



Community Involvement Activities MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, April 24th, 2019, at 5PM-7PM
Willing Heart Community Center
555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07103

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Warren Poole, Committee Chair, welcomed all in attendance a moment of silence was observed for all those living with and have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

2. Introductions

Warren Poole, CIA Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance to *Phase 3: Can We Talk?* community conversation series. He explained that the Can We Talk series was an opportunity for consumers to share their experience and concerns with receiving Ryan White funded services in the Newark EMA. He thanked every participating agency for responding to the email that was sent to all RW service providers in the Newark EMA.

3. Topic of discussion: Community Talk - Can we talk? – Phase Three

Representatives from Ryan White provider agencies and a representative from the Recipient's office participated in the forum. Each agency had the opportunity to speak about the services provided for clients. The meeting then opened up conversations about some of the challenges that arise when attempting to use services. Some conversations were held about how funding limitations exist for housing and transportation services. Consumers asked about the agencies policies in providing services to clients and how they can better access resources.

One of the main issues brought up by consumers was that they often do not know about the services provided by Ryan White unless they visit one of the agencies. Consumers asked about a resource they could use to find out about the services available, especially those which usually only last for a period of time. Agencies mentioned that services are promoted by agencies through flyers and community outreach.

Consumers also asked about how to better access transportation services. Consumers noted that too often transportation was a challenge especially when they have multiple appointments in one day. Agencies advised consumers that transportation services usually require advance notice and follow up to provide transportation. It was noted that if a consumer requesting transportation services did not meet the required timelines, the service would not be provided. Agencies stated that although case management supports consumers, some of the responsibility for follow up does rely on each consumer to ensure that the service is provided.

An emphasis was made for consumers to think about their needs and to seek options whether within the Ryan White funding system or outside of it. Representatives mentioned that PLWHA can qualify for many benefits beyond Ryan White services. One example listed was the rental and utility assistance for low-income families provided by La Casa de Don Pedro. Some of the consumers in the room had actually used that support service. Such example was used to explain the importance of searching for support services even outside of the Ryan White network.

4. **Announcements**

Newly diagnosed individuals are invited to attend newly diagnosed classes at St. Michael's. All CIA members were encouraged to give their testimony at the Planning Council 1:30pm meeting taking place on May 15, 2019.

5. **Next Meeting**

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26th, 2019 at 5pm at the Willing Heart Community Center - 555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07103

6. **Adjournment**

This meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm