

# Research & Evaluation Committee

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Monday, December 21, 2020, 10AM-12PM**

Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/97965443375>  
 Teleconference: (929) 205 6099 / Meeting ID: 979 6544 3375#

PRESENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
1. Ann Bagchi, Ph.D. (Chair)	8. Patricia Moore	10. Karen Ehiri (Non-Voting)
2. Summer Brown (Secretary)	9. Warren Poole	11. Travis Love
3. Kasny Damas		12. Natalie Muhammad
4. Corey DeStefano (Vice-Chair)		
5. Debbie Mohammed		
6. Sharon Postel (Consultant Non-Voting)		
7. Providencia Rodriguez		

**Guests:** N/A

**PC Support Staff:** Tania Guaman, Vicky Saguy

**1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**

Dr. Bagchi called this meeting to order at 10:02 AM. A moment of silence was observed for all those living with, those who are affected by, and those who have passed from HIV/AIDS, as well as for those affected by COVID-19.

**2. Roll Call**

Brown conducted the roll call. Quorum was established.

**3. Public Testimony**

There was no public testimony at this meeting.

**4. Review Action Steps**

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>
- Revise the Needs Assessment questions and methods (include COVID-19 related questions)	Dr. Bagchi & Postel
- Reschedule QM presentation for the December meeting	Support Staff
- Needs Assessment presentation for January	Support Staff
- Address Zoom security issues	Support Staff

All the action steps were completed before the meeting. Postel completed a draft of the consumer survey (discussed in further detail below). Postel mentioned that the education level categories that are on the document that was sent to the committee this morning are not the right ones; however, she updated these categories on her version.

**5. Approval of the Meeting Summaries from November 16, 2020**

The October meeting summary was approved last month as presented.

The November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was sent electronically prior to the meeting for review. Dr. Bagchi asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary as presented. Damas motioned to accept. Rodriguez seconded. There were no oppositions or abstentions

## 6. Updates from other Committees

- **COC** – Support Staff provided the COC report. The COC did not hold a meeting this month.
  - The Other Professional Services Service Standard was introduced to the Planning Council for a 30-day review period.
  - The committee will continue the review of the Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance Service Standard at the next meeting.The next COC meeting will be on January 14, 2020 via Zoom.
  
- **CPC** – Support Staff provided the December 11<sup>th</sup> CPC report.
  - The committee finalized the review and update of the Integrated plan, which guides the activities for the Planning Council and its committees throughout 2021. Due to COVID-19, the timeframes for a lot of activities were changed. The committee reviewed CHAMP Outcome data, including data on medical gap. Everything related to the medical gap was put on hold until data is available.
  - The committee also discussed the videos being made in collaboration with AETC. The videos will be used for consumer engagement and general education and will be posted on the NEMA website. The committee suggested the following topics: (1) 3 or 4 consumers providing testimonies on how they make a difference by being part of the Planning Council; (2) a general Planning Council introduction; (3) a video targeting youth, former youth and encouraging their involvement in Planning Council; (4) a video showcasing the RWHAP Part A funded services in the Newark EMA; (5) a video catered for seniors and long-term survivors; (6) and an overview of the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation process.The next CPC meeting will be held on January 8, 2020 via Zoom.
  
- **CIA/CC** – Support Staff provided the November and December CIA reports.
  - At the November meeting:
    - 12 consumers attended the meeting
    - Dr. Bagchi attended the meeting and provided a conversation on telehealth. Some consumers were interested in using telehealth while others preferred the in-person setting. One consumer said: “COVID-19 crisis in a way pushed things in a direction that was necessary and so our goal is to ensure that it continues because I've used the telehealth”.
  - At the December meeting:
    - There was a presentation from Janssen on “How to manage HIV as a Chronic Disease” with Mohammed as the presenter.
    - There was a discussion about the Core Service Waiver. The recipient asked for a motion to move forward with the request for the Core Service Waiver and all were supportive of the application. There will be another discussion regarding this topic.The next CIA meeting will be on January 13, 2020 at 5:00PM via Zoom.

## 7. Old Business

- Finalize FY 2021 NA research questions and methodology
  1. **Consumer survey** – Postel provided an overview and the following was discussed:
    - Postel stated that the Needs Assessment is an Update and not a Full Needs Assessment; therefore, the scope of service will be scale down and will cover the impact of telehealth on Ryan White services during the COVID-19 crisis.
    - The Needs Assessment will be comprised of two surveys: a consumer survey and an agency survey. The agency survey will focus on the utilization, impact, barriers of telehealth services, and plans for continued use of telehealth services moving forward.
    - This Needs Assessment will be considered for the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation for the upcoming 3 years since HRSA allowed the Fiscal 2022 Grant application to cover 3 years instead of 1.
    - The following changes were made to the Consumer Survey:
      - The demographics are aligned with the demographics of HIV surveillance reporting.
      - The education options were changed to be consistent with the options on the previous survey, as mentioned previously.
      - The following questions were changed from multiple choice to open-ended questions due to Dr. Bagchi and Mohammed's recommendations:
        - What did you like about the telehealth visit (Check all that apply)?
        - What did you dislike about the telehealth visit (Check all that apply)?
        - How can we improve telehealth visits (Check all that apply)?
      - Some multiple-choice answers were removed and/or added to multiple questions.
      - Two questions were separated.
    - The committee reviewed the research question and the FY 2021 Questions and Methods Document last updated on November 16<sup>th</sup>, which will be re-sent to committee members.
    - Postel asked if the survey addresses all the concerns about telehealth consumers had during the November CIA meeting. Guaman mentioned that there were some Issues with their emails, which emphasizes the technology barriers some consumers have. Also, during the December meeting, it was noted that some consumers do not have reliable internet access since they were in and out of the meeting. Based on this conversation, some multiple-choice options were added.
    - Support Staff will clean up the survey and send it to Postel and Dr. Bagchi for review and reconciliation with Postel's version.
    - Guaman stated that the Tri-County EIRC suggested that the REC should provide an electronic version of the consumer survey and recommended adding sexual health questions on the consumer survey. However, since the focus of the Needs Assessment is on telehealth, no sexual health questions will be added to the consumer survey. Guaman mentioned that Support Staff can create a Google form and added that consumers can use their phones to fill out the survey. The results will be gathered in an Excel document to facilitate transfer to the codebook afterwards. The Committee agree to have Support Staff create the Google form.

- Postel asked if the consumer surveys will be done in-person or via telehealth visits. Dr. Bagchi stated that it will depend on the agency since some agencies are having in-person visits. Postel recommended to add a section that states how the survey was filled out for tabulation purposes.
  - **Motion** - Dr. Bagchi asked for a motion to approve the client tool with edits. Damas motioned to accept. DeStefano seconded. There were no oppositions or abstentions.
2. **Agency Survey** – The agency survey has not been reviewed since November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Postel will draft the agency survey and will send it out before the next meeting to be approved in January.

## 8. New Business

- Update on the Quality Improvement Plan and benchmarks (Ehiri) – Ehiri presented a Quality Management Progress/Performance Report based on FY 19 and FY 20 data up to September (the most recent data available). The following highlights were noted:

- **Objective:** Identify subpopulations that fall 10% or more below NHAS goals (ART, VLS, Gap) and select subpopulations for improvement.
- **NHAS Goal #2:** Link 90% of Newly Diagnosed to Care Within 30 Days

	MSM	13-24	45+	Women of Color	EMA-wide
2019	71%	70%	77%	67%	69%
2020	82%	71%	47%	62%	68%

- The Goal was not met by any target population in 2019 or 2020.

- **NHAS Goal #3-1:** Decrease Gap in Medical Visits to 10%

	MSM	25-34	45+	65+	Women of Color	EMA-wide
2019	17%	22%	12%	7%	12%	14%
2020	20%	22%	18%	17%	17%	19%

- The percentage of GAP in Medical Visits NEMA-wide was the most affected by COVID-19. The highest gap is still among ages 25-34.
- Also, some agencies were experiencing high gaps, which skewed the data.

- **NHAS Goal #3-2:** Increase VLS to 87%

	Black Non-Hispanic	Female	25-34	Medicaid	MSM	EMA-wide
2019	84%	86%	82%	84%	87%	86%
2020	85%	88%	81%	85%	88%	88%

- There was an increase in VLS from 2019 to 2020 in almost all target populations.
- The EHE Viral Load Suppression Cohort began in August and the VLS might increase.

- **NHAS Goal #3-3:** Increase ARV to 98%

	25-34	Uninsured	Unknown	EMA-wide
2019	98%	98%	0%	99%
2020	98%	98%	100%	99%

- The ARV Goal is fully met.

Dr. Bagchi asked to provide more context into the populations to find if there are disparities among them. For example: state the percentage of target populations in the Newark EMA and the percentage of those target populations not meeting the goal to provide perspective on the extent of any disparities.

- Discuss Committee training needs for FY 2021

Dr. Bagchi asked for topics on training needs. Guaman shared that Postel recommended training on the new formula for determining unmet need. Postel mentioned that the framework for the Unmet Need Training is still in development by the government. Postel also mentioned that HRSA developed a training for the Integrated HIV Health Plan. However, HRSA has not yet issued guidance for the 2021 Integrated HIV Health Plan; such guidance will probably be received next year. HRSA could give another year to update the plan; therefore, the current Integrated health plan will be used until 2023.

#### **9. Administrative Issues**

- Support Staff will continue to monitor the waiting room to avoid “Zoom bombers”. Support Staff tested the possibility of using separate rooms, but management of the meeting would not be efficient. There were Zoom bombers at the CIA meeting last week. So far, that was the only meeting that had such disruptions in December.
- Support Staff also mentioned that as soon as the Integrated Health Plan is completed, the committees will start working on updating their workplans.
- Postel sent to Support Staff the data on HIV outcomes for VLS, prescription of ARV, and medical visit as of August 31<sup>st</sup> that was sent to the state. This outcome data is by race, ethnicity, gender, and health insurance status. This document was shown and reviewed at the meeting.
- Postel mentioned that the January and February meeting are on a federal holiday and recommended to change the dates. Bagchi asked that the meetings be moved to the week before their usually-scheduled dates. Therefore, the new dates for the REC meetings are January 11<sup>th</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **10. Announcements**

Dr. Bagchi wished all committee members a Happy Holiday Season and recommended to get vaccinated for COVID-19. Rodriguez wished everyone happy holidays with the hopes of meeting in-person in a few months.

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

The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, January 11, 2020 at 10AM via Zoom.

#### **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05AM.