

AIDS Foundation

OF CHICAGO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2009

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DEVOTED CASE MANAGER AND ACCOMPLISHED DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES JOIN STAFF AT AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO

Experienced Service Providers Ready to Help in New Year of Change

CHICAGO – The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) is pleased to announce the hiring of Alicia Bunton as its new Director of Care Programs and Quality Improvement, and Melanie Paul as its Supportive Housing Program Coordinator.

“We’re extremely excited to have these two talented people on board with us this year,” said Art Bendixen, Vice President of Programs and Partnerships at AFC. “It’s great to have Alicia, a former director of care services lead us in coordinating our Ryan White case management system. Melanie is a wonderful advocate, and she brings a wealth of case management experience to her role in overseeing our supportive housing programs.”

In her new role, Alicia Bunton will supervise AFC’s case management efforts, most significantly in treatment coordination and medical case management. She is looking forward to advancing the care of those severely affected by HIV/AIDS in Chicago.

Alicia Bunton comes to AFC from Jackson Park Hospital, a 326 bed acute short-term care facility and ambulatory center in Chicago’s South Shore community, where she was the HIV/STD and School Based Health Director. Bunton has been a direct service provider for people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as an administrator overseeing HIV prevention, care, and education programs since 1997. Her most recent success is piloting an intergenerational HIV prevention program for African-American women through their lifespan, funded by the Office of Women’s Health.

Alicia’s history with community planning began with the Chicago Area HIV/AIDS Services Planning Council. She served as its first female chair and subsequently chaired that group’s Priority Setting Committee for three years. She was then elected Community Co-Chair of the Chicago HIV Prevention Planning Group, becoming the first female to have chaired both the HIV Care and Prevention Planning Groups in the city of Chicago. Under her leadership, the integration of Hepatitis C education and prevention became an un-funded mandate for all HIV prevention grantees. Bunton has also served on numerous local and national planning bodies as well as serve on the national board for The AIDS Institute.

Recognizing that HIV prevention and care are intrinsically linked, Alicia created the HIV Prevention and Care Workgroup in collaboration between both aforementioned planning bodies and other key stakeholders. On the national level, Alicia chaired the Public Policy Committee for the Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services - a coalition of directly funded jurisdictions by the CDC - for two years.

Alicia received her undergraduate degrees in English and Communication Arts from Villanova University. She completed her graduate studies at University of Illinois in Communication Arts. Alicia is a trainer of trainers for HIV Counseling & Testing and Partner Counselor Referral Services recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As the Supportive Housing Coordinator, Melanie will oversee and work with service groups providing housing, specifically for formerly incarcerated men. She hopes to expand these efforts to include funding for formerly-incarcerated women in need of housing as well.

Melanie Paul comes to AFC after working ten years with the Christian Community Health Center (CCHC), a Federally Qualified Health Center and multi-pronged social service agency on the south side of Chicago. Initially drawn to HIV/AIDS advocacy and care as a result of her own diagnosis, Paul came to the Health Center as a patient and then decided to get involved as a volunteer. She then grew into a Peer Coordinator, working with other patients in making sure they were able to access the services they needed without difficulty.

Ultimately, Paul rose to the position of Housing Case Manager of CCHC, where she gained recognition in working with the Chicago Housing for Health Partnership (CHHP) to present their research study – the first study in the nation to evaluate whether providing stable housing and intensive case management services to chronically ill homeless individuals improves their health and health service utilization - at three national conferences.

Melanie has served on the Chicago Area HIV/AIDS Services Planning Council for five years and is a frequent participant in AIDS Watch, the annual constituent-based Federal HIV/AIDS advocacy and education event in D.C.

Founded in 1985 by community activists and physicians, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is a catalyst for local, national, and international action on HIV/AIDS.

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