

**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, 2019**

### **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 barriers 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 2019, 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 by 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. The agency serves eleven counties in northeast Indiana for HIV Services and twelve counties for HIV and Hepatitis C testing and PrEP Navigation Services.

The Positive Resource Connection and Parkview Hospital's Infectious Disease staff continued its partnership with the on-site specialized clinic specifically for high needs HIV positive 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 2019, 33 HIV positive clients accessed the clinic.

In 2019, PRC received funds from the Indiana State Department of Health to hire an additional PrEP Case Manager to assist patients in accessing PrEP and to enroll uninsured patients on health insurance. This new position works in tandem with PRC's Biomedical Prevention Coordinator and PRC's PrEP clinic which is offered weekly through collaborations with Parkview Hospital's Infectious Disease staff. By implementing PrEP navigation services and continuing with the PrEP clinic, more individuals in northeast Indiana have access to PrEP for the prevention of HIV which will greatly reduce overall infection rates in

northeast Indiana. In 2019, 64 individuals accessed PRC's PrEP clinic and 111 individuals were enrolled in PrEP navigation services. Also in 2019, PRC received support from the Indiana State Department of Health to provide financial assistance to eligible PrEP patients to cover costs of physician visits, lab work, and treatment.

In 2019, 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 one day 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 2019, 49 clients accessed on-site mental health counseling and/or tele-med psychiatric services.

The Positive Resource Connection had a full year of experience with Donor Wrangler, our donor development software program, which allowed PRC to merge all of our donor data bases into one data base for a broad overview but still allowed PRC to identify the events/programs/solicitations for which donors contributed. It allowed for a more concise and less repetitive means to correspond with donors and expand solicitations for different events. Prior to 2019 PRC was only able to solicit prior end-of-year contributors from that data base and ineffectively attempt to identify potential new donors. With Donor Wrangle, PRC could reach that same group but also add the top 100 donors who supported the PRC through other events but not the end-of-year campaign. The end result was a 15% increase in PRC's end-of-year campaign in 2019 vs. 2018.

The board used PRC's strategic plan to be the guide in the evaluation of agency properties which led to the sale of the Jack Ryan House in 2019. Proceeds from the sale of the Jack Ryan House were put in the agency reserves and persons living in the house were transitioned to other housing locations in Allen County. Many individuals living at the house were eligible for PRC's HOPWA (Housing Opportunity for Person with AIDS) funds to assist in the transition.

PRC's office building was donated to the agency from the Fort Wayne Urban Enterprise in June of 2019. As a result, PRC initiated a new bank account specifically for building maintenance/repairs and capital expenses and began depositing former rent amount into that account. During this time, PRC also received a second round of grant money from the Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis to renovate the interior of PRC's office. These renovations included new phone systems; staff computers; office and board furniture; a donor wall, interior directional signage, inspirational quotes, art work, and a time line noting significant developments of HIV and PRC; exterior signage; and security equipment.

In 2019, PRC continued to host quarterly regional Continuum of Care meetings with area medical providers, pharmacies, and organizations to address improved health outcomes for persons living with HIV and to address HIV related health disparities in northeast Indiana. These Continuum of Care meetings bring together a diverse group of organizations to address issues of adherence, housing, medical treatment, health insurance, PrEP services, and other issues facing HIV positive people and those most at risk to infection. In 2019, PRC developed a Clinical Quality Management Plan and meets quarterly with consumers representing PRC's priority populations to look at trends in services, quality improvements for its programs, and gaps in services.

Also, in 2019, PRC was invited by the Indiana State Department of Health to participate in the Community Health Improvement Initiative (CHII) to address HIV health disparities among African American gay, bi-sexual, and other men who have sex with men. Currently, this group is the most affected by HIV than any other group in the United States and Indiana. Through this initiative, PRC, other AIDS service organizations, and the state department of health are developing a coordinated response to address barriers that are preventing African American men who have sex with men in accessing services if HIV positive, PrEP services if HIV negative, and getting tested so they are aware of their status.

Through HIV Services in 2019, the Non-Medical Case Management provided services to 451 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 2019, 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. Non-Medical Case Management services are enhanced by a Spanish-speaking case manager, support specialist for clients with substance use issues, a housing coordinator to prevent homelessness among HIV positive individuals, and a contracted Burmese interpreter who assists in eliminating language and cultural barriers to PRC's Burmese clients in accessing services. Through Non-Medical Case Management services in 2019, 86% of clients served achieved an undetectable viral load (very little HIV in the body).

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 2019, more than 5,000 individuals in northeast Indiana gained new knowledge about HIV, AIDS, STDs, and viral Hepatitis. In 2019, 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 2019, PRC conducted 1,175 HIV tests and 280 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 of donating perishable and non-perishable food items 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 23<sup>rd</sup> annual AIDS Walk in May at Parkview Field and in October held the 31<sup>st</sup> 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, 2019**

Anne Simerman, <i>President</i> Steel Dynamics	Rob Boyd 3Rivers Federal Credit Union
Sonya Snellenberger-Holm, <i>Vice President</i> NE Indiana Regional Partnership	Beth Beams We Care Counseling
Gary Zwierzynski, <i>Treasurer</i> Parkview Health	Bradford Ziebell JPM Chase
Ken Shields, <i>Secretary</i> Parkview Health	Leonard Helfrich Community Volunteer
Dr. Jason Bailey Parkview Hospital	Kaitlyn Pozorski Visiting Nurse and Hospice
Karrington Craig Walgreens Pharmacy	Kenson Dhanie Mike Thomas Associates
Kevin Hunter Fort Wayne Police Department	Bonnie Blackburn-Penhollow Visiting Nurse and Hospice

## **STAFF, 2019**

Executive Director, Jeff Markley	Addictions Specialist, Vanessa Hicks
Front Desk Assistance, Dick Rison/Reggie Troutt	Comprehensive Coordinator, Niki Whitlock
Director of Client Services, Sara Seifert	Director of Outreach Services, Kandace Kelly
Case Manager, Megan Perry	HIV Testing Coordinator, Barb McKee
Case Manager, Vanessa Arroyo	Community Outreach Coordinator, Charity Storey
Case Manager, Meg Olivo	HIV Testing Coordinator, Ken Redmon
Case Manager, Lauren Walters	Prevention Outreach Coordinator, Patricia Veazy
Lead Case Manager, Kathleen Menefee	Biomedical Prevention Coordinator, Timothy Price
Case Manager, Rachel Hansen	PrEP Case Manager, Carsan Cunningham
Case Manager, Terry Taylor	
Housing Coordinator, Arien Dillon	

## **DONORS & UNDERWRITERS, 2019**

### **Operating / Event Support**

Foellinger Foundation  
Community Foundation of Greater Ft. Wayne  
Donald Wood & Dar Richardson Foundation

### **Capital / Asset / Capacity Building**

The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis  
Indiana State Department of Health

Dinner Dance  
St. Joseph Community Health 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

**Outreach / Prevention / Linkage to Care**

Indiana State Department of Health  
Community Action Group  
Parkview Community Health Improvement  
Maximus Foundation  
Kuhne Foundation  
PNC Foundation – English, Bonter, Mitchell  
The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis  
Ft. Wayne Health & 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](http://www.positiveresourceconnection.org).***