



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 November 18, 2020, 5-7PM

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

- There were 17 attendees in total. There were 11 consumers from Essex and one from Union county in attendance, plus two Support Staff and three Planning Council members.

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Warren Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order 5:02PM 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 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 the Planning Council.

3. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

4. Approval of the October 28th Meeting Summary

The October 28th meeting summary was sent electronically in advance for review. Poole asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary. The meeting summary was motioned and properly seconded. The meeting summary was approved as presented.

5. Ryan White Part A Updates

6. Old Business

FY 2021 Needs Assessment
 Community conversations about COVID-19

7. New Business

- How can I help in the planning for priorities and allocations of Ryan White Part A funding?

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- Poole introduced Dr. Bagchi, REC Chair, who provided an overview of the Research and Evaluation Committee. Dr. Bagchi explained how a consultant conducts the research while the committee discusses ideas about the types of research that needs to be done.
- An overview of the Needs Assessment, Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism, and the Epidemiological Profile was provided at the meeting with an emphasis on the Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment will focus on Telehealth and Telemedicine and the experience of people who have been using telemedicine in the NEMA affiliated agencies. COVID-19 impacted the service delivery forcing agencies to use telemedicine. Once the COVID-19 crisis is over, some people will return to in-person health care visits while others will continue to use telemedicine. The Needs Assessment is trying to find out what kind of access to technology people have, their experience with telemedicine during the crisis and their preferences moving forward. Surveys will be sent to clients, providers, and agency administrators.
- One consumer asked about whether the use of telephone calls is included with the issues of not having the latest technology and/or web connection. Dr. Bagchi explained that providing telemedicine is affected, in part by temporary policies (i.e., Medicaid allowing calls during the pandemic). For instance, in the past Medicaid would only pay providers for telemedicine services if the client lived in a rural area, but did not pay for telephone calls, or at-home telemedicine services. Due COVID-19 and social distancing requirements, the Medicaid program allowed people to use telemedicine outside of rural areas and at their homes with apps and telephone conferences.
- In response, a consumer stated that the “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” and it has been helpful. The consumer added: “I really like to see that in place so whatever I can do to aid in that quest.”
- Another consumer stated: “I'm not crazy about telehealth. I want to go out my doctor do all this and all that” and added: “I will talk on the phone, but when it comes to my doctor. I want to go into the building... I don't feel the connection from the computer to talk about my health.”
- Another consumer stated that “I'm looking at it [telehealth] as a backup when you cannot go outside and prefers the in-person medical visits.”
- Dr. Bagchi agreed that sometimes patients feel better when a doctor examines you instead of in a telehealth visit. However, she suggested that some services such as mental health and counseling session are very common done through telemedicine.
- Dr. Bagchi encouraged consumers to attend the REC meeting on Monday, December 21st, 2020 at 10 AM via Zoom to provide input on what should be studied in the Newark EMA.

Guaman provided a presentation on “Working Behind the Scenes”:

- There was an overview of the Ryan White program, the Part A program, the Newark EMA, the Ryan White Unit of the Department of Health and Community Wellness.
- Information on the various committees and the Planning Council was shared as well as ways to get involved including Public Testimony and membership details.

Discussions after the presentation:

- One consumer reported having heat issues because the tenant turned the heat off.
- Support Staff asked for any barriers or concerns on joining the Planning Council. One consumer reported not wanting anyone to know her status or be looked at different because of

it. However, the consumer expressed that the youth needs to be aware of what is going on and would like to be educated to educate the youth.

- One consumer reported not being interested in being part of the Planning Council due to her previous commitments and perceived age-related impediments.
- Two consumers were interested on being part of the Planning Council.
- Dr. Walter mentioned that in-person meetings had more people in attendance and asked about what can be done to get more people to attend the CIA meetings? Any incentives for those who attend the meetings? Poole stated that the CIA does not have funds for incentives, but it has been discussed previously. One consumer recommended to give Uber Eats vouchers that participants can use while in the meeting. However, issues with the Uber Eats application and logistics were reported.
- One consumer recommended to have a go-to person for any questions about Planning Council matters; perhaps a buddy they can talk to as a new member.
- Guaman also mentioned that the CIA does not have a Vice-Chair and asked attendees to nominate potential candidates.

8. Announcements

- Poole announced that the CIA will have a virtual Holiday Party including a raffle and an education section at the next meeting.
- The Peter Ho Clinic will have a World AIDS Day Event on December 4th at 10 am. All attendees can participate on a raffle. Also, the Peter Ho Clinic will have a virtual event honoring Deloris Dockrey on December 4th at 1pm and it is proposing December 10th as Deloris Dockrey Day. The flyers for these events will be sent.
- Rodriguez asked consumers to contact her if they need utility assistance, bus tickets for appointments, or support groups.
- The NEMA website link to the listing of EMA-wide service agencies was shared with consumer for future reference.

9. Next meeting

The next CIA meeting will be held on Friday, December 18, 2020 at 5PM via Zoom.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.