
Presidential Advisory Council on **HIV/AIDS**



May 9, 2017

The Honorable Thomas Price, MD
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Price:

As a follow-up to our letter of March 30, 2017, outlining our view of the priorities for continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS, the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) submits the attached recommendations for combatting HIV-related stigma, a primary driver of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States.

In recent years, inroads have been made in reducing the number of people who are unaware of their HIV-positive status and in expanding the number of people living with HIV who are engaged in care and receiving successful treatment. Nonetheless, 1 in 7 people with HIV remain unaware they are living with the disease, and only about 40% of people living with HIV in the U.S. have reached viral suppression¹—a health status that makes it virtually impossible for onward transmission to occur. In public health circles, it is now widely agreed that HIV-related stigmas—along with other social determinants of health—are at the very root of these less than stellar numbers, because they create barriers to testing and engagement in care.

With this in mind, the Disparities Committee of the PACHA convened a two-day summit in Fall 2016, bringing together people living with HIV, their advocates, public health professionals, healthcare providers, researchers, and government partners to discuss additional ways in which the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) could address HIV-related stigma in this country. The preliminary recommendations made by those attending this “HIV Stigma Reduction Summit” were then reviewed and revised by the Disparities Committee and adopted (in their current form) by the full PACHA at its most recent meeting. We hope the

¹ CDC, HIV Surveillance Report, Supplemental Report (Vol. 21, No. 4), “Monitoring Selected National HIV Prevention and Care Objectives by Using HIV Surveillance Data, U.S. and Six Dependent Areas, 2014,” available at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-supplemental-report-vol-21-4.pdf> (last viewed Mar. 28, 2017).

Administration will take these recommendations into account as it develops its policies and priorities related to advancing its goals on this critical public health issue.

If you have any questions about these recommendations or the recommendations made in the letter previously sent by the PACHA, the members of this body stand at the ready to answer those questions and assist in the fight against HIV/AIDS in this country in any way we can.

Respectfully submitted,



Darrell P. Wheeler, Ph.D.
Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

Enclosure

cc: Don Wright, MD, MPH, Acting Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services