

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, 2022

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 2022, the Positive Resource Connection (PRC) continued to address 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 and Hepatitis C 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 2022, 20 HIV positive clients accessed the clinic.

In 2022, PRC received funds from the Indiana Department of Health to assist patients in accessing PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) and to enroll qualified patients on Unified which is the state's

health insurance program for PrEP patients who are underinsured or uninsured. By implementing PrEP navigation services and continuing with the PrEP clinic through collaborations with Parkview Infectious Disease staff, 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 2022, 190 individuals were enrolled in PrEP navigation services and a total of 18 patients accessed PRC's PrEP clinic.

In 2022, the Positive Resource Connection continued providing on-site mental health counseling for HIV positive clients through in-person or tele-conference. PRC partnered with a licensed therapist to provide counseling to clients two 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 2022, 30 unique clients accessed on-site mental health counseling and/or tele-med psychiatric services.

In 2022, PRC updated its Clinical Quality Management Plan and met quarterly to look at trends in services, quality improvements for its programs, and gaps in services.

In 2022, PRC provided Hepatitis C Care Coordination Services and through this program assisted individuals positive for Hepatitis C in getting them access to medical care and treatment including insurance until such time they were virally cured. In 2022, 45 individuals were enrolled in Hepatitis C and 6 were virally cured.

Through HIV Services in 2022, the Non-Medical Case Management provided services to 365 individuals living with HIV and worked with them on adherence to medical care and treatment for viral load suppression and helped eliminate any barriers that may prohibit them from staying engaged in care and treatment. In 2022, 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 2022, 84% of clients served achieved an undetectable viral load (very little HIV in the body).

Through Outreach Services, PRC provided prevention education, awareness, street outreach, and HIV and Hepatitis C testing 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. In 2022, the Positive Resource Connection provided free HIV and Hepatitis C testing through rapid or conventional testing reaching 1,032 individuals for HIV testing and 436 individuals for Hepatitis C testing. Additionally, PRC conducted street outreach in areas of Fort Wayne where there is a heavy concentration of homeless individuals. Through street outreach, PRC provides free HIV and Hepatitis C testing and distributes needs items such as coats, socks, blankets, food, water, and harm reduction materials to build trust so these individuals are more apt to connect to services of PRC if they are position for Hepatitis C or HIV.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Northeast Indiana Positive Resource Connection, Inc. 260.744.1144
525 Oxford Street 1.800.417.3085
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806 Fax 260.745.0978
www.positiveresourceconnection.org info@neiprc.org

AFFILIATIONS

Non-Medical Case Management, Special Populations Support Program, PrEP Navigation Services, Viral Hepatitis Case Management, and the HIV and Hepatitis C Testing program are supported by the Indiana Department of Health. The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS is a program through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2022

Kevin Hunter, <i>President</i>	Emily Arata
Fort Wayne Police Department	Carroll High School
Leonard Helfrich, <i>Vice President</i>	Kenson Dhanie
Community Volunteer	Mike Thomas Associates
John Metzinger, <i>Treasurer</i>	Dr. Eric Shoemaker
CitiLink	Alliance Health Center
Bonnie Blackburn-Penhollow, <i>Secretary</i>	Kaitlyn Pozorski
Stillwater Hospice	Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana
Rachel Ritchie	
Sweetwater Sound	
Justin Roberts	
Parkview Health	
Anne Simerman	
Steel Dynamics	

STAFF, 2022

Executive Director, Jeff Markley	Comprehensive Coordinator, Niki Whitlock
Front Desk Assistance, Maggie Clifton/Gary Lanier	Director of Grants, PrEP, Viral Hepatitis, Kandace Kelly
Administrative Assistant, Jake Brames	HIV Testing Coordinator, Autumn Jordan
Community Relations & Events Manager, Alexandra Sauer	Director of Education and Testing, Charity Storey
Director of Client Services, Rachel Hansen	Special Populations Support Specialist, Vanessa Amburgy
Case Manager, Cordell Pressler	Biomedical Prevention Coordinator, Timothy Price
Case Manager, Vanessa Arroyo	PrEP Case Manager, Raul Resendez
Case Manager, Meg Wolf	Viral Hepatitis Case Manager, Ricky Rice
Case Manager, Lauren Walters	
Lead Case Manager, Kathleen Menefee	
Housing Coordinator, Arien Dillon	

DONORS & UNDERWRITERS, 2022

Operating / Event Support

Foellinger Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater Ft. Wayne
Donald Wood & Dar Richardson Foundation
Dinner Dance
St. Joseph Community Health Foundation
Maximus Foundation
PHP Foundation

Programs for Clients

The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Waterfield Foundation
Plymouth Congregational Church
Indiana Housing & Comm. Development Authority
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS

Indiana Department of Health
Indianapolis
Lutheran Foundation

Outreach / Prevention / Linkage to Care

Indiana Department of Health
Community Action Group
Parkview Community Health Improvement
Charles W. Kuhne Foundation
Ft. Wayne Health & Education Foundation
PNC Charitable Trust – English, Bonter, Mitchell
The Health Foundation of Greater

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 2022 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.