

## UPHNS HUB Video Call Minutes March 18, 2021

Attendance: 58

### Presenters:

Maticus and Jordan - Party n Play Presentation: Cultural Competency for Sexualized Substance Use

### Introduction:

- Land Acknowledgement from Matt Bonn, closed captioning description by Sophie and Clem invited everyone to introduce themselves in the chat box

### Party n Play Presentation:

- Introduction
- Land acknowledgement
- About Max Ottawa
- Overview
- What is cultural competency and why is it important?
  - 3 examples
- How do we become more culturally competent?
  - MAX Ottawa's programs (Tea Party, Spill the Tea, Tea 2 Go)
  - Safer Partying Advisory Committee
  - Making a safe space for self-identification (pronouns, chosen names)
- Party N Play 101
  - gbMsM = guys into guys: Gay, Bisexual (pan, queer), Men who Have Sex With Men
  - Hook up apps: Grindr, Growlr, Scruff
  - Chemsex/PnP is a subtype of sexualized substance use, as it has its own culture and encompasses unique needs and experiences
  - Benefits of PnP (increased energy, increased pleasure, reduce negative body image and social anxiety, reduces feelings of loneliness and facilitates intimacy, weight loss, escaping internalized homophobia/transphobia, escaping the guilt of sero-discordant sex, increases length of intercourse and amount of partners, increased confidence, facilitates fetish exploration)
- The landscape of Party n Play
  - What are the stories we tell about PnP and crystal meth? (Public health ads designed to discourage people from trying crystal meth, stigmatizes those who do use)
  - Recognize that the chemsex connection functions as a real, powerful force in people's lives
  - PnP Landscape: a new conceptualization based in current evidence (map model: zones 1 -4)
  - We tend to fixate on support interventions in zone 4 (abstinence/recovery zone), but we can provide harm reduction support in zones 1-3 in order to enhance the latent resiliency of gbMMSM and support people where they are with more meaningful and relevant supports
- Experiences tied to PnP
- Concerns of people who PnP
- Cultural Competency Scenarios
- Final Takeaways

### Discussion:

- **Q: Do you find that there is transphobia within the gbMSM community?**
  - A: Absolutely. We have plenty of volunteers who are trans/non-binary and we have had long conversations about the transphobia that folks face. We have the hormone injection supplies in our HR kit and we have tried to make everything as low-barrier as possible by ensuring that the syringes aren't an afterthought.
- **Q: How to tailor this type of message to rural communities that might not have the same access to the queer resources as the urban environment?**
  - A: Yes, it is very complex. Maticus offered a second presentation to either do a deep dive into PnP or a more basic introduction to these concepts and language.
- **Q: Could you elaborate on what types of governmental and organizational policies would push the changes that you want to see with regards to PnP forward?**
  - A: Decriminalizing substance use. With our virtual support groups, we have to monitor it due to concerns about people getting the cops called on them. Harm reduction funding needs to be more inclusive and address substance use more holistically (mental health, social health, etc.) because a lot of HR funding is specifically for HIV prevention.

#### Other comments from Chat Box:

- "A la carte is brilliant and it reduces a bunch of supplies being garbaged"
- "Also flagging that 'chosen' versus 'preferred' [name] is more affirming :)"
- "Drag Children are adults. They are the new drag artists coming up"
- "During the AIDS crisis, public health advice was for MSM to be abstain from sex entirely fi they were HIV positive. It was not only culturally ignorant it was counter productive and did nothing but prevent people from getting support that helped them. That was 20 years ago."

**Closing:** Thank you, Maticus and Jordan for a fantastic presentation!