



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR
LOCAL AIDS COUNCIL
City of Puerto Princesa

LOCAL AIDS COUNCIL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BARANGAY HIV AND AIDS TEAM (BHAT): A COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION STRATEGY ON HIV ADVOCACY

I. Introduction and Rationale

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) prevention strategy through community mobilization is now being recognized as an important component in HIV prevention programs. In other countries, community mobilizing interventions have demonstrated successes by increasing service access, promoting uptake of HIV counseling and testing and referral to STI (Sexually Transmitted Infection) diagnosis and treatment.

Republic Act No. 11166, "PHILIPPINE HIV AND AIDS POLICY ACT", Section 19 specifically stated to include the communities through the local government units in the implementation of locally-based multi-sectoral community response to HIV and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) through various channels on evidence-based, gender-responsive, age appropriate, and human rights-oriented preventive tools to stop the spread of HIV.

The response of the City Government of Puerto Princesa is to involve the local barangay units. Pursuant to City Ordinance No. 815 "AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR THE AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, HIV AND AIDS IN THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA AND THEREBY STRENGTHENING THE PUERTO PRINCESA CITY LOCAL AIDS COUNCIL (PPC-LAC), PROVIDING FUNDS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF" ...all barangays within the jurisdiction of the City must be involved in the activities, programs and other undertakings of the City Government on the prevention and control of STI, HIV and AIDS...", and clearly states the establishment of Barangay HIV and AIDS Team (BHAT), including its composition and function. Furthermore, the BHAT is expected to be part of the HIV and AIDS education in communities.

Despite the popularity of community mobilization as a preventive strategy, currently however, few local government units have adapted it and almost no published work to lay conceptual foundation on how to mobilize the communities relative to HIV prevention activities. This guideline is developed to serve as a practical guide in community mobilization based in Puerto Princesa City.

II. Objective

This guideline aims to provide direction in the establishment of the Barangay HIV and AIDS Team, its composition, components and mechanisms.

III. Coverage

This guideline shall be implemented to all 66 barangays of this city.

IV. Definition of Terms

1. AIDS – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; a condition of a person infected with HIV wherein the immune system is already weak and destroyed and the body can no longer fight off common opportunistic infections
2. BHAT – Barangay HIV and AIDS Team
3. BHW – Barangay Health Worker; a person who has undergone training programs under an accredited government and non-government organization, and voluntarily renders primary health care services in the community
4. CBS – Community-Based Screening; non-laboratory based rapid HIV screening done outside a health facility by a volunteer trained person who is part of the community
5. CBO – Community-Based Organization; a public or private nonprofit organization that is a representative of the community or a significant segment of a community and works to meet community needs
6. Confidentiality – refers to Medical Confidentiality defined in RA 11166 as “core duty of medical practice where information provided by the patient to health practitioners and his/her health status are kept private and are not divulged to third parties. The patient’s health status can, however, be shared with other medical practitioners involved in the professional care of the patient, who will also be bound by medical confidentiality. Medical confidentiality applies to the attending physician, consulting medical specialist, nurse, medical technologist, and all other health workers or personnel involved in any counseling, testing or professional care of the patient. It also applies to any person who, in any official capacity, has acquired or may have acquired such confidential information”
7. HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus, a virus that attacks and destroys the body’s immune system
8. KAP – Key Affected Population; groups or persons at higher risk of HIV exposure or affected populations whose behavior makes them more likely to be exposed to HIV or to transmit the virus
9. Peer Education – involves the use of members of a given group to effect change among other members of the same group
10. PO – People’s Organization; are bona fide associations of citizens with demonstrated capacity to promote the public interest and with identifiable leadership, membership, and structure
11. SDN – Service Delivery Network; network of health facilities and providers within the province- or city-wide health system, offering core packages of health care services in an integrated and coordinated manner.
12. SOGIE – Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression
13. STI – Sexually Transmitted Infection; infections transmitted through vaginal sex, oral sex, anal sex, or close body contact.

V. Composition of Barangay HIV and AIDS Team (BHAT)

Chairperson : City Health Officer or his duly authorized representative/
Nurse/Midwife
Co-Chairperson : Punong Barangay
Members (4)

1. Chairperson, Committee on Health of the Sangguniang Barangay
2. Chairperson, Sangguniang Kabataan
3. Barangay Health Worker (BHW)
4. One (1) representative from Community-Based Organization (CBO) or People’s Organization (PO) actively

involved in STI HIV AIDS advocacy activities and duly recognized by the Barangay; or in the absence of a CBO/PO in the area, any member of the BHAT may recommend a resident of the barangay with basic knowledge on STI HIV AIDS and SOGIE, preferably a member of the LGBT

VI. Components for Formation and Implementation of BHAT

A. Orientation of BHAT Core

1. The City Health Office/STI HIV AIDS Program shall orient the BHAT core members on the context of this guideline, their functions, roles and responsibilities

B. Learning Development of the BHAT

1. Information and Education

- a. All members of the BHAT shall be provided with standardized basic and updated information and education on STI, HIV, AIDS and SOGIE

- i. Magnitude of HIV and AIDS epidemic
- ii. Principles of transmission
- iii. Modes of transmission
- iv. Ways to prevent spread of HIV infection to include condom promotion and condom use demonstration
- v. Salient features of national laws, national, regional and local policies

- b. Peer Education and Community-Based Screening (CBS) for HIV

- i. Members of the CBO or People's Organization duly recognized by the Barangay shall be provided with training on Peer Education and Community-Based Screening for HIV, provided the person to be trained shall be endorsed by the BHAT
- ii. Trainings on Peer Education and CBS shall conform with the modules developed and approved by the Department of Health

- c. Other related trainings and learning development interventions

- i. The City Health Office/STI HIV AIDS Program shall ensure continuous learning activities to enhance the skills of the BHAT
- ii. Learning development interventions shall be based on the outcome of training needs assessment conducted to members of the BHAT

C. Service Delivery Network for Testing, Diagnosis, Treatment, Care and Support

1. Members of the BHAT are bound by the rules of confidentiality consistent with the provisions of RA 11166
2. Members of the BHAT shall guarantee HIV Testing for clients in accordance with RA 11166 with the given provisions for compulsory testing and non-compulsory testing.
3. Members of the BHAT shall provide access to HIV testing, STI diagnosis, treatment care and support services to clients of their respective barangays under their Service Delivery Network.
4. Members of the BHAT shall observe non-discriminatory provision of these services as defined in the RA 11166

5. Members of BHAT shall observe the Referral Mechanism/SDN Algorithm which will be provided by the City Health Office/STIHIV AIDS Prevention and Control Program for these services

D. Conduct of Advocacy/Outreach Activities

1. All activities related to STI HIV and AIDS shall be coordinated to the City Health Office/STI HIV AIDS Program
2. All materials for information and education campaigns shall uphold to the principles of human rights, gender-responsiveness and age-appropriateness. And to ensure non-violation thereof, the City Health Office/STI HIV AIDS Program shall see to it that all materials for use and distribution to the community is provided for and approved by DOH/ Regional Health Office MiMaRoPa and/or from NGOs funding the HIV Program in the Philippines

VII. Roles and Responsibilities

A. BHAT

1. Assist the Technical working Committees or the Puerto Princesa City Local AIDS Council, as the case maybe, in data and information gathering on the existence or prevalence of STI, HIV and AIDS at the barangay level
2. Serve as the community frontline service provider and coordinator in the implementation of STI, HIV and AIDS program activities, initiatives and other undertaking of the PPC-LAC to reduce transmission of HIV and address conditions that may aggravate the spread of HIV infection which include poverty, gender inequality, marginalization and ignorance
3. Keep records/documents of activities done relative to the implementation of HIV promoting advocacies
4. Other functions which the Council may deem necessary from time to time

B. BHAT Core

1. Chairperson (City Health Office Representative):
 - i. Inform the Punong Barangay thru official communication of upcoming activities in their respective barangays
 - ii. Convene BHATs for meetings and information dissemination
2. Co-Chairperson (Punong Barangay):
 - i. Institutionalize the implementation of the guidelines through a barangay resolution or as maybe appropriate
 - ii. Ensure sustainability of implementation of this guideline
3. Members:
 - a. Chairperson, Committee on Health of the Sangguniang Barangay
 - i. Propose barangay resolutions pertaining to STI HIV AIDS prevention activities and for the sustainability of this guideline in collaboration with the City Health Office/STI HIV AIDS Program
 - ii. Ensure presence of the Key Affected Population (KAP) to barangay advocacy/outreach activities in

IX. Funding

For the sustainability of the implementation of the initiatives, funds shall be appropriated from the Operational Support Fund for LAC and STI HIV AIDS Program of the CHO

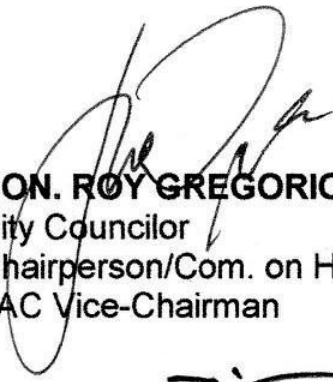
X. Effectivity

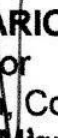
These guidelines shall take effect immediately upon its approval.


Approved:

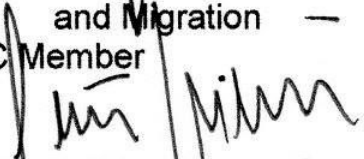
Members of the Local AIDS Council


DR. RICARDO B. PANGANIBAN
City Health Officer
LAC Co-Chairman



HON. ROY GREGORIO VENTURA
City Councilor
Chairperson/Com. on Health and Sanitation
LAC Vice-Chairman


HON. NESARIO AWAT
City Councilor
Chairperson, Com. on Human Rights
and Migration
LAC Member

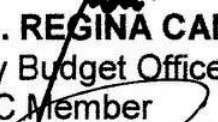

HON. MARIA NANCY M. SOCRATES
City Councilor
Chairperson, Com. on Women and Children
LAC Member



HON. PETER Q. MARISTELA
CITY Councilor
Chairperson/Com. on Trade, Commerce
and Industry, LAC Member


HON. FRANCISCO R. GABUCO
ABC President
LAC Member



ATTY. ARNEL M. PEDROSA
City Legal Officer
LAC Member

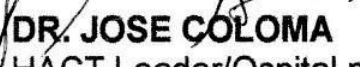

DIR. REY MARANAN
City Director/DILG-Puerto Princesa City
LAC Member



MS. REGINA CANTILLO
City Budget Officer
LAC Member


MS. LYDIA DEL ROSARIO
City Social Welfare and Development Officer
LAC Member


MR. RICHARD LIGAD
City Information Officer
LAC Member



MS. SUSANA M. BAUTISTA
City Schools Division Superintendent
City DepEd, LAC Member


DR. JOSE COLOMA
HACT Leader/Ospital ng Palawan
LAC Member


PSSUPT MARION D. BALONGLONG
Acting City Director/
PPC Police Office
LAC Member



LUIS B. EVANGELISTA
DOLE Palawan Field Officer
LAC Member



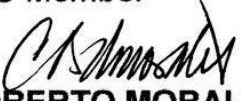
DR. PETER HEW CURAMENG
Provincial DOH Team Leader
LAC Member




MS. JENNIFER V. RABANG
President/PAMET Palawan Chapter
LAC Member



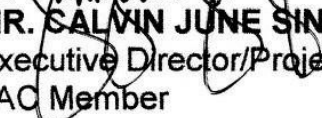
MS. MARVI TRUDEAU
Program Manager, PSFI
LAC Member



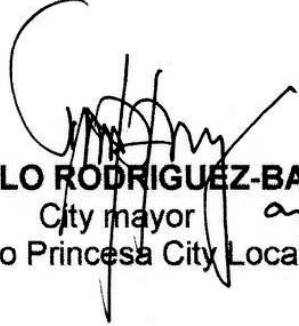
ROBERTO MORALES JR.
Asst. Regional Coordinator
Representative for SCP
LAC Member



MR. MARCUS SWANEPOEL
Deputy Director, Roots of Health
LAC Member



MR. CALVIN JUNE SINTOY
Executive Director/Project H4
LAC Member



HON. LUCILO RODRIGUEZ-BAYRON
City mayor *ar*
Chairperson, Puerto Princesa City Local AIDS Council