



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.

Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 5PM

Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92623628718>
Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 926 2362 8718#

5 People in attendance. Attendees were from Essex County.

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:13 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.

2. Mission statement & Ground rules

Poole stated that the CIA mission is to bring the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (NEMA) consumers' input into the Planning Council. Attendees were reminded to mute themselves when not talking and unmute themselves to talk.

3. Public Testimony

No Public Testimony.

4. Approval of the Meeting Summary from July 22, 2020

The CIA Committee approved the July 22nd Meeting Summary.

5. Ryan White Part A Updates

- Support Staff shared the following updates:
 - The Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Report was completed. This report provides guidance for allocations in funding for FY 2021, which will start on March 1st, 2021
 - The Planning council assesses how fast and how well the Recipient's office is distributing money to agencies so agencies can provide the services to People Living With HIV in the EMA. This report was finalized as well. No deficiency was found. The recipient used the same timeline as last years to move forward with the process. However, there were delays because of COVID-19.
 - The Research and Evaluation Committee is working on the FY 2021 Needs Assessment. The committee must identify the topic for the Needs Assessment. Usually the Needs Assessment process starts in October/November. Surveys are sent to the Newark EMA agencies to figure out what services need to improve in the Newark EMA.

6. Old Business

- Priority Setting and Resource Allocation – This was mentioned previously.

7. New Business

- FY 2021 Needs Assessment Topic Ideas – Support Staff recommended to focus on Recruitment and Engagement instead of talking about the FY 2021 Needs Assessment Topic Ideas. Support Staff wants to engage more community members since there is less participation of People Living with HIV in the Newark EMA due to COVID-19. Support Staff asked for suggestions on how to engage more members.

Poole mentioned that the Planning Council oversees the Ryan White funds of 5 counties: Essex, Union, Warren, Sussex, and Morris Counties. The Planning Council meets the third Wednesday of every month at 1:30PM and it is currently using Zoom to hold its meetings due to COVID-19. The Planning Council has 4 committees: the COC, CPC, REC and CIA. The Federal government requires the participation of HIV positive people who do not work for a Ryan White Agency in the Planning Council. Planning Council Applications are available for those interested. The Planning Council considers the input of agencies, subcommittees, and consumers to improve the program every year.

Support Staff noted that 2 consumers are needed in the Planning Council. Poole asked attendees if they were interested in applying for the Planning Council. One consumer is really interested in applying but she is doing outreach for Hyacinth and will need to check her availability. One attendee mentioned that he already applied for membership to the Planning Council. Another consumer mentioned that he is considering applying. One consumer mentioned he was not sure where he will be and if he was going to be able to join. Poole mentioned that everyone is always welcome to attend the Zoom meetings whenever they are available. Poole stated that consumers can also participate during the Public Testimony to provide input on how services are being provided or any other issues they might have. Planning Council then would address the issue and can answer any question about the different services offered in the Newark EMA.

Support Staff mentioned that even if attendees are not ready to become members, Support Staff can set up a call with interested parties to give them more about the Planning Council such as how it works, what they do, how your contributions will be meaningful.

- Community conversations about COVID-19 – All attendees reported they are doing well.
- Christmas Holiday Party – The Holiday Party has been a joined event between the CIA and the Peter Ho CAB. The year, the Holiday Party will be extended to include CABs and agencies from all 5 counties. The last year had music, food, games, giveaways, and raffles. Due to social distance measures, the CIA will try to find ways to do this event respecting the measures. Poole mentioned that the World AIDS Event is approaching, and the CIA and Peter Ho CAB will have a table for the World AIDS Event.
- Presentation: Weight Gain and HIV – Poole mentioned that this presentation will be given at the next month. The presenter had technology issues and could not provide the presentation today.

8. Announcements

- The Peter Ho Clinic will have a live HIV and COVID presentation at St. Michael's Medical Center. Due to COVID, only 15 consumers plus cab members can participate. Alisson from Gilead will provide the presentation. There will be a food box provided and a raffle for participation. Poole provided his contact information for those interested in attending this event.
- Poole mentioned that several NEMA Agencies have applied for additional funds for covid-19 assistance. If you or anyone you know needs assistance paying utilities bills (electricity bill) or food assistance, call agencies to find what agency offer this assistance. There are ShopRite gift cards availability for those who need food assistance.
- Poole also mentioned that if attendees knew someone who has not had a medical visit, some agencies are borrowing phones to clients to attend their telehealth appointment.
- One attendee reported that he does not have a Case Manager. He reported receiving his medical records recently. However, the Department of Veteran Affairs where he received his medical care is not taking messages at this time and he has not been able to talk to his primary care provider. Attendee mentioned that he will call back again. Poole recommended to reach out to Hyacinth, NJCRI, Positive Care and other agencies to receive help from a Case Manager. Support staff provided phone number and email address to help address the issue.

9. Next meeting

The next CIA/CC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 5PM via Zoom.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.