

AIDS Committee of Ottawa

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Present: Khaled Salam, Jason Brophy, Sahazia Ouédraogo, Saina Beitari, Ali Sougou, Andrea Prajerová, Edward Barbezat, Dare Abdullahi, Agness Nalwamba

Regrets (r) / Absent (a): Jasmine Mwanga (r), Bello Mansour (a), Zara Fadoul (a), Brigitte Charbonneau (r)

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Jason called this meeting to order at 6:09 PM; Quorum was met (10/14).

2. Approval of agenda

It was MOVED by Edward and SECONDED by Dare that the agenda be approved. Motion Carried

1. Nominations Committee Report

Khaled reported that the Nominations Committee interviewed a new potential candidate to join the ACO Board. Right now they are in the process of completing the reference check for them. James is expected to join the upcoming Board meeting in November, 2022. Peter will send his CV for other members to review and approve. Jason updated the Board on matters concerning the on-maternity-leave ACO Board member, Jasmine Mwanga-Cunningham, who'd delivered a healthy child in September. She should rejoin the Board in the upcoming months. Andrea suggested that the Policy Committee could draft some type of Care Policy, a document which would provide guidance in instances such as the one regarding Jasmine.

2. Financial Report

Khaled reported that as of September 30, 2022, ACO finances were in good standing. All expected grants have been in place and spendings and received revenue reflect 6 months into ACO's fiscal year. The ACO continues to project a small deficit, which may be brought down by fundraising activities at the end of the year.

3. Selection of Executive Committee following AGM

ACO Board members agreed that the current composition of the Executive Committee is satisfactory and does not require any change. The present executive committee members expressed their interest to continue to serve in their roles in this term (Jason as the Chair and Andrea as the Secretary). The approval of the selection of the Executive Committee was postponed since two EC members were not present. No other expressions of interest to join the exec have been recorded.

3. Approval of June Minutes

*The June Board minutes were reviewed, with corrections suggested by Khaled and other Board members. A motion was made to approve the amended minutes by Saina and seconded by Ali. **The motion passed.***

4. Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee

Khaled mentioned that there have been no meetings held since last time. Members of the committee were, however, updated by Ray on the current financial matters as presented in the report.

b. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met last Monday, Oct 17. No significant items were discussed except the preparations of the agenda for the October Board meeting. Jason and Khaled also informed the Board they attended the Ontario AIDS Network AGM.

c. Policy Committee

Sahazia had no updates to report. She will send an invite to organise a meeting some time in November to go over the Policy Committee terms of reference and decide on the next steps.

5. Executive Director's Report

Khaled updated the Board on the following matters. Regarding HR, as mentioned last time, Mar Mohamed left the ACO for health reasons and a new person was hired as her replacement. Fatima Suleyman started in early October and is successfully settling into her new role. ACO supported another employee, Gord Asmus, who as of Oct 22 started long-term disability assistance through the ACO insurance company. Regarding services and programs, the ACO is in the process of preparing for the World AIDS Day, which is regularly celebrated by a flag-raising ceremony held at 10 AM at the Parliament Hill. The event is followed up by a reception and arts performances at the NAC. This year, there will also be a two-day health forum. It will take place on Nov 26 and 27. Among many interesting speakers, Jason will give a speech on behalf of ACO and talk about the innovations in HIV research from the AIDS2022 conference. Regarding funding, the ACO has received a \$250k grant over 5 years from PHAC to be a part of the national alliance of ACB HIV prevention and HIV self-testing kits promotion.

6. Next meetings

Executive Committee - Jason will send an email.
Board Meeting - 23 November, 2022, at 6 PM

Adjournment

Brigitte moved to adjourn at 6:57 PM.