



The Sexual Health Alliance is a collaborative group that promotes and supports healthy relationships and sexual behaviors in Linn and Johnson counties through community engagement

November Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: 12-Kate Hoskins (Iowa Department of Public Health), Alicia Steines (Linn County Public Health), Katie Reasner (Linn County Public Health), Laura Faircloth (Cedar Rapids Police Department), Lindsay Schrader (Cedar Rapids Police Department/Eastern Iowa Heroin Initiative), Lora Kracht (Prevent Child Abuse Iowa), Kim Andresen-Reed (Rape Victim Advocacy Program/Transformative Healing), Amelia Slaichert (Johnson County Public Health), Abby Lee (College of Public Health), Elaine Cook (Mt. Mercy University), Anya Ogilvie (Planned Parenthood of the Heartland), Ally Hanten (United Action for Youth)

Approval of September Minutes: Amelia Slaichert, Alicia Steines- second

Mission & Vision Discussion: The group discussed two mission statements, 1) *"The Sexual Health Alliance is a collaborative group that promotes and supports healthy relationships and sexual behaviors in Linn and Johnson counties through community engagement"* and 2) *"The Sexual Health Alliance is a collaborative endeavor that facilitates community engagement to promote and support healthy relationships and sexual behaviors in Linn and Johnson counties."* The first statement proposed includes simpler language which was a positive aspect for several people. The group felt each mission statement had similar language and themes and was happiest with the first statement.

A draft of the vision statement created by Amelia Slaichert (below) was then presented. Discussion included meanings associated with wording and loaded words like "safety," "positive" and "healthy" potentially holding different meanings among people. It was also suggested to re-structure the last sentence to remove the repetitive occurrence of "sexual health." Due to possible language limitations and creating a shared understanding, it was recommended that we add a glossary page to the website to clarify what we mean by phrases like "comprehensive sexual health." Likewise, it was proposed that we add a value statement page to create a shared language and vision.

Another point brought up was the mission statement could be longer and the vision statement shorter by creating a concise vision and idea of what would happen if our mission was achieved. It was offered that we have different goals as separate organizations, so it may be difficult to have a concise vision. A point made during discussion is that the Sexual Health Alliance originated, in part, to eliminate duplication of services and a goal of SHA is to focus on overarching themes and forming a united voice to improve sexual health. It was also mentioned that the group could continue to wordsmith the mission and vision indefinitely and would eventually have to set a deadline and adopt a statement. Ultimately, we felt that creating a shorter vision statement would be best by focusing on themes of a united effort. Amelia will continue to tweak the vision statement to e-mail out.

Draft Vision: *The Sexual Health Alliance strives toward a future in which all the people of Linn and Johnson counties have access to comprehensive, inclusive, and trauma-informed community sexual health resources. We hope to collaborate with organizations in order to empower community members and advocate for positive changes in the culture of Linn and Johnson counties in order to foster sexual health and safety for all.*

Structure of Sexual Health Alliance:

Coalition Restructure. When the Sexual Health Alliance was created in 2010 the executive structure consisted of four volunteer positions elected yearly: a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and a coalition facilitator staffed by Linn County Public Health. In the summer and fall of 2015 it was noted that the coalition had been suffering due to high staff turnover and low agency retention, causing work to lag and members to become less engaged. As a result, the Executive Board chose to undergo a strategic planning process to determine the cause of lower membership activity and outline action steps to re-engage current volunteers, foster new involvement, and create a stable, long-term infrastructure. Given the challenges experienced in the 2015 strategic planning session - coupled with low participation and absent membership - the President of the Executive Board began having focused conversations about possible structural and organizational changes that might help remedy some of the identified issues and alleviate the burden of work for the members who are still currently engaged. The proposed restructure, adopted in 2016, consisted of a president, 2 county representative positions staffed by one of the 4 agencies that attend SHA meetings as part

of their full-time employment. This includes Linn County Public Health or Planned Parenthood in Linn County and Johnson County Public Health or United Action for Youth in Iowa City. Both Planned Parenthood and United Action for Youth satisfy their Community Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP) grant coalition requirement with active involvement in the Sexual Health Alliance.

With the resignation of the President in early spring and turnover at 3 of the 4 aforementioned organizations, the Executive Board returned to discussing the structure of the governing body and will propose a change to the structure during the December meeting. This will include a representative from both United Action for Youth and Planned Parenthood and a representative from both health departments, which have recently agreed to provide funding so the group can focus more on programming and less on fundraising. Two representatives from each county would ensure stability should turnover in the respective agency occur. A fifth member of the Executive Board has also been proposed and would be voted in annually as an "at-large" position.

By-Laws, Membership and Voting. Katie Reasner recently went through the [Welcome Kits](#) created by Seth, former SHA president. In looking at the Welcome Kits, there are statements of commitment for each participating entity as a form associated with voting. Voting has not been following this process which is stipulated in our by-laws. In order to change the structure of the Executive Board in the by-laws, a statement of commitment is needed from each participating organization or individual community member for the remainder of 2018 and a new one completed for 2019 in January.

We discussed that by the December meeting we would need a statement of commitment (see attached) from all participating [organizations](#) or [individuals](#) not representing an organization. This would require a point person who is committed to attending meetings and depending on the organization, may require approval from your supervisor. This statement of commitment will be attached with the minutes.

2019-2021 Strategic Plan: Katie Reasner asked the group to review the strategies proposed by the October Workgroups. Ten of the 12 strategies have been finalized. Not everyone needed was in the room to go over two specific strategies still remaining to re-write into SMART strategies. The group felt it was important to include groups that are involved in doing the work specifically like Chains Interrupted for addressing human trafficking and RVAP for prevention work in the community. Katie will reach out to Teresa from Chains Interrupted in early November.

Kimmie Andresen-Reed asked to clarify the use of "diverse" in one of the strategies, as this term is often used broadly to be any number of marginalized identities including people of color and LGBTQIA communities. The focus for the particular strategy included immigrant communities, but was purposefully left more open to give flexibility. Kimmie felt that it was important to use underrepresented or marginalized rather than diverse, and to ultimately say what you mean for clarity in the strategy.

For Goal 3, Kate Hoskins brought up a concern about making sure that we have a group effort to complete the strategy "Offer STI screening and treatment presentation to all nursing students prior to graduation at Coe, Kirkwood, Mt. Mercy, and University of Iowa by December 31, 2019," due to changeover in staff, as her position is contract work. It was brought up that the College of Nursing and other community partners are able to participate and complete activities under this strategy.

Updates:

- Johnson County Public Health: Just hired a new peer educator for HIV prevention, Michael Shame.
- Iowa Department of Public Health: The HIV Special Projects division just hired a supervisor and there's new staff for PREP coordination. They signed on to the U=U concept (Undetectable=Untransmittable).
- Transformative Healing and RVAP: Partnering together and running a Queer Art Healing Group the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 7-9 pm at the Wesley Center. All LGBTQIA people are welcome. Flier attached.
- United Action for Youth: Clothing drive going on until November 13th. [Facebook event](#). Flier attached.

Adjourn



Upcoming Meetings

December 6 th	11am-12:30pm	North Liberty Community Library Room A/B
January 3 rd	11am-12:30pm	North Liberty Community Library Room A/B