

AIDS Committee of Ottawa

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Present: Khaled Salam, Jason Brophy, Brigitte Charbonneau, Ray Hall (for financial reporting), Sahazia Ouédraogo, Saina Beitari, Ali Sougou, Peter Szanto (Nominations Committee), Andrea Prajerová

Regrets (r) / Absent (a): Jasmine Mwanga (r), Bello Mansour (a), Dare Abdullahi (a), Agness Nalwamba (a), Zara Fadoul (a), Edward Barbezat (a)

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Jason called this meeting to order at 6:08 PM; Quorum was met (7/13).

2. Approval of agenda

It was MOVED by Brigitte and SECONDED by Saina that the agenda be approved. Motion Carried

1. Nominations Committee Report

Peter reported that the Nominations Committee took a break over the summer where the main focus was on Pride preparations.

2. Presentation of Draft Annual Report

Peter introduced to the Board the final draft of the ACO annual report, which is to be shared with members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sept 14th, 2022. Presented in a colourful design and accompanied by pictures of the ACO staff and the numerous community-oriented events held last year, the report summarises the achievements of the organisation in both delineated strategic areas, support services and education & prevention. As usual the report also includes a message from the ED and the Board as well as numerical data conveying what was happening in all spheres of ACO operations. Board members agreed the report provided a clear and just representation of the good work that has been done.

3. Financial Report

Ray presented a monthly financial report and informed the Board that everything was going as planned. Financial contributions from all ACO funders, including the Ministry of Health, WAGE, Gilead and VIIV, have been coming along as delineated in the contributions agreements. A big portion of the grant received from Food Banks Canada was spent in August due to the organised festivities. The ACO is also the recipient of the City of Ottawa funds, which will be granted until December this year. The ACO has collected donations worth 16k from the “Opening Doors” fundraising event, a sum which is yet to be allocated. Along the same lines, operational spending by the ACO is also where it is supposed to be at

this point of the year. In regard to expenses, Ray therefore foresees no issues arising in the future.

4. 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 Brigitte and seconded by Saina. **The motion passed.***

5. 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 month to discuss the upcoming AGM. They engaged in planning the agenda of the event and debated the administrative tasks related to its organisation. They confirmed that the committee had received all confirmations of Board members seeking to be elected or re-elected along with their short bios.

c. Policy Committee

Sahazia had no updates to report. There was no PC meeting held during the summer.

6. Executive Director's Report

Khaled updated the Board members on the issues that have happened since the Board met last time. Regarding programming, the main focus was on Pride. The efforts of all ACO staff were successfully materialised. To celebrate the Ottawa Pride week, ACO held a series of various activities and events over 10 days. The ACO staff and members also participated in the parade, sparking joy on thousands of attendees from a float with dancing drag queens and fabulous DJs. For this year's theme, the team picked three flowers, each symbolising a different community the ACO serves. Regarding HR updates, Mar Mohamed is leaving ACO for health issues. A replacement for her role should be found by the end of this September. In regard to funding, the ACO has signed a five-year contribution agreement with PHAC to advance the national HIV strategy (250k in total). Thanks to that, someone new will be hired for a certain amount of hours each week to support the development and implementation of this programming. Khaled is also keeping his eyes on other funding opportunities, as \$100 million was promised by the Government of Canada in the most current 2SLGBTQ+ Action Plan to be allocated towards community-based organisations and community-based research while centering the needs of racialized queer communities.

7. Other Business

- **AGM planning**

As reported by Jason, the planning of the AGM has been successful. All necessary aspects have been discussed so that the event runs smoothly. All important information has been also sent out by Andrea and shared with the ACO membership. The meeting is planned to run between 6 and 7:30 PM on Sept 14, 2022. Monday, Sept 5, was the last day to submit a nomination to be elected as a new ACO Board member. No new nominations were received. Jason also introduced the Board members to the upcoming AGM agenda.

9. Next meetings

Executive Committee - Monday 17 October, 2022, at 5 PM
Board Meeting - 26 October, 2022, at 6 PM

10. Adjournment

Brigitte moved to adjourn at 7:21 PM.