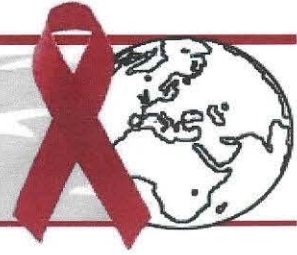

Presidential Advisory Council on **HIV/AIDS**



September 23, 2015

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

Dear Madame Secretary:

Congratulations to the Administration on the recent release of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS): Updated to 2020 (“Updated Strategy”). The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) is excited and energized by the Updated Strategy and the goals it establishes to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the federal, state, and community levels.

During a joint PACHA subcommittee meeting led by Access to Care subcommittee co-chair Vignetta Charles, PhD and Disparities subcommittee co-chair, Scott Schoettes, JD, committee members agreed that meaningful progress toward the goals of the Updated Strategy will require a concerted and coordinated effort from a broad and diverse set of stakeholders and must address the social determinants of health that drive the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The PACHA voted in favor of this recommendation during the 57th Full Council meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

On behalf of PACHA, I am writing to respectfully request that all federal agencies identified in the Executive Order that accompanied the release of the Updated Strategy adopt a social determinants of health framework as they finalize the development of their respective NHAS-related federal implementation plans. The PACHA maintains that this exercise will maximize our progress against the goals of the Updated Strategy.

While both the importance of the social determinants of health and the need for a coordinated effort from the federal government are underscored in the Updated Strategy, we request that the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) explicitly link these two concepts together for the federal agencies identified in the Executive Order. The social determinants of health framework developed by the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention, based on the conceptual framework developed by the World Health Organization, is an example of the type of framework PACHA is contemplating.

I look forward to working with you, the Department, and ONAP to reach the shared goals of the Updated Strategy by ensuring we address the social determinants of health through the federal implementation plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Mahon".

Nancy Mahon, JD
Chair

Enclosure

CC:

Douglas Brooks, MSW, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy

Anne Reid, MPH, Counselor, Science and Public Health

Karen DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc, Acting Assistant Secretary for Health

Ronald Valdiserri, MD, MPH, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Infectious Diseases