



# Planning Council MEETING SUMMARY

**Wednesday, April 17, 2019 1:30 – 3:00PM**  
 Willing Heart Community Center  
 555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102

Present	Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
1. Janice Adams-Jarrels 2. Kendall Clark 3. Cezar Dumago 4. Wanda Figueroa, MD 5. Juanita Howell 6. Elizabeth Kocot 7. Joann McEniry 8. Patricia Moore 9. Aliya Onque 10. Dominga Padilla, MD 11. Warren Poole 12. Mario Portilla 13. Sharon Postel 14. Providencia Rodriguez 15. Ricardo Salcido 16. Calvin Toler	17. Ketlen Alsbrook 18. Ann Bagchi, PhD 19. Dr. Robert Johnson 20. Walter Okovanyanwn, MD	21. Wali Bradley 22. Natalie Brown-Muhammad 23. Rev. Don Ramson 24. Rev. Joseph Vereen

**1. Welcome & Moment of Silence**

Joann McEniry, Vice Chair of the Planning Council, welcomed all attendees and called for a moment of silence for those who have passed and those living with HIV/AIDS.

**2. Roll Call**

Cezar Dumago, Planning Council Secretary conducted the roll call for this meeting. Quorum was established for the meeting.

**3. Public Testimony**

There was no public testimony at this meeting.

**4. Approval of the Meeting Summary from March 20, 2019**

Joann McEniry called for a motion to approve the meeting summary from March 20, 2019. Beth motioned to approve. Warren Poole seconded. Ricardo Salcido and Janice Adams-Jarrells abstained. The motion was passed, and the meeting summary was approved with edits.

**5. Report from the Recipient**

Aliya Onque provided a report for the Recipient. She reported that the recipient is working on FY2018 closeouts. Only three programs remain, which upon completion, will go into the sweeps process. At this time, programs requesting additional funds should contact their Program Monitor. The recipient is working on assignments from the April CPC meeting for the Core Service Waiver. In preparation for the CPC May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the recipient will send a representative to all CAB meetings to collect survey data from now until May 8<sup>th</sup>. For FY'19, 100% of contracts have been adopted, 18 have been executed, and 18 are in execution phase. Programs can start submitting requests for reimbursement from March and expect to be reimbursed timely. FY'19 awards were sent out on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. Standing Committee Updates**

### **- COC: Mario Portilla**

Mario Portilla, COC Chair provided the report for the COC committee. The last COC meeting was held on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Several affairs took place at this meeting. The meeting summary from the previous month was approved with edits. Ms. Richlyn Burnham was elected as the new Vice-Chair. The COC FY'19 Committee Calendar was presented to the committee. The COC committee prioritized the Health Standards in order to be reviewed. Oral health barriers to care were discussed. Ms. Nancy Scangarello announced that St. Michael's contracted a private dental service which is giving them good results. The Newark Health Department has also initiated a new dental program. More information is required about their services. Rutgers services were reported to be user-unfriendly as reported by Ms. Morales from NJCRI. In her case she had a patient with acute pain. She was directed to the school of dental care. She was offered an appointment several weeks into the future. Mario Portilla and Ms. Morales will work together to navigate the process at Rutgers to ensure this issue does not arise again. The update to the Oral Health standards was initiated during the meeting. The review will be completed at the next meeting. The next COC meeting will be held on May 9, 2019.

A comment was made that the Rutgers Dental School is usually backed up for months at a time. Also, a suggestion was made to develop a list of all dental care providers in the area and for that to be shared with medical case managers as a referral resource. Another comment was made that the Rutgers Dental School is overloaded because they are one of the only dental providers that do not offer bundle services. Therefore, everyone who does not have bundle services is going to the Rutgers Dental School which may be a cause for the overload. The Department of Health and the Rutgers Dental School are having conversations about a possible collaboration to provide dental services for RW patients.

### **- CPC: Joann McEniry**

Joann McEniry, CPC Chair, provided the report for the CPC committee. The last CPC meeting was held on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. McEniry reported that the committee is preparing to start the resource allocation and priority setting process for FY'20. At the April meeting, the committee discussed the process from last year to review and re-orient members on how priority setting, and resource allocation is done every year. The committee then talked about how the process can be improved for this year. The committee also reviewed the existing service category definitions to ensure these align well with HRSA's definitions. The definitions align well, so those will be included on the report.

McEniry reported that the primary focus of the CPC meeting was the Core Service Waiver. Given the application deadline, the CPC is working on a tight timeline to submit the application post-grant application. So, at the May meeting, the CPC will develop a recommendation for FY'19 Core Service Waiver split – a resource allocation outside of the required 75/25. The recommended resource allocation will be sent to all in advance and presented for a vote at the Planning Council meeting in May. At the next CPC meeting, the team will be reviewing data in order to make funding recommendations for the next Planning Council meeting. The next CPC meeting will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

- **REC: Ann Bagchi, Ph. D**

Tania Guaman, Support Staff, provided the report for the REC committee. The last REC meeting was held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The REC committee reviewed its three questions for the needs assessment. The questions have a focus on mental health and substance abuse. The needs assessment will use CHAMP and survey data from last year. Sharon Postel, esq. shared a report of tables collected from last year from 246 consumer survey participants. Sharon Postel asked the REC committee to suggest possible cross-tabulations.

Presentation: Regional Needs Assessment – Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Chair of the HIV Advisory Council, presented the Tri-County (Morris, Sussex, Warren) needs assessment. Given that the gaps, barriers, needs, funding and resources are different in the tri-county than in Essex and Union counties, the Advisory Committee determined that it would complete its own needs assessment. There were 40 consumer surveys and 6 provider surveys completed. The question that the needs assessment aimed to address was “*How are case managers communicating information about mental health and behavioral risks to consumers?*”. The questions in the survey focused on barriers to care and to following through with referrals. In the survey, consumers and providers identified 1. Lack of transportation, and 2. Lack of health insurance as barriers to care. Consumers also identified Mental illness and Stigma as barriers, but consumers did not.

Additional findings of the survey included:

- consumers in the region place a large amount of trust in their MCM,
- Lack of referral to non-RW provider agencies.
- Providers are screening and assessing in line with or better than NEMA standards of care,
- Need for additional interagency collaboration and communication

- **CIA/CC: Warren Poole**

Warren Poole, Chair of the CIA committee provided a report for the CIA. The last CIA meeting was held on March 27, 2019. CIA members participated in a three-phase workshop series. Phase I was in February, Phase 2 was held in March, and phase 3 was held in April.

At the April meeting, consumers were asked to think and share some of the challenges that may prevent them from managing their HIV condition adequately. Some of the issues mentioned during the discussion included: utility assistance that runs out quickly, stigma from medical providers, legal counseling rights for PLWHA, nutrition services, transportation to and from medical appointments, and the rising costs of housing in the Newark area.

Mr. Warren Poole also distributed a survey to participants which asked attendees to rank support and core services from extremely important to least important. Of the core medical services, the majority of respondents rated AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance, AIDS Drug Assistance Program Treatments, and Outpatient/ Ambulatory Health services as extremely important.

Of the support services, the majority of respondents rated housing, legal services, emergency financial assistance, Food bank/home delivered meals, and referral for health care and support services as extremely important.

In the write-in question, consumers ranked the following additional categories as important in the top three priorities: housing, Drug Assistance Programs, Mental Health, transportation, oral healthcare, substance abuse, and health insurance & premium cost assistance. The full survey report was shared with members for review.

## **7. State & National Updates**

### **- Report from NJ HIV Planning Group**

The Taskforce continues to solicit input from everyone, including but not limited to providers and consumers. Support Staff shared the Taskforce's survey prior to this meeting via email. The Taskforce will use the surveys to develop strategies and objectives to address their three priority goals. As a reminder, the three priority goals are:

1. Reduce the rate of new HIV/AIDS infections by 75%;
2. Ensure that 100% of persons living with HIV/AIDS know their status; and
3. Ensure that 90% of persons living with HIV/AIDS are virally suppressed.

At the NJHPG, there was also a brief discussion about the Statewide Housing Collaborative, managed by the AIDS Resource Foundation for Children, and which has a new contact – Rene Sirelo. The initiative is looking to engage non-medical case managers as housing ambassadors. The Housing Collaborative is hosting webinars to outline this year's roadmap. One of the trainings was held on March 20 which focused on trauma-informed care resources with the goal to support stable housing. Upon completion of the webinars, participants receive certificates for their participation.

The NJHPG's Governance committee is looking for members in the following categories: youth, transgender, and IDUs. The Issues Committee is also supporting the ETE, which will provide a list of resources for technical assistance for the ETE planning.

There was a presentation held on a proposal from the NJDOH to implement a high-risk cluster approach. This approach would place an emphasis on agencies to reach out to high-risk patients and their partners who tested negative in the past to get retested. Through this approach, first the agency who served the patient would reach out but at a last resort, the NJDOH may reach out. This initiative was first introduced to the Issues Committee who provided feedback and recommendations. They recommended that the laws of HIV decriminalization and U=U be considered. Next, the initiative will be presented at the Gay's Man Committee meeting.

Two issues were brought up by PC members. Committee members stated that only positives information is collected as required by the State. Members also mention that consent forms provided by the state inform the patient that testing is confidential, unless they are HIV+.

- **Report from Governor's Advisory Council**

There was no report from the Governor's Advisory Council at this time.

**8. Planning Council Administrative Issues**

- **Report from Executive Committee**

Joann McEniry, Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee, reported for that the Executive Committee met immediately before the Planning Council meeting. McEniry also reported that the committee held a conference call to discuss the End the Epidemic Plan for the State of New Jersey. Due to the high numbers of PLWHA in our area, the Executive Committee recognizes that the Newark EMA should provide input to the NJ ETE. The conference call served as a strategic planning discussion of how NEMA can be represented and heard. At least three members of the Newark EMA are members of the NJ ETE Taskforce working on the plan. The committee is planning strategies to gather information to influence the plan on behalf of the Newark EMA.

- **Report from Treasurer**

o Pat Moore, Planning Council Treasurer, provided an update. The accounting of the final spending report for fiscal year 2018-2019 has been completed. A modification has been submitted to reflect actual spending and we are awaiting approval of this modification. United Way is waiting for approval of this modification. Due to personnel changes and therefore salary changes, plus a saving in the cost of the meeting space, we were able to absorb the extra expenses incurred for utilities, supplies and the Ryan White Conference. We will request a meeting with Dorian and Nia to discuss financial reporting for the fiscal year 2019-2020.

- **Report from PC Support Staff**

o Tania M. Guaman, PC Support Staff, provided an update. Tania reported that the candidate for the administrative assistant job accepted the offer from United Way of Greater Union County. The new Administrative Assistant will start on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**9. Old/New Business**

- **Core Service Waiver**

This agenda item was placed as a reminder that the Newark EMA is pursuing a Core Service Waiver. A one-pager document was shared with PC members which outlines the background of the policy and the requirements for the application. A consumer standard survey is being distributed to all CAB members to ensure that we gain consumer feedback and support from consumers from all counties of the Newark EMA.

**10. Announcements**

- Dr. Wanda Figueroa announced that the Department of Health is moving its Infectious Disease specialty clinic from 394 University Avenue to 110 William Street in Newark, NJ by the end of April.

Some weekend evening hours will be available. The Department of Health is also opening a dental clinic, PreP services are also being initiated in collaboration with PROCCEED. Dr. Figueroa also mentioned that her team is looking to hire a case manager as well as a nurse.

- Warren Poole announced that on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, St. Michael's will host a luncheon with education about treatments and methods to get rid of HIV-associated fat (visceral adiposity).
- Cezar Dumago informed meeting participants that during a COC meeting, a member's car was broken into so he advised all PC members to lock their cars.
- Cezar Dumago also announced that a CHW/navigator was hired – Cadeyine Robinson.
- Iris House is hosting its annual Women's AIDS Summit which will be held on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> in NYC. More information about the cost and breakout sessions is available on the flyer.
- Beth stated that Medicaid has announced a new program for people with addictions or substance abuse issues. The new services include peer-support and navigators, as well as bundle services with prescriptions without prior authorization. Newsletters were distributed to all members for additional details.
- As a part of the Rutgers Medical School Prevention Program, Dr. Zhang has leveraged Ryan White funding for opportunities for PreP and PeP services. There are no age limits. A PreP Counselor is available for referrals. Male and female reproductive services, and contraceptives services are also available through Title X, with an age limitation for people between 13-29 years of age. Contraceptive options include long-time and emergency contraception such as IUDs and implants. Through the 340B program, some of the devices may be provided free of charge. Other STD testing services are also available including syphilis, HIV testing & treatment. In addition to that, a mobile unit conducts testing. Individuals identified as high-risk are referred to the PreP Counselor.
- The NJ AIDS Walk will be held on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>; two of the walk locations are within the EMA including Newark and Morris County. Registration is free at [www.njaidswalk.org](http://www.njaidswalk.org). Everyone was encouraged to attend the walk.

#### **11. Next Meeting:**

The next Planning Council meeting will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 1:30PM at the Willing Heart Community Care Center, 555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102.

#### **12. Adjournment**

Joann McEniry called this meeting adjourned at 2:25PM.