

Positive Resource Center (PRC) and Baker Places (BP) Announce Merger; PRC and AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) Explore Partnership

Consolidations to Provide Greater Access to Continuum of Services for 5,000+ Clients

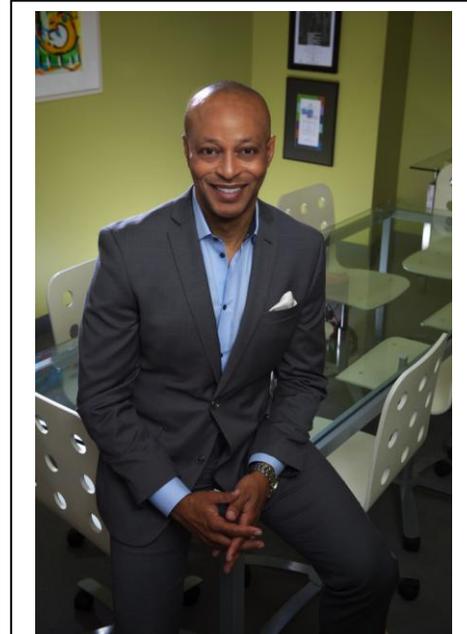
SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (June 21, 2016) – [Positive Resource Center](#) (PRC), a San Francisco-based nonprofit whose mission is to assist people living with HIV/AIDS or mental health disabilities, today announced its agreement to combine with local nonprofit [Baker Places](#) (BP), which provides a comprehensive array of residential treatment services to people with mental health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS-related issues. PRC also announced that it is exploring a deeper collaboration with [AIDS Emergency Fund](#) (AEF), an emergency financial assistance provider for low-income residents disabled by HIV/AIDS, which could also result in a merger of AEF and PRC. The boards of BP and PRC unanimously approved the combinations. The closing of the combination between PRC and BP is subject to customary closing conditions, including notice and consent requirements under applicable regulations. With a combined 115-year history of service, approximately 5,000 clients would benefit directly from these consolidations by bringing multiple, like-minded services “under one roof” and placing clients’ needs front and center.

Following the combinations, the PRC, BP and AEF operations would conduct business as Positive Resource Center and would have an aggregate annual budget of \$20 million. Brett Andrews, PRC’s current executive director, would be CEO of the consolidated organization.

“Combining three like-minded nonprofits such as these represents the next logical step in PRC’s organizational growth and development,” said Andrews. “This expansion will allow us to provide a continuum of services so people have one-stop access to everything they need.”

After October 31, BP’s executive director, Jonathan Vernick, who worked with the organization for 33 years, will transition from his current role to become a special advisor to the new PRC.

Eighty-five percent of BP clients were either homeless or recently homeless prior to receiving the organization’s services. Vernick is confident this merger will provide these clients with a comprehensive array of mental health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS-related services. “Since 1969, Baker Places has dedicated itself to helping people learn and regain the skills they need to live their lives fully and productively,” said Vernick. “Just as Baker Places has done for the last 52 years, I’m looking forward to working with PRC as we align these services to better reflect our clients’ needs.”



Brett Andrews, Positive Resource Center’s executive director, would become CEO of the newly consolidated organization.
(Photo courtesy of Terrence McCarthy)

Sandra Nathan, who joined AEF and Breast Cancer Emergency Fund (BCEF) last September to lead both organizations through a strategic planning and restructuring process, will transition from her role as executive director when the pending merger is complete. BCEF, with a separate 501c3 status, serves a distinct and targeted population and will remain an independent entity.



(L to R): Sandra Nathan, executive director of AIDS Emergency Fund;
Brett Andrews, executive director of Positive Resource Center;
Jonathan Vernick, executive director of Baker Places, Inc.
(Photo courtesy of Terrence McCarthy)

“In 1982, a group of San Franciscans came together to pay bills for their friends that were too ill to work due to HIV/AIDS. 34 years later, the AIDS Emergency Fund continues to provide financial assistance to more than 2,000 low-income residents disabled by HIV/AIDS,” said Nathan. “This proposed merger will provide even greater financial assistance by increasing the availability of services that are still in demand.”

BCEF Board Chair Heather Renshaw said the organization feels it is vital to its mission to continue as a standalone organization at this time. “We’re very

excited for AEF to better serve its clients through a potential merger with PRC,” she said. “Our focus at BCEF will be to continue to raise funds that directly help low-income women maintain medical care and basic living expenses when they’re too sick to work. Furthermore, we’re going to more deeply engage our donors, funders and other key stakeholders to take our compassionate service model to the next level of growth.”

The organization will have a combined staff of approximately 250 employees as a result of the merger. Although the buildings which are part of each organization will remain in operation, the headquarters of the new PRC will remain at 785 Market St. in San Francisco.

Since the programs offered by the three organizations are fully complementary, no program overlap exists. Under the new PRC, donors can designate which program their gifts support. Volunteers can support activities that offer easier access to a comprehensive array of services for people with myriad disabilities and chronic conditions. Volunteers can still elect a specific program with which to assist.

Quotes:

Positive Resource Center—Board President, David Stith

“Responding to the ever-changing needs of our community, this is the right time for Positive Resource Center to align itself with two sister organizations that are fully complementary.”

Baker Places – Board President, Nick Lederer

“Since all three organizations serve the same target population, joint responsibility will be shared to promote advocacy efforts. Baker Places, Positive Resource Center and AIDS Emergency Fund have always partnered on community events, so this merger speaks to their close and ongoing collaborative efforts.”

AIDS Emergency Fund – Board President, Scott Williams

“The clients of AIDS Emergency Fund will be better served within the framework of the new Positive Resource Center which will also provide access to critical services like intensive case management assistance and workforce training.”

San Francisco Mayor – Ed Lee

“Improving the delivery of care and services that helps those with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and residents with other conditions is one of our City’s highest priorities. These three non-profits offer a combined service history of nearly 115 years, and this integration will create efficiencies to help our most in need.”

San Francisco Board of Supervisors – President, London Breed

“All three organizations are committed to serving the community, especially those living with HIV/AIDS and other serious health conditions. This merger will facilitate an integrated, comprehensive healthcare approach to minimize any additional stress from paying medical bills or finding housing while getting treatment.”

San Francisco Department of Public Health – Director, Barbara Garcia

“Due to expanded health care options provided through the Affordable Care Act, many Departments of Public Health and health and human services nonprofits across the country are restructuring, with a priority focus on integration. This merger not only achieves this purpose, but it also brings together multiple services to meet the many needs of our community.”

For more information, please visit Positive Resource Center at www.positiveresource.org.

MEDIA PLEASE NOTE: To request an interview with Brett Andrews or other representatives, please contact David Cumpston at (415) 359-2316, Gus Nodal at (415) 359-2320 or prc@landispr.com.

ABOUT POSITIVE RESOURCE CENTER

The not-for-profit Positive Resource Center (PRC), established in 1987, is the only place in San Francisco for people living with HIV/AIDS or mental health disabilities to receive comprehensive benefits counseling and employment services. For more information, visit www.positiveresource.org.

ABOUT BAKER PLACES

Founded in 1964, Baker Places, Inc. (BP) is a nonprofit organization that provides a comprehensive array of high-quality services to people with mental health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS-related issues. Through a myriad of clinically-based residential treatment programs, BP assists individuals in learning and regaining the skills needed to live their lives fully and productively in the community. For more information, visit www.bakerplaces.org.

ABOUT AIDS EMERGENCY FUND

Established in 1982, AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) is a nonprofit organization that provides emergency financial assistance to more than 2,000 low-income San Francisco residents disabled by HIV/AIDS to cover basic human needs and stabilize their living situations. For more information, visit www.aef-sf.org.

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