

# Research & Evaluation Committee

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Monday, June 15, 2020, 10AM-12PM**

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

Phone: (872) 240-3311 / Access Code: 734-124-149

PRESENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ann Bagchi, Ph.D. (Chair)</li> <li>2. Natalie Brown</li> <li>3. Summer Brown (Secretary)</li> <li>4. Kasny Damas</li> <li>5. Corey DeStefano (Vice-Chair)</li> <li>6. Karen Ehiri (Non-Voting)</li> <li>7. Travis Love</li> <li>8. Debbie Mohammed</li> <li>9. Warren Poole</li> <li>10. Sharon Postel (Consultant Non-Voting)</li> <li>11. Providencia Rodriguez</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Patricia Moore</li> </ol>	

**Guests:** N/A

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

**1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**

Dr. Bagchi called this meeting to order at 10:05 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**

Summer 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>
1. Continue data review and analysis for 2020 NA	Postel
2. Review NA 2020 report	All REC members
3. Update the 2020 Funding Stream Analysis	Support Staff
4. Review and update the Administrative Mechanism Evaluation Tool	Postel
5. Submit the approved case study tool to the Recipient's Office	Support Staff

Dr. Bagchi reviewed the action steps and mentioned that all items were completed. Staff submitted the Committee-approved case study tool to the Recipient's Office.

## 5. Approval of the Meeting Summaries from May 18, 2020

The Committee reviewed the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting summary. Summer Brown noted that the attendance/roster and meeting summary had different attendance records for Travis Love. Support Staff mentioned that Love was present at the meeting although he was not able to speak during the meeting. The roster needs to be updated to mark him as present. Dr. Bagchi asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary with this edit. Poole motioned to approve. Rodriguez seconded the motion. Debbie Mohammed abstained. There were no oppositions. The May meeting summary was approved with edits.

## 6. Updates from other Committees

- **COC** – Support Staff provided the COC report. The last Continuum of Care Committee meeting was held on Thursday, June 11, 2020. The following occurred at the meeting:
  - The COC reviewed the Medical Case Management Service Standard and sent it to the Recipient for review. The Medical Case Management Service Standard will be introduced to the Planning Council once it gets reviewed by the Recipient.
  - The Non-Medical Case Management service standard was also reviewed. The committee had additional questions and will send it to the Recipient for consultation. The Non-Medical Case Management will be finalized at the next COC meeting.

The next COC meeting will be held virtually on July 9, 2020 at 10AM.

- **CPC** – Support Staff provided the CPC report. The last Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting was held on Friday, June 12, 2020. The following occurred at the meeting:
  - The CPC reviewed the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation's (PRSA) principles, criteria and decision-making process. This document was prepared by support staff with supporting documents provided by members, Postel, and the Recipient, including the Planning Council Primer.
  - The CPC also reviewed the recommendations for PSRA from other committees. There was one recommendation about the use of technology for consumer participation.
  - There was a presentation from ADDP about the changes due to Covid-19 which included the use of email to submit applications. Committee members recommended increasing access to technology, in line with the PRSA recommendations.
  - There was also a presentation about Quality Management and retention in care. The presentation highlighted the fact that viral load suppression could be improved. This presentation will be sent to those who would like to review it.

The next CPC meeting will be held virtually on July 10, 2020 at 9:30AM.

- **CIA/CC** – Support Staff provided the CIA report. The last Community Involvement Activities Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. The following occurred at the meeting:
  - The committee talked about the Needs Assessment and the importance of consumer involvement
  - Participants discussed the PRSA as a refresher on how the process works every year
  - There was a conversation about PPE and the new funding available for consumers and how to request it from their case managers.

- There was also a discussion on Telehealth visits through phone. Some consumers mentioned it was convenient and some are concerned because they do not have smartphones or resources.
- Some of the worries about going back to normal were mentioned including the rise in food prices and potential ongoing price increases during and after the pandemic.
- Two issues were mentioned during the meeting. One was that an attendee had an allergic reaction to latex and the other one was that an attendee was experiencing housing issues and odors. The attendee mentioned that he is currently living in Irvington and wanted to live in Newark. The Housing Newark authorities give priority to Newark residents. One provider at the call will help the consumer to fix this issue.

The next CIA meeting will be held virtually on June 24, 2020 at 5:00PM.

## 7. Old Business:

- **Needs Assessment Progress:** Postel presented an overview of the 2020 Needs Assessment Update. A copy of the Interim Report of the Needs Assessment was sent to the committee in advance for review. The conclusions and recommendations will be included for the next meeting. The following were some of the key points of the Needs Assessment Draft.
  - The data was collected from the following sources:
    - analysis of CHAMP Data housing status and the Ryan White Outcomes for Viral Load Suppression and Retention in Care. The CHAMP Data was as of 10/31/2019 and it will be updated to include the data as of 12/31/2019
    - input from the CIA focus group in February, and
    - input from the agency housing survey regarding consumers' needs and recommendations for the expansion of Housing Services in light of the availability of additional funding.

### **CHAMP Data** showed the following:

- Nearly 70% of 6,333 PLWHA live in stable permanent housing, followed by 27% in temporary housing and 4% in unstable housing. The following are the two most used housing arrangements:
  - 55% live in stable permanent housing in a House/Apartment – Rent or Own Unsubsidized.
  - 24% reside in a temporary housing - House/Apartment - Doubling up, staying with family/friends.
- Housing status differed by county of residence
- The Viral Load Suppression (VLS) rate was 86.1% for the EMA. The Viral Load Suppression by housing status was: 87.8% Stable Permanent Housing, 85.5% Temporary Housing, 70.9% Unstable Housing.
- Viral Load Suppression and Retention in Care varies according to type of housing.
- Viral load suppression and Retention in care increased EMA-Wide
- In comparison to the EMA, Viral Load Suppression rates were lower for Essex County and higher for Union County and Morris/Sussex/Warren counties:
- In comparison to the EMA, Retention in Care rates were lower for Essex County and higher for Union County and Morris/Sussex/Warren counties:

### **Consumer input from CIA meeting**

- There were 32 respondents; however, not everyone responded to all questions.
- There were Housing conditions and situations mentioned that need to be addressed. These issues could be addressed with the additional housing funds.
- Consumers reported that they have been denied housing and stated some of the reasons.
- Some consumers thought that there should be a priority for housing funds for people who have not reached viral load suppression and others thought priority must be given for those who have reached viral load suppression. The reasons were stated in the report.
- Consumers noted that 24 months are not enough to obtain unsubsidized housing.
- The consensus was that additional housing funds could be used for more subsidies because the market rent is too high, and many clients have fixed incomes that are not enough to afford rent.

Dr. Bagchi mentioned that there should be a statement within the report saying that this survey was done prior to COVID-19, since some of these conditions might have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Postel added that this information could be used in a long term and not only looking at the COVID-19 impact.

### **Agency Survey Data**

- This was supposed to be a key informant survey but was expanded to include all agencies that serve clients for housing assistance, medical case managers, etc.
- PLWHA who are not virally suppressed often reside in unstable or temporary housing or move back and forth (“yo-yo”) between the two arrangements. These unreliable arrangements are compounded by substance use and mental health issues.
- Stigma is not restricted to HIV positive status; it is also associated with housing status.
- Respondents mentioned a number of challenges particular to PLWH who are not virally suppressed.
- The RWHAP Housing Program Criteria, Considerations and Recommendations were also mentioned.

Brown emphasized that the lack of affordable housing is one of the main issues experienced by many housing agencies and consumers. Members noted that HOPWA does not have a lot of funds and that Section 8 takes a long time to get. Clients are using the 211 hotlines to obtain temporary housing. These are Pre-COVID-19 issues.

Postel recommended that a coordination system be developed based on evidence-based models that work. Perhaps a model that covers the fees that are not covered by Ryan White - such as security deposits, brokers fees, and other court fees. Or to provide an assistant for the housing specialist to help build a better housing system.

- ***Finalize Tool and methodology for the 2020 Assessment of Administrative Mechanism:***  
The REC added a section with questions related to the impact of COVID-19 on the Ran White Part A contracting and procurement process. The REC reviewed the 2020 Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism and edited some questions.

Dr. Bagchi asked for a motion for approve the tool of the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism with edits. Mohammad motioned to approve. Brown seconded the motion. The tool of the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism was approved. Support Staff was asked to send the tool of the Assessment of Administrative Mechanism to the Recipient's Office on July 13<sup>th</sup> - 3 weeks from today.

- **Review the 2020 Funding Stream Analysis:** Support Staff presented the 2020 Funding Stream Analysis report, which was based on the existing template developed by Postel. Some of the data is still pending from state funding sources.

Funding information from various HIV/AIDS sources are captured within this report, including CARES Act Funding. Postel recommended that staff obtains the amount of funds that agencies get for Part B because several Ryan White-funded agencies also receive Part B funding. The total amount of Part B funds by agency needs to be known to determine the total amount of funding for the Newark EMA.

**8. New Business**

There was no new business.

**9. Administrative Issues**

Support Staff is tracking member attendance using calendar invites. Members were asked to contact Support Staff if anyone does not receive a calendar invite.

**10. Announcements**

Poole announced that the next CIA will be next Wednesday, June 24 at 5PM.

**11. Next Meeting**

The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 10AM via GoToMeeting.

**12. Adjournment**

Dr. Bagchi asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brown motioned to adjourn. Poole seconded the motion. All members agreed. No oppositions or abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48AM.