

## **AIDS Committee of Ottawa**

### **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, November 23, 2022**

**Present:** Khaled Salam, Jason Brophy, Sahazia Ouédraogo, Ali Sougou, Edward Barbezat, Bello Mansour, Zara Fadoul, Brigitte Charbonneau, Evelyn Marquis (guest), James Okeny (guest)

**Regrets (r) / Absent (a):** Jasmine Mwanga (r), Andrea Prajerová (r), Saina Beitari, (a), Dare Abdullahi (a), Agness Nalwamba (a)

#### **1. Welcome and Call to Order**

*Jason called this meeting to order at 6:15 PM; Quorum was met (7/14).*

#### **2. Approval of agenda**

*It was MOVED by Brigitte and SECONDED by Edward that the agenda be approved.*

***Motion Carried***

#### **1. Nominations Committee Report**

Peter presented on behalf of the Nominations Committee that they had interviewed another new potential candidate to join the ACO Board, Evelyn Marquis, whom they unanimously recommended be accepted as a reserve Board member. She and James Okeny, who had been similarly been interviewed and recommended last month by the Nominations Committee, were invited to attend this month's meeting to be introduced to the Board. Evelyn and James presented themselves with a quick background on their professional experiences and their prior involvement with the ACO.

Ali voiced his concern about prospective reserve Board members being presented to the Board prior to the full Board having a chance to review their applications. Khaled took responsibility for the omission, voicing concerns that having quorum to make decisions (such as accepting reserve Board members) sometimes leads to delays in being able to move things forward. Jason later pointed out that we had noted in the previous month's meeting minutes that we would share James' resumé with the Board which we had forgotten to do. We agreed that Evelyn and James' resumé would be shared with the Board for review, and a vote be held afterward.

#### **2. Financial Report**

Ray reported that as of October 31, 2022, ACO finances were in good standing. Spending remains more or less on track. The City of Ottawa funding will end on December 31, but a number of new medium-term (2-5 year) grants will allow the positions previously paid from City of Ottawa funding (for The Living Room support worker) to continue to be funded. Ray projects a small deficit for ACO at fiscal year-end.

#### **3. Committee Reports**

a. **Finance Committee**

Khaled mentioned that there were no additional updates from the Finance Committee beyond Ray's report.

b. **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee did not meet this month due to time constraints, but communicated by email regarding tonight's agenda. Jason touched base with Khaled regarding the plans for AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day.

c. **Policy Committee**

Sahazia reported that the Policy Committee met last week. They worked on the Terms of Reference for the Policy Committee, and are in the process of prioritizing subsequent work thereafter. They plan to meet again in early December.

**4. Approval of October Minutes**

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

**5. Executive Director's Report**

Khaled updated the Board on the following matters. Regarding HR, Gord Asmus' leave has taken effect and Mc Carson Bledman was hired as ACO's new Peer Engagement Coordinator. Zara Hassan's Project Coordinator position was made full time with the HIV Prevention funding. Moustapha's position as The Living Room support worker made full time with new funding.

AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day plans have been made and the events are coming up. ACO is hosting a 2-day HIV Health Forum on November 26-27 at Sandy Hill Community Centre – all are welcome. The World AIDS Day event on Thursday December 1 will include the Parliament Hill Flag-Raising Ceremony at 10AM and the NAC performance event at 12:30-2:00PM. The Board members were encouraged to attend as many of the events as they are able to.

**6. Next meetings**

Executive Committee - Jason will send an email.  
Board Meeting – we will not hold a December Board meeting, and rather will meet a bit earlier than usual for January – on January 18, 2023 at 6 PM

**Adjournment**

Brigitte moved to adjourn at 7:30 PM.