



# Planning Council

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:30 – 3:00PM**

Join this meeting from a computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://www.gotomeet.me/UWGUC/nemaplanningcouncil>

You can also dial in using your phone: (571) 317-3122 / Access Code: 620-819-925

Present	Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
1. Janice Adams-Jarrells	19. War Talley	22. Wali Bradley
2. Ketlen Alsbrook (Recipient)	20. Calvin Toler	23. Jeremiah Cohen
3. Ann Bagchi, PhD	21. Sharon Postel (Non-Voting)	24. Debbie Morgan
4. Cezar Dumago (Secretary)		25. Rev. Don Ransom
5. Wanda Figueroa, MD		26. James Carrington
6. Juanita Howell		27. Natalie Brown-Muhammad
7. Dr. Robert L. Johnson (Chair)		28. Kendall Clark
8. Elizabeth Kocot		
9. Joann McEniry (Co-Chair)		
10. Patricia Moore (Treasurer)		
11. Vieshia Morales		
12. Aliya Onque (Non-Voting)		
13. Walter Okoroanyanwu, MD		
14. Dominga Padilla, MD		
15. Warren Poole		
16. Mario Portilla		
17. Providencia Rodriguez		
18. Ricardo Salcido		

**Guests:** Charla Cousar

**PC Support Staff:** Tania Guaman

**1. Welcome & Moment of Silence**

Dr. Johnson welcomed all attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:32PM. A moment of silence was observed for those affected, for those who have passed, and for those living with HIV/AIDS.

**2. Roll Call**

Dumago conducted the roll call for this meeting. Quorum was established.

**3. Public Testimony**

None at this time.

**4. Approval of the Meeting Summary from February 19, 2020**

At the previous meeting, the January meeting summary was approved with edits. The edits were made and the final summary was posted on the NEMA website.

The February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was sent electronically, and a hard copy was distributed for review. The summary was approved as presented. McEniry abstained.

## 5. Report from the Recipient

Alsbrook (Recipient) provided the following report:

- About 50% of contracts from FY 2019 are closed out.
- For FY 20 contracts, one quarter have been approved and are prepared to go forward, which happened later than expected. The delays in programs and various City of Newark departments, as well as the transition to working remotely or on staggered schedules as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis which significantly impacted key processes and procedures. The HRSA Project Officer is aware of this issue and is working with the Recipient to help move contracts forward.
- The CHAMP system has been updated to allow providers to bill for telehealth services including Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Medical Case Management, Non- Medical Case Management, and Medical Nutritional Therapy.
- Today, the Recipient's Office received the final Notice of Award for FY2020 – the Newark EMA was awarded \$7,498,452 in Formula Funding (60% of the total award, a 4% increase from FY 2019), supplemental award \$4,040,146 (32% of the total award, -\$822 from FY 2019), MAI component \$1,017,915 (8% of the total award, a decrease of 17% from FY 2019). Overall, the EMA received an award of an award total of \$12,556,513 (increase of \$52,088 from FY 2019).
- The Recipient also received an award notice for the Ryan White Part A agencies in support of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, for a total of \$544,685. These funds can be used for a wide range of allowable Ryan White activities including client education, screening, testing, laboratory services, purchase of PPE, implementation of telehealth services and a variety of other activities. The only prohibition is cash payments to clients. A HRSA webinar is scheduled for today to discuss what is covered under this additional funding. The Recipient will make an announcement to sub-recipients, then ask for a Request for Proposals for the project period of April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021 for the additional funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 6. Standing Committee Updates

- **COC: Mario Portilla** - Portilla provided the report. The Last COC meeting was held on April 9, 2020 and the following occurred:
  - o The COC finalized and approved the committee's Operating Policies and Procedures.
  - o A discussion was held about the reformatting process of the Newark EMA Service Standards. The committee requested clarification from the Recipient and the committee on the modifiable items of the Service Standards. The committee also requested collaboration tools that can facilitate the editing process.
  - o The Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services and the Medical Case Management Service Standards will be assigned to each member for review, then to present recommendations to the committee for final review.
  - o The COC workplan was reviewed, and the committee agreed that no presentations be scheduled so the committee can focus on the reformatting service standards with two exceptions. The first telemedicine best practices, and updates on COVID-19 as requested by members.
  - o The next COC meeting will be held on May 14, 2020 via GoToMeeting.
- **CPC: Joann McEniry** – McEniry reported that no meetings were held in March or April due to the COVID-19 health crisis. So the next CPC meeting will be held in May with a focus on the priority

setting and resource allocation process. The committee will review the policies for the process, the service category definitions, and the core service waiver discussion. The next CPC meeting will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM via GoToMeeting. All are encouraged to attend.

- **REC: Ann Bagchi, Ph.D.** – Dr. Bagchi provided the REC report. The 2020 Needs Assessment is moving along. Some of the consumer data has already been collected and the provider survey was sent out recently. There has been an issue getting responses since several places are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next REC meeting will be held on April 20, 2020 via GoToMeeting.
- **CIA/CC: Warren Poole** – Poole provided the report. The next CIA meeting will be held on April 22 via GoToMeeting. This will be an informal meeting to hear about how consumers are doing and to remember those lives who we've lost due to COVID-19.

**7. State & National Updates - *No meetings have been held due to COVID-19.***

- **Report from the NJ HIV Planning Group (n/a)**
- **Report from the Governor's Advisory Council (n/a)**
- **Report from the NJ Department of Health**

**8. Planning Council Administrative Issues**

- **Report from Executive Committee** – Dr. Johnson provided the Executive Committee Report. The Planning Council and committee meetings will continue to be held via videoconference in May and June. The committee was concerned that people from the public may not be able to participate but there has been a positive response, even for those in far geographic locations.
- **Report from Treasurer** – Moore provided the Treasurer's report. The NEMA Planning Council received a partial award for Fiscal Year 2020 in the amount of \$118,000 for six months. Utilities and space costs have been paid and we are within the budgeted amount. The new budget was approved by the Executive Committee in March and moved forward.
- **Report from PC Support Staff**  
The NEMA Planning Council website is up and running with the latest reports and documents from the Planning Council. All feedback is welcome.

**9. Old/New Business**

- **NEMA Planning Council Meeting Schedule - COVID-19 Updates** – meetings will continue to be held virtually and all of the meeting log-in information will be posted on the website.
- A Planning Council member raised the question of whether the Public Charge Rule is still into effect during this COVID-19 health crisis.
- Poole's comment that consumers are experiencing depressing as social distancing is in place was also noted. Therefore, more virtual activities were recommended to help maintain consumers engaged during this crisis.
- The City of Newark has established a collaboration with two hotels in the City of Newark to provide emergency shelter for people who test positive for COVID-19, and also for those who are presumed to be positive. One hotel will temporarily house individuals who cannot quarantine safely at home; for those who do not have a home, or for those who live in a congregate setting where isolation is not possible. The second hotel will be used to expand the City's shelter capacity. This

second hotel will serve as a temporary home for those individuals that have fully recovered from COVID-19 but do not have a home. This response will help to maintain the Mayor's shelter-at-home order, including those who do not have a stable home and help support individuals to obtain permanent housing options based on stimulus grants from ESG and HOPWA. There is no residence requirement to qualify, but individuals must be referred by a local hospital or FQHCs.

- The City of Newark received additional an \$850 HOPWA funding. A meeting with the County is schedule for today to discuss how those funds will be used.
- Planning Council Reflectiveness – not discussed

#### **10. Announcements**

Kocot shared that the State Medicaid Offices are open but operating with reduced staff and some individuals working from home. New policies have been established during the COVID-19 pandemic: 1) People are allowed to get 30 days in advance medication refills from the pharmacy, 2) Prior authorizations for PCA (partial care, mental health & out-of-state systems) are suspended, 3) The Medicaid Office reduced the paperwork requirements and will expedite cases with terminations scheduled for April so that cases don't get closed. These changes are applied at the state level for Medicaid and HMOs.

Telehealth is strongly encouraged for Medicaid patients for medical and mental health services, including partial care facilities and day treatment centers. The Essex County Medicaid Office can be reached at (973) 648 3700 with questions.

Dr. Okoroanyanwu congratulated Dr. Johnson for being the first to engage medical students in the COVID-19 response. Dr. Okoroanyanwu also announced the opening of his telehealth practice in Brooklyn, NY and offered his services to clients from all geographic areas.

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

The next Planning Council meeting will be held on May 20, 2020 at 1:30PM via GoToMeeting.

#### **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08PM.