



Community Involvement Activities Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

The Planning Council believes that the voice of the community is paramount. The purpose of the CIAs is to help bridge the gap between the community and service providers by creating opportunities to involve community members in the planning process. In addition, community members will receive crucial updates on changes in the Ryan White and related health/social services.

Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 5-7PM

<https://www.gotomeet.me/UWGUC/ciameeting>
(669) 224-3412 / Access Code: 669-287-333

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order 5:12 PM and welcomed all in attendance. A moment of silence was observed for all those living with, those who have passed, and those affected by HIV/AIDS and COVID-19.

11 Attendees were at the virtual meeting, including 2 PC Support Staff, 2 Planning Council members and 1 service provider representative.

2. Mission statement & Ground rules

Poole acknowledged the committee's mission statement. Poole explained that the Planning Council allocates Ryan White Part A funds for 5 counties in the EMA area and is interested in hearing from people affected by HIV/AIDS who do not work for a Ryan White funded agency. All attendees were encouraged to be part of the CIA Committee and Planning Council meetings.

3. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

4. Approval of the May 27th Meeting Summary

Committee members approved the May 27th meeting summary.

5. Ryan White Part A Updates

- a. The Needs Assessment – At the February meeting, CIA members worked in groups to create a community based on its priority Needs. Similarly, the 2020 Needs Assessment used CHAMP data, focus group data from the February CIA meeting, the survey from Part A agencies who provide housing services to help consumers maintain or obtain viral load suppression. Consumers were reminded that based on the priorities identified through that data, Housing was one of the main priorities noted by PLWHA – especially the fact that housing is related to health outcomes on viral load suppression and retention in care because when people have stable housing they are more likely to be retained in care. The plan to revamp the housing program in the Newark EMA was also mentioned because market rent in the area is high which can be difficult for an individual with a fixed income to afford the rent.

During the meeting, a consumer added that unstable housing makes it difficult for people to stay healthy specially if a person has mental issues or substance use.

6. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

7. New Business

- a. **Priority Setting and Resource Allocation** – Poole mentioned that every year the CIA makes Priority Setting recommendations to the Planning Council. Support Staff read the list of last year's priority setting ranking and the list was compared with the ranking from previous years. Support Staff restated that community feedback is shared with the Planning Council and will be used for the preparation of the 2021 Priority Setting and Resource Allocation report (March 2021 – February 2022). There are 16 services funded in the Newark EMA that need to be prioritized based on what categories need to be given priority to help PLWHA achieve and maintain viral load suppression.

Support Staff read the definition of the service categories as requested and throughout the priority setting ranking activity. Consumers were invited to help prioritize in ranking order the Newark EMA funded service categories.

One meeting attendee made the following recommendations:

1. *Housing* because studies show that people with stable housing acquire viral load suppression and are more likely to remain virally suppressed.
2. *Transportation* which is needed to maintain appointments and overall good health.
3. *Psychosocial services* because that allows people to talk in groups about certain issues they might be facing. These groups provide food/meals so people are more likely to attend.
4. Mental Health

Another attendee agreed, and suggested the following ranking recommendations:

1. Housing
2. Food Bank And Home Delivered Meals because food is a big issue, especially with the pandemic. "There is no point of having a house with no food"
3. Oral Care because "If our teeth are not taken care of, it can lead to heart diseases and other issues" –
4. Emergency Financial Assistance because "People were struggling even before the pandemic – struggling really hard".

Another attendee suggested the following ranking recommendations:

1. Housing
2. Medical Transportation
3. Food Bank and Home Delivered Meal
4. Oral Care

Support Staff asked attendees to be keep in mind that these priorities will be used for the FY'2021 – the funding period starting in March 2021 and ending in February 2022. Support Staff also explained that the priorities' funding is planned a year in advance and will not affect this year's funding.

After hearing this information, another attendee added that the following service categories should be a priority:

1. Housing
2. Mental Health
3. Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services
4. Foodbank/Home-Delivered Meals

Support Staff asked meeting attendees to agree on the ranking of priorities for all of the 16 service categories in the Newark EMA. After some discussion, attendees agreed that service categories should be prioritized as follows:

Service Category	Rank	Reason
Medical Case Management	1	This was #9 but was changed to #1 because... A Medical Case Manager advocates for clients and help them solve any problem, give referrals to the right service, connect clients to different services such as Housing, and talks about changes in medications. "They are able to advocate for you." "Medical Case Managers are very important to help clients become virally suppressed"
Housing	2	Studies have shown that people who have stable Housing achieve viral load suppression and are more likely to remain virally suppressed.
Medical Transportation	3	Transportation is a barrier to access to care since people have to go back and forth from their medical appointments. Bus tickets, mileage and/or gas reimbursement should be offered.
Foodbank/Home-Delivered Meal	4	Medications need to be taken with food and having food can help take medications on time. "Some people live meal to meal."
Mental Health Service	5	Clients are worried about the new deadly virus. "We need someone to talk about what is going on with us" "Cannot do anything if your mental health is not right." "If you can't comprehend what is going on and you are going through a certain situation, how can you hold an apartment – how can you know how to go about your transportation?" "You have to have the mental capacity to do the rest."
Psychosocial Support Services	6	Psychosocial Support Services and Mental Health Service's definitions are similar to each other and both are needed. Therefore, psychosocial was placed after mental health.
Oral Care	7	Oral Care affects overall health
Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Service	8	
Early Intervention Services	9	"Early Intervention plays a key role in our mental status and medical health"
Emergency Financial Assistance	10	
Non-Medical Case Management	11	

Substance Abuse (Residential)	12	People with substance abuse, whatever the substance is, “they are not going to keep their appointment, they are not going to get the food; they are not going to use the food; they are going to sell the food”
Health Insurance Premium and Cost-Sharing Assistance	13	
Other Professional Services	14	
Substance Abuse Outpatient Care	15	
Medical Nutritional Therapy	16	

*Telehealth services was also mentioned as a tool that could help clients keep their appointments and reach viral load suppression. However, members noted that not having access to technology devices could be a big barrier to care.

Support Staff stated that these recommendations and meeting conversations will be shared with the CPC committee and the Planning Council for consideration.

b. Community conversations about COVID-19

Support Staff asked how attendees are preparing to go back out in the new normal. One attendee stated that: “I am blessed to have all my needs covered. I am doing great. I am hanging in there”

Another attendee mentioned: “I am doing good. I am feeling better because the state is opening up slowly. I am continuing being safe by wearing my mask, using gloves, and washing my hands. I am in good spirit.”

Another attendee mentioned that he was struggling with his sleeping habits and that he was subconsciously dealing with a whole new deadly virus. “I am doing well.”

Another attendee stated: “I am taking care of myself from this virus. I am staying away from people” and added “I got hope and I am waiting for some door to open for the problem [to be solved]. I am just maintaining.”

Last but not least, one attendee reported that he is doing better because he received his oxygen on Friday. He also mentioned that the rents are getting higher and hopes that it gets better. “I am blessed.”

8. Announcements

Support Staff offered assistance for anyone who wants to learn more about how to use technology to get more involved in CIA or PC meetings. Support Staff will send a time for those interested in receiving help.

One meeting attendee recommended that the CIA meet every 2 weeks to cover more issues that raise and cut it to 1 hour instead of 2 hours. “I am learning something new every time I attend”, he said.

Support Staff asked if the rest of the committee would be interested in meeting twice per month, but most members preferred to meet only once per month.

St. James received Ending The Epidemic funding and most of the money would go towards condoms, prevention, food pantry and educational presentations.

One of the barriers on the food pantry is the date of the product. The date of the product says best by, expired by, used by and sell by date. Clark encouraged to those who have participated in the food pantry to continue going, and for those who have not, to try the food pantry.

9. Next meeting

The next CIA/CC meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 5PM via GoToMeeting.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.