

Iris House's 10th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit

NAME AND TITLE OF PRESENTER AND ORGANIZATION:

Asha Molock, PWN-USA-Philadelphia, Moderator; Olivia Ford, Communications Director, PWN-USA; Additional Panelists TBA (Total Presenters: 4)

CATEGORY: *Workshop Presentation*; TRACK: *Our Voices*

I. TITLE: *Nothing About Us Without Us: An Introduction to Advocacy by and for Women Living with HIV*

II. OBJECTIVE:

On the federal level, HIV care and services for women with HIV continue to come under attack, as evidenced by the President's FY2016 budget proposing the elimination of Ryan White Part D – which funds services tailored for women, youth, and families – for the second year in a row. Further, the voices of women advocates living with HIV persist in being marginalized in the realm of HIV advocacy. What can WLHIV do to amplify their voices? Build collective power!

The purpose of this workshop is to demonstrate the vital importance of advocacy networks of people living with HIV, and specifically women living with HIV (WLHIV). The moderator and panelists represent rich histories of HIV advocacy both as individuals and in coalition with other advocates or organizations. Panelists will share experiences, techniques, and models for building this collective power and advocacy capacity among women living with HIV. Participants will be introduced to the advocacy approaches employed by Positive Women's Network – USA, the premier voice of women leaders with HIV in the US, as well as several other organized advocacy efforts involving WLHIV in the US.

III. METHODS:

This discussion- and panel-based workshop will employ a combination of lecture and participatory formats. A PowerPoint presentation will aid in detailing what participants need to know, in clear and accessible language. Panelists will discuss moderator questions, and encourage attendees to share experiences. Attendees will receive handouts detailing workshop highlights and where to get more information, toolkits, and support for their advocacy activities.

IV. RESULTS:

Panelists and participants will explore, and concretely respond to, questions including but not limited to the following: *What is policy advocacy? What are some ways to get involved? What resources do you use to stay informed? What strategic role can storytelling play in advocacy by and for WLHIV? What does meaningful involvement of WLHIV look like, and what does it take to get there? Do you have to disclose your HIV status to be a leader? What resources are available for WLHIV who are seeking to build their advocacy and leadership capacity?*

V. CONCLUSIONS:

Participants will leave the workshop with increased knowledge of existing HIV advocacy by and for WLHIV at the national and regional level. Participants will leave armed with additional tools to begin or step up their engagement as advocates for change.