

**CAB Conference Call  
June 11, 2020  
12:00 EST  
Meeting Minutes**

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**Participants:**

<b>Antionette</b>	University of Miami
<b>Claire</b>	Harvard University
<b>Deb</b>	Harvard University
<b>Haleigh</b>	FSTRF
<b>Jarmel</b>	University of Illinois, Chicago
<b>Joel</b>	University of Puerto Rico
<b>Julie D.</b>	Westat
<b>Kate</b>	Harvard University
<b>Kimbrae</b>	Texas Children's Hospital
<b>Kunjal</b>	Harvard University
<b>Kylie</b>	Texas Children's Hospital
<b>Latonia</b>	University of Illinois, Chicago
<b>Lesley</b>	Texas Children's Hospital
<b>Liz</b>	Harvard University
<b>Megan</b>	Westat
<b>Raiko</b>	University of Colorado, Denver
<b>Tracey</b>	University of Illinois, Chicago
<b>Trinise</b>	Tulane University
<b>Veronica F.</b>	University of California, San Diego
<b>Veronica S.R.</b>	University of Puerto Rico
<b>Willie</b>	University of Miami

• **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the May 28, 2020 call were approved with no changes.

• **CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) TOWN HALL #6: LIVING THROUGH COVID-19 AND HIV**

**Claire** talked about living through the COVID-19 and HIV epidemics. Some CAB members and researchers had previously talked about a parallel between COVID-19 and HIV. In some ways, the COVID-19 pandemic may be bringing up similar feelings people experienced at the beginning of the HIV epidemic. This is a very important perspective. The Health Education and Communication Committee (HECC) talked about this topic with the Peers United Group (PUG). The HECC wants to know whether the CAB would be interested in writing a commentary about their experiences. The commentary could be submitted to a medical journal. It could also be an article in a newspaper or an official statement.

**Claire** asked the CAB whether they would like to write a commentary. The commentary could focus on a wide range of topics. The CAB and PUG could write something together or separately. People could consider writing about what it is has been like to grow up with HIV and now experience the COVID-19 pandemic. People could also write about living only part of their life with HIV and what that experience during COVID-19 has been like.

**Jarmel** talked about writing a commentary. This topic is really important to write about. Many people might be dealing with the same issues. However, many people might have individual struggles.

**Kim** talked about writing a commentary. Commentaries are more impactful when they are written by people who are experiencing the issues. It would not be the same if the researchers wrote it.

**Willie** talked about writing a commentary. It might be difficult for people to put their thoughts into words, but it is an important topic. It might be helpful to reflect the diversity of experiences of people living with HIV.

**Tracey** talked about remembering the early days of the HIV epidemic. At first, there was not a lot of information. There was not a lot of medication approved for pregnant people. For some people, they may not have taken HIV medications during their first pregnancy because it wasn't available. There may be different experiences just in one family. **Kate** thanked **Tracey** for talking about that issue. There may be similar parallels to the coronavirus. People want to be around their loved ones, but there are not a lot of good tests at the moment. People are having to make decisions about whether they can be around their family even if they take precautions. There is a feeling of uncertainty.

**Kim** talked about parallels. In both epidemics, people may struggle with depression. People may not see the signs of depression because of what is going on in the world. There may also be parallels in stigma. During the early days of the HIV epidemic, some people were afraid to be around people living with HIV. This is because they were misinformed. During the COVID-19 pandemic, some people are afraid to be around people who have had COVID-19.

**Liz** talked about parallels. **Liz** talked about an interview with Carmelo Anthony and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He talked about the disproportional impact of COVID-19 in black and brown communities. Some of the issues included mental health, access to testing, misinformation, and stigma. Many of these issues were experienced at the start of the HIV epidemic as well.

**Deb** talked about parallels. **Deb** wondered about the impact of stress related to racism and social injustice. She wondered about parallels between that and COVID-19. **Kim** talked about the impact of stress. Some people are afraid to talk about it. It can be stressful. There may be parallels to living with HIV. The experience of living with HIV has a stress attached to it. People who do not share that experience may add to the stress of daily life for people living with HIV. They may ask too many questions or not be empathetic. Sometimes, people only see HIV and do not see the person.

**Deb** talked about writing a commentary. **Deb** wondered about the format of the commentary. **Claire** explained that perhaps the group will decide on the format later. It might help to talk through ideas first.

**Trinise** talked about writing a commentary. It is important to write it. It may help people just like these CAB calls help CAB members.

**Claire** encouraged CAB members to volunteer to be part of a brainstorm/writing group. CAB members may volunteer through the PHACS CAB Evaluation Survey.

**NOTE: The next CAB call will be on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 12:00 pm EST.**