaged in care and treatment. In 2018, clients accessed internal and external community resources that included health insurance, housing and utility assistance, food and nutrition, medical care and treatment, legal assistance, education, support groups, and counseling. Care coordination services are enhanced by a Spanish-speaking care coordinator, support specialist for clients with substance use issues, a housing coordinator to prevent

homelessness among HIV positive individuals, and a Burmese interpreter who assists in eliminating language and cultural barriers to PRC's Burmese clients in accessing services. The Positive Resource Connection also owns and operates a 17-unit residential facility for persons living with HIV and offers one-bedroom and efficiency units all with full kitchen and baths. Through its care coordination program in 2018, 79% of clients served through care coordination services achieved an undetectable viral load (very little HIV in the body) which is well above the national average of 35%.

Through Prevention Services, the outreach services department provided prevention education, awareness, outreach, and HIV testing and counseling to populations heavily impacted by new HIV infection, as well as the general public. Specific prevention programs targeted at-risk youth, women, African American and Latino men and women, Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), especially young gay men, substance users including people who inject drugs, and other at-risk and underserved populations in twelve counties in northeast Indiana. To raise awareness on the impact of HIV/STD infections and reduce stigma surrounding HIV, outreach staff participated in a number of health and community events and conducted street outreach as well as outreach on social dating sites targeting MSM. In 2018, more than 5,000 individuals in northeast Indiana gained new knowledge about HIV, AIDS, STDs, and viral Hepatitis. In 2018, the Positive Resource Connection also provided free HIV and Hepatitis C testing through rapid or conventional testing and conducted testing during HIV prevention educations, at special events, street outreach, in-house, and at various public testing sites throughout PRC's twelve county region. In 2018, the Positive Resource Connection conducted 1,126 HIV tests and 369 Hepatitis C tests.

In addition to care and support to those living with HIV and ongoing educational and HIV testing efforts, the Positive Resource Connection raised community awareness through public events like National Black HIV Awareness Day in February, National Day of Testing in June, National Gay Men's HIV Awareness Day in September, National Latino HIV Awareness Day in October, and World AIDS Day in December.

Volunteers worked alongside professional staff in assisting with office work, committee projects, and event planning. Volunteers played an important role in the Gregory Manifold Food Pantry by hosting pantry parties so people living with HIV could have access to more food and nutrition.

To raise funds for its programs and to increase awareness on HIV, the Positive Resource Connection sponsored the 22nd annual AIDS Walk in May at Parkview Field and in October held the 30th Annual Dinner Dance, for which the Positive Resource Connection was the fiscal agent and financial recipient of funds raised.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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AFFILIATIONS

HIV Care Coordination, Special Populations Support Program, Biomedical Prevention Program and the HIV Testing program are supported by the Indiana State Department of Health. The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS is a program through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. The Positive Resource Connection is a Partner Agency of the United Way of Allen County.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2018

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Director of Client Services, Sara Seifert

Care Coordinator, Megan Perry

Care Coordinator, Vanessa Arroyo

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Housing Coordinator, Arien Dillon

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Comprehensive Coordinator, Niki Whitlock

Director of Outreach Services, Kandace Kelly

HIV Testing Coordinator, Barb McKee

Community Outreach Coordinator, Charity Storey

HIV Testing Coordinator, Ken Redmon

Prevention Outreach Coordinator, Patricia Veazy

Biomedical Prevention Coordinator, Timothy Price

DONORS & UNDERWRITERS, 2018

Operating / Event Support

Foellinger Foundation

Community Foundation of Greater Ft. Wayne

Donald Wood & Dar Richardson Foundation

Dinner Dance

St. Joseph Community Health Foundation

Capital / Asset / Capacity Building

The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis

K21 Foundation

Indiana State Department of Health

Venderly Foundation

Foellinger Foundation

Program for Clients

The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis

United Way of Allen County

Waterfield Foundation

MAC AIDS Fund

Indiana Housing & Comm. Development Authority

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS

Plymouth Congregation Church

Outreach / Prevention / Linkage to Care

Lincoln Financial Group

Community Action Group

Parkview Community Health Improvement

Maximus Foundation

Kuhne Foundation

PNC Foundation – English, Bonter, Mitchell

The Health Foundation of greater Indianapolis

Indiana State Department of Health

Ft. Wayne Health and Education Foundation

Syringe Services Program

The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis

The Northeast Indiana Positive Resource Connection, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to Positive Resource Connection are tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.

The fiscal year 2016 audit and 990 form, prepared by Haines, Isenbarger & Skiba, Certified Public Accountants, is available in the Positive Resource Connection's office and on the web site at www.positiveresourceconnection.org.