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United States People Living with HIV Caucus Announces Election of Officers

July 1, 2013 -- The United States People Living with HIV (PLHIV) Caucus, a group of organizations, networks, client groups, and individuals with HIV advocating for HIV-positive people in the U.S., has elected its first national steering committee and officers and launched a new website today, www.hivcaucus.org.

The Caucus is comprised entirely of people with HIV, who elected a 15 member Steering Committee in May. On June 25, the Steering Committee elected Cecilia Chung as its President.

“Since the early days of this epidemic, people living with HIV have demanded inclusion in decision making processes. The U.S. PLHIV Caucus is our vehicle to make sure our voices are heard in the policy and advocacy discussions that so profoundly affect our lives. I am honored to serve in this capacity,” said Chung, who also is the first transgender person to serve on the board of the Amsterdam-based Global Network of People Living with HIV.

Other officers elected include long-time activists Barb Cardell, serving as Vice President, Sean Strub as Treasurer, and Andrew Spieldenner and Vanessa Johnson as Co-Secretaries. Johnson initiated the effort to form the U.S. PLHIV Caucus in December of 2010 in response to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy’s call for increased involvement of Persons living with HIV in policy and planning. Johnson’s coordination of the Caucus efforts to date include:

- Participation in a consultation with officials and staff from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to discuss implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS)
- Publishing two white papers: *National HIV/AIDS Strategy’s Implementation* and *Moving Towards Positive Health, Dignity and Prevention*
- Partnering with global networks of people living with HIV to coordinate U.S. participation in the International AIDS Conference, held in Washington, DC, in July 2012, and, specifically, LIVING 2012, a pre-conference to craft a [global advocacy agenda](#) for people living with HIV
- Most recently, the Caucus co-sponsored a townhall meeting on leadership by people living with HIV jointly organized by the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership.

The Caucus plans to continue providing leadership and consultation on the implementation of the NHAS and the Affordable Care Act, helping to design effective and accountable community planning and decision-making processes that are inclusive of the diversity of people living with HIV and centered on our needs and experiences, and working to ensure that policies are based in evidence and science, rather than fear and bias.

The Caucus’ Communication Workgroup also recently launched a website, www.hivcaucus.org, to keep the community informed on Caucus activities.



The website includes the Caucus's governing document, background information, position papers and a full list of the Caucus steering committee and officers (also listed below).

Officers:

President: Cecilia Chung

Vice President: Barb Cardell

Co-Secretaries: Andrew Spieldenner and Vanessa Johnson

Treasurer: Sean Strub

Steering Committee members (*alphabetical by last name; affiliations noted for identification purposes only*):

Larry Bryant, Campaign to End AIDS, Washington, DC

Barb Cardell, Positive Women's Network – USA, Boulder, CO

Cecilia Chung, Transgender Law Center, San Francisco, CA

Deloris Dockery, International Community of Women with HIV – North America, Newark, NJ

Sergio Farfan, Louisiana Latino Health Coalition for HIV/AIDS Awareness, Baton Rouge, LA

Tami Haight, Positive Iowans Taking Charge (PITCH), Nashua, IA

Vanessa Johnson, Ribbon Consulting Group, Washington, DC

Pat Kelly, Positive Women's Network – USA, Orangeburg, SC

Naina Khanna, Positive Women's Network – USA, Oakland, CA

Victor Martinez, Bienestar, Los Angeles, CA

Michael Emanuel Rajner, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Bamby Salcedo, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Andrew Spieldenner, Hofstra University, New York, NY

Laurel Sprague, Global Network of People Living with HIV, North America, Ann Arbor, MI

Sean Strub, Sero Project, Milford, PA

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The United States People Living with HIV Caucus is a group of organizations, networks, client groups, and individuals with HIV advocating for people living with HIV in the U.S. The Caucus is dedicated to being a platform for a united voice for people living with HIV in the US. For more information, see the website: www.hivcaucus.org.