Dear Colleague:

Please consider submitting a presentation proposal for our 28th Annual National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS, to be held in the beautiful city of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Join the two of us and over 500 other HIV/AIDS social workers for this event. Our 28th conference will be the last one organized by Boston College and will mark the retirement of Dr. Vince Lynch, who founded our Annual Conference in 1988 and has organized all of them to date. During the 2016 conference we will transition the conference leadership from Vince and his team at Boston College to Dr. Rusty Bennett and his team at Collaborative Solutions, Inc. We will address many aspects of this transition during the 2016 event.

There will be over 125 presentations to be delivered in Minneapolis that will address all areas of contemporary HIV/AIDS social work practice. We will also put forth a strategy that envisions our professional HIV social work identity as champions for HIV care. Sessions will begin at 5:00 PM on Thursday, May 26 and conclude at 1:15 PM on Sunday, May 29. There will be several informal “meet and greet” receptions and social gatherings during all four days. We will once again offer our very popular 12-hour Medical Case Management (MCM) Institute. Many contributions to the 2016 Conference will be made by members of the Professional Association of Social Workers in HIV/AIDS (PASWHA). A special thanks to all our loyal PASWHA contributors!

Complete information about submitting your proposal is contained in this flier. Respond soon since presentation opportunities are limited. Also, learn how you can save significantly with our “$200 Early-Bird Registration Fee” if you register by January 25, 2016 (regardless of whether you plan to be a presenter or a general attendee). Hope to see you in Minneapolis!

Vincent J. Lynch, Ph.D., LICSW
Conference Founder and Chair

Russell L. “Rusty” Bennett, Ph.D., LGSW
Conference Co-chair
We welcome presentations that address all aspects of HIV-social work practice. Please Read Carefully All Proposal Preparation Information Below:

All proposals must contain:

**FIRST:**
A brief title.

**SECOND:**
A concise summary of proposed content (word lengths outlined below).

**THIRD:**
The name(s), degree(s) and institutional affiliation(s) for all contributor(s), including city and state. In the case of multiple contributors, provide the e-mail address of one person with whom we should correspond.

**FOURTH:**
Designation of one presentation category (selected from those below) for which you’d like your proposal considered.

Presentation categories include:

**“90-Minute Poster Session”** (moderately competitive category). Posters are a way to informally describe innovative programs and services both visually and verbally. Up to forty posters/presenters will be assigned to one meeting room with presenters standing next to their 24” X 36” mounted posters. Your poster will be tacked to a large corkboard for display purposes. You will share the poster board with one other poster presenter. The poster should contain your title and contact information as well as talking points and graphics related to the topic. Presenters informally discuss their topic with those who visit their poster station. Posters will be scheduled on Thursday from 5:00-6:30 PM. Your proposal summary in this category should not exceed 300 words.

**“75-Minute Individual Workshops”** (most competitive category). These are intended to be in-depth presentations on varied topics from direct practice, education, research, or policy. Of special interest will be presentations that incorporate the theme of the conference. A limited number of slots are available in this category so please submit your proposal early. Up to five of these sessions will be offered concurrently during 75-minute periods on Friday and Saturday. Please indicate whether your presentation will be geared to a beginning, intermediate or advanced audience. PowerPoint may be used in these sessions if so desired. We will provide a laptop computer, LCD projector and screen and flip chart/markers. Your proposal summary in this category should not exceed 350 words.

**“50-Minute “Conversations on Best Practices”** (next competitive category). Presenters in this category will facilitate the informal discussion of a vignette from their practice that illustrates some thorny problem. Vignettes can be drawn from work with a client, a resource issue, an ethical dilemma, an administrative problem encountered or perhaps a supervisory issue. You should provide a 10-minute overview of the vignette, raise 2-3 questions for consideration and then facilitate a discussion whereby those present can develop a “best practices” solution. Five to six presentations in this category will be offered concurrently during 50-minute sessions. All presentations in this category will be scheduled on Sunday morning. These sessions should be informal and conversational in nature. No AV equipment is to be used. Your proposal summary in this category should not exceed 250 words.

**“20-Minute Brief Reports”** (least competitive category). This category is designed for those who have a brief announcement or other HIV/AIDS-related item of interest they wish to share with attendees. There will be three of these reports scheduled during 75-minute sessions on Friday and Saturday. No AV equipment is to be used. Your proposal summary for this category should not exceed 200 words.

**IMPORTANT:** The deadline for receipt of all submissions is December 4, 2015. Decisions will be made on a “rolling basis” so it is highly advantageous to submit proposals as soon as possible since space is very limited in all categories. In most cases you will receive a decision by e-mail within ten business days. Those proposals accepted by November 30 will be listed in our January registration flier.

Please send your e-mail submission as a “Microsoft Word” file attachment (.doc) to Vincent Lynch at lynchv@bc.edu

**“Early-Bird” Registration Fee Information:** All who register by January 25, 2016 pay only $200, our best value for all attendees. After that date, the general registration fee will be $300 and presenters will pay $275. The discounted fee for PASWHA members after January 25 will be $250. Students may register at $200 at any time. A limited number of registration fee waivers are available for students who wish to serve as volunteers. Contact us as soon as possible if interested in this student volunteer opportunity.
THE CONFERENCE WILL BEGIN AT 5:00 PM ON THURSDAY MAY 26 AND WILL CONCLUDE AT 1:15 PM ON SUNDAY MAY 29.

Conference Schedule at-a-Glance:
Thursday May 26:
(a) 2:00 - 8:00 Conference Registration Desk Open
(b) 3:00 - 8:00 Exhibits Open
(c) 5:00 - 6:30 Poster Session
(d) 6:45 - 9:30 Opening General Session and Reception

Friday May 27:
(a) 8:15 - 9:45 The PASWHA General Session
(b) 8:15 - 6:00 Exhibits Open
(c) 10:00- 6:30 Concurrent “75-min. Presentations;” “Brief Reports;” “MCM Institute”

Saturday May 28:
(a) 8:30 - 6:15 Concurrent “75-min. Presentations;” “Brief Reports;” “MCM Institute”
(b) 8:30 - 6:00 Exhibits Open

Sunday May 29:
(a) 8:30 -12:20 Concurrent 50-minute “Conversations on Best Practices”
(b) 12:30 - 1:15 Closing Plenary Session

Medical Case Management Institute: We plan to again offer this popular 12-hour intensive training on medical case management during Friday and Saturday. Pre-registration is required (see registration form). Please note: by registering for the Institute you will not be able to attend most of Friday’s or Saturday’s other sessions. Sample content: Ryan White Program Issues, Care Planning, Crisis Management, Ethical Issues, Motivational Interviewing, Risk Reduction. Institute Director: Melinda Marasch, LCSW, Aspire Training & Consulting, Denver, CO.

Information for Exhibitors/Sponsors: Our exhibit area will be open during Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Please consider reserving an exhibit table. It’s a great and affordable way to reach over 500 AIDS-care social workers from all across the country. You can successfully promote your services, sell your product or widely disseminate your organization’s message. For your exhibitor fee ($550 non-profits / $800 for-profits) you’ll receive table space to display your materials and also one conference registration. For more information about exhibits as well as opportunities such as sponsored lunches, receptions, etc. e-mail: lynchv@bc.edu We hope to hear from you!

Continuing Education Credits: Attendees receive a Certificate of Attendance and 25.5 social work continuing education credits from Boston College School of Social Work.

Hotel Information: All conference events will be held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. This hotel is in the heart of downtown. We can offer attendees a special guest room rate of $145 per night (single or double occupancy). The hotel’s address is 1300 Nicollet Mall. Please call Hyatt Reservations toll-free at 888.421.1442 to make your reservations. Request the National Social Work AIDS Conference Rate of $145 per night, single or double occupancy. Reserve Soon! Since Space is Very Limited at this Special Conference Attendee Discount Rate! When guest rooms at this special rate are sold out, the hotel’s prevailing rates at the time of reservation will apply.

General Questions: Contact Dr. Vincent Lynch at lynchv@bc.edu or 617.552.4038.