

Dear Poz MSM and HIV service providers:

My name is John Wikiera; I am a facilitator for the weekly *CNY Connec+ions for Poz MSM* Conference Call, supported by the Department of Health AIDS Institute (DOH AI) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM). This is an initiative of the Central New York HIV Care Network, a program of Central New York Health Systems Agency (CNYHSA). Please post this where Poz MSM meet at your agency or are seen by staff, Case Managers, Doctors, etc. I am available to do a presentation at your agency, if requested.

I think some insight as to my current work experience is important to share. I am a Poz MSM; I sit on the National Quality Center, Consumer Advisory Committee for the Office of the Medical Director, DOH AI. I am the Co-Chair for the CNY HIV Care Network, Tech Assistant to several HIV Poz Patient Groups in Upstate NY, sit on several committees and Boards of Directors for ACHC and ARI both located in Rochester, NY.

This call is open to any Poz MSM across NYS. By posting this flyer and letter, hopefully we can reach many more Poz MSM who may have an interest in joining. This is a good opportunity for those that have seen their local Poz MSM groups discontinued. There are up to 20 lines that can be used for this call, and we have plenty of room for new callers to join.

To join the call you simply dial a toll free number provided once the caller has registered. Calls usually range from an hour fifteen minutes (1.15) and have lasted for an hour forty-five minutes (1.45). Callers can join and leave when they so choose.

Callers are known by the facilitator or the lead agency only. The reports generated by the facilitator for review by the Care Network and DOH AI, only have bullet points of the topics discussed. Confidentiality is always adhered to at all times. Callers may share contact information with each other on the calls, but it is strictly their choice. This has been helpful if someone needed a ride to a medical appointment or education forum, etc.

This call is intended more for information sharing, education, HIV Care Network activity, networking within various regions, advocacy, problem solving regarding HIV health care issues, dissemination of HIV-related health care information from NYS DOH AI, NLM or CDC, etc. This really has been a great way to reach many without asking everyone to travel to a meeting.

For more information or to register for *CNY Connec+ions for Poz MSM* please contact CNYHSA at (315) 472-8099 or you may contact me directly at (315) 542-1703.

Sincerely,
John Wikiera
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