



Hiv-Norden - Samarbetsorganet för de Nordiska paraplyorganisationerna för personer som lever med hiv
HIV-Nordic - The co-operative body of the Nordic umbrella-organisations for people living with HIV

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Minutes Board Meeting, HIV-Nordic, 5th May 2021, Online. 15.00-17.45 UTC+1

Present:

Nonni Mäkikärki, HivFinland
Sini Pasanen, HivFinland
Emanuel Karlstrøm Hiv-Sverige
Simon Blom, Hiv-Sverige
Bente Bendiksen, HivNorge
Anni Mattinen, HivFinland

Abscent:

Helge Kvam, Hiv-Danmark
Michael Ovesen, Hiv-Danmark
Guri Fløttum, HivNorge
Einar Jonsson, HIV-Island
Svavar Jonsson, HIV-Island

1.21 Opening, election of meeting secretary and chair

Chair of meeting – Emanuel Karlstrøm Hiv-Sverige
Secretary of meeting – Bente Bendiksen, HivNorge
Opened and elected.

2.21 Approval of Agenda

Approved

3.21 Review and approval of the minutes from last Board Meeting

Medlemsorganisationer/Member organisations:

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Approved

4.21 Orientation from the Nordic Countries

Updates from Hiv-Sweden

- Hiv-Sweden held its annual meeting on the 24th of April. The meeting resulted in a new chair, Stina stepped down after 9 years as chair of Hiv-Sverige. New chair is Elisabeth Flodin.
- We have participated in a joint meeting and a reference group created by Folkhälsomyndigheten/Public Health Agency of Sweden earlier this year. The group is tasked to collaborate and contribute with insights/questions for an upcoming survey on the theme Living with hiv in Sweden 2021.
- Discussions with the Fast Track Cities initiative have also begun, in an effort to collaborate. We have also worked on consultation responses for a report together with The Swedish Disability Rights Federation with a focus on equal dental health for people living with hiv.
- On a political/lobbying level we have had meetings with several MPs and parties to push a number of questions. One of these questions is the obligation to inform of hiv status on a judicial level. As stipulated by the law in the Communicable Disease Act it is still not allowed to, for instance, have sex without informing. However, the practical guidelines and the precedent in the courts have already changed and doctors can give patients the go ahead and release people living with hiv with the obligation to inform. It's been a year since the Social Affairs Committee instructed the government to investigate and review the Communicable Disease Act but nothing has happened. We have also met with the Minister of Social Affairs to highlight the lack of process. Other questions we have raised with politicians is the unfair practice of mothers with hiv having to bear the cost of infant formula, since breastfeeding is forbidden, and access and availability of peer-support for people living with hiv. We have also questioned politicians on the regional differences and the lack of earmarked regional hiv funding due to the changes implemented in 2018. Some regions fund hiv related programs/projects and organisations, some not, which creates inequality within the country. This needs to be addressed.
- All of these issues are also part of our new three year plan which outlines our main focal points in the coming years.

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- We have yet to receive data on the number of new hiv infections for 2020 and The Public Health Agency has not announced official statistics, which normally by this time of the year is available.
- A new website is in the pipeline, discussions are ongoing in how to develop and what to include.

Updates from HivNorway

- Annual meeting was held on March 18. A new political strategy and work program for 2021-2023 was adopted. Some of the focus areas are:
 - patient involvement (both in prevention work, HIV treatment, as well as other health care services for people living with HIV or at risk for HIV),
 - advocacy and raise awareness on subjects important to people living with HIV,
 - increased focus on certain target groups and subjects (MSM immigrants, chemsex users, mental health, aging with HIV).
 - increased accessibility in more languages
 - activities for people living with HIV or at risk for HIV.
 - international work (right based)
- Resolution to support the drug reform - We believe that one should go away from punitive action for use and possession to own use of drugs in Norway and instead meet this with support, treatment, and follow-up.
- New board members, and Leif-Ove Hansen is back as Chair.
- Theme evenings on the quality register and latest treatment.
- Injectable HIV treatment was approved in Norway, to a small group of PLWH; people who for different reasons find it challenging to adhere to the daily pill regime.
- HivNorway wish to increase the legal advisory service to people living with HIV, who for reasons like stigma, self-stigma or other reasons related to HIV do not get this support elsewhere. We have advertised for a part time position for a legal advisor.

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Update from Finland

- Due to the global pandemic, Positiiviset, HivFinland has been partly closed since end of October. From the beginning of 2021 we have been working from the office as well, and members have been able to come visit the office for discussions and support. Peer support has been provided both online and in physical meetings.
- ChemSex project is coming to an end as Positiiviset didn't get additional funding for continuation of the project. Although the coordinator's workcontract ended at the end of February, the project will still publish some articles.
- Spring annual meeting was arranged on 14th of April as a hybrid meeting with seven people in our premises and nine online.
- Some virtual meetings have been arranged, like a meeting for women with a doctor and a nurse. But it is obvious that people are tired of meeting virtually and they want to have "traditional meetings". Three Positive Psychology related meaningful photography workshops were arranged as hybrid meetings with 11 participants.
- Positiiviset is working on a visual storytelling video for our Day of Hope on 4th of June. The topic is HIV treatment over the past 25 years, and we will continue with the same theme on PRIDE and in our World AIDS Day magazine.
- 57 new HIV-diagnoses have been reported by May 2, 2021. In 2020 totally 136 cases were reported.

5.21 Economics

This point is postponed to the next Board Meeting, due to no of the new members attending this Board Meeting.

6.21 Brief overview of the annual meeting

This point is postponed to the next Board Meeting, due to no of the new members attending this Board Meeting.

7.21 HIV and Covid-19 project

NVC have funded the HIV-Nordic HIV and Covid-19 project with 100.000 SEK. The project will elaborate the findings from the Treatment Survey, through meetings and focus group meetings (virtual or in person or combined). Covid-experiences will be addressed in these groups and meeting.

Anni Mattinen from HivFinland is coordinating the work and report of this project.

On May 19th, at 11.00 (Sweden/Norway/Denmark), 9.00 (Iceland) the board of HIV-Nordic will plan the project further, together with the coordinator.

8.21 Other subjects - Update web, suggestions

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Suggestions: Publish the country updates on the website.
Updating on the work of HIV-Nordic

9.21 Unsolved queries, Q&A, next meeting

Next meeting is 19th May, at 10.00 UTC+1

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