



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, December 18, 2020 at 5PM

Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92623628718>

Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 926 2362 8718#

There were 49 attendees in total at the meeting including 2 support staff, 5 Planning Council members, one REC member, 3 Planning Council nominees, one Janssen representative, and 2 recipient's office representatives.

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Warren Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order 5:05 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. Public Testimony

No public testimony

3. Approval of the Meeting Summary from November 18, 2020

The November meeting summary was sent via email for review. Poole requested a motion to accept the summary as presented. The meeting summary was motioned and properly seconded. The meeting summary was approved as presented.

4. Ryan White Part A Updates

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. Support Staff mentioned that there will be new providers with different services in March and the NEMA Planning Council website will have this new information.

5. Old Business

- FY 2021 Needs Assessment Topic: Telehealth –
Guaman mentioned that the Planning Council asks the community about the issues, barriers of getting medical or any other type of assistance in the Newark EMA every year. This year Needs Assessment is assessing how telehealth is being used and what might be some of the barriers. Some of these barriers have been discussed in previous meeting and the information captured does not have any identifier.

Due to other agenda items, this item will continue at the next meeting on January 13th. Input for the Needs Assessment can be provided at the Research and Evaluation Committee meeting on Decembers 21st and/or at the next CIA meeting.

6. New Business

- Learn about Building a Plan to Manage HIV as a Chronic Disease
Poole introduced Mike Valentine from Janssen Pharmaceuticals. Valentine introduced the presenter, Debbie Mohammed and encouraged all attendees to ask questions during the presentation.
 - Living a long, healthy life while taking the HIV treatment medication daily was the main topic of the conversation.
 - Drug resistance, virus mutation when missing a dose of HIV medication, treatment adherence, side effect including HIV weight gain bone loss and kidney failure, risk for other diseases such as heart attacks, diabetes, heart failure and stroke was discussed during the presentation.
 - Symtuza's information was shared, including 2 different studies.
 - There was also a discussion about the difficulties People Living With HIV face when trying to get a life insurance since most times they are rejected due to their existing condition. Poole and another attendee mentioned there is a life insurance company who do not denied their services to People Living with HIV. Poole and Mohammed recommended to have a presentation regarding this issue.

Debbie Mohammed recommended to schedule a PrEP presentation for the CIA Committee.

- Community Conversation: Should RWHAP support services have a greater funding allocation for FY'21?
Aliya Roman from the City of Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness Ryan White Unit shared the FY 2020 & FY2021 Core Medical Service Waiver Request Document. Roman shared the following:
 - The recipient receives Part A funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
 - The recipient's office and Planning Council is seeking the community support to request the core service waiver to reallocate unspent core funds to reflect the needs in the EMA for the upcoming fiscal year.
 - A core service waiver is a formal document that allows to deviate from the 75/25 split. 75% of the Part A funds must cover core services in the EMA such as Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Care services, Mental Health services, Substance abuse services, HIPCS, Medical Case Management. 25% of the Part A funds must be allocated to support services such as Emergency Financial Assistance programs, Nutritional Services, FoodBank and Home-Delivered Meals, Housing, Transportation, and Non-Medical Case Management.
 - Due to COVID-19, a lot of the medical program subrecipients have plenty of money unused and the recipient has a lot of requests for social service needs, including back rent, utility bills, initial rents because the recipient is no longer allowed to pay for security assistance. These unused funds cannot be reallocated to cover supportive services unless a core service waiver is received. Without the waiver and the recipient being unable to reallocate any additional funds into supportive services, these unused funds may potentially have to send back to HRSA.

- The FY 20 Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Report prepared by the Planning Council, which includes consumer input recommends 71.95% to be allocated for core services and 28.05% for core for support services.
- The FY 21 Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Report recommends 72.10 % to be allocated for core services and 27.9% for core for support services.
- To close out the final FY20 (beginning March 2020 and ending February 2021) spending and enter the FY 21 (beginning March 2021 and ending February 2022) based on Planning Council recommendations, the recipient's office must document community feedback from affected communities and provider input from subrecipients.
- To ensure that no medical services gaps exist within our continuum of care, the recipient's office is in process of surveying all service providers to confirm that all Ryan White core services are available to consumers within 30 days whether they are provided in house or referred out to a different agency.
- The recipient would like the feedback from the Newark EMA Ryan White Community to submit the core service request to HRSA that will allow them to reallocate the unspent funds to meet the allocations as recommended by the Planning Council outside of the 75/25 split.
- Another attendee asked if the services help with the light bill. Roman mentioned that any public service assistance is done under the Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA), which covers any emergency. Roman recommended all attendees to develop a good relationship with their case managers and medical case managers and express their needs. Roman stated that a consumer was moving into a new apartment and did not have the funds to purchase a refrigerator. This expense was covered through EFA.
- A consumer stated that she has sleep apnea and needs help with the electric bill due to the machine she uses to sleep through the night. The consumer stated that she has not been able to get help to pay her light bill which has been increasing. Roman asked the consumer to call her office to discuss further about this issue.
- Guaman shared the list of core services and supportive services and restated that by federal legislation the recipient is required to put 75% of funds into core services and 25% to supportive services and because of COVID19 a lot of people are having challenges with supportive services and would like to allocate more funds there.
- Another attendee asked if the funds help paying medical bills. Roman stated that a portion of the funds are for Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing, which helps with lab payments or copayments.
- An attendee asked if people who have a fixed income by receiving SSI and/or SSD are still going to receive their SSD and/or SSI. Roman mentioned that unfortunately she can only provide information about the Ryan White Part A grant and does not have information about the SSI and SSD programs.
- Another consumer stated that 75% of the funds goes to core services and 25% goes to supportive services and asked if any unused funds are carried over to the next fiscal year. Roman stated that at the end of this year, the recipient submits the unobligated balance – a projection of where the grant will be closing out. The recipient wants to make sure that all the needs in the EMA are met by reallocating those unspent dollars into supportive services rather than sent back the additional funding. The consumer asked if the recipient is asking the attendees if they are in favor of the reallocation of the unspent funds to not be sent back to HRSA. Roman restated that the recipient is looking for the community support in requesting the core service waiver.

- The deadline for the submission of the core service waiver request is January 29th. The recipient is going to submit the request and include the consumer input gathered during the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Process, today's meeting, and the meeting on January 13th as well as the subrecipients' feedback that are being surveying now.
 - The consumer asked if the funds will be reallocated to the agencies that are already providing supportive services. Roman stated that FY20 supportive services funded agencies can receive additional funds and added that there are agencies that requested for additional funds.
 - Due to COVID-19, the medical agencies did not see patients during March, April, May and beginning of June; therefore, funds were not utilized. The recipient updated their billable units to include services under telehealth, which is being provided by a lot of EMA agencies and medical programs over the phone. Even with the agencies provided telehealth services, there are still funds available, which can be used for consumers who submitted request for supportive service.
 - One consumer mentioned that she was not aware of all the services in the Newark EMA. Roman recommended to contact the medical case manager or case manager to print out the list of all services in the EMA and which agency provides those services from the Planning Council website. The list of services and agencies will be updated with the agencies that will provide the services during the next fiscal year and will be posted in the Planning Council website.
 - The recipient tries to prevent duplication of services and mentioned that consumers can received case management by more than one agency. Typically, it should be a medical case management agency under your medical provider, and it should be a case management agency under your support service provider. However, when a support service agency does not provide the service that you are looking for then that supportive service agency should make a referral to another support service agency or medical agency to receive the care that you need.
 - An attendee asked what the community can do to facilitate the recipient's office to be able to process the reallocation knowing that the unused core services funds can be reallocated to not lose them for next year. The recipient mentioned that by having a conversation with consumers and meeting there where they are – in the CIA meeting – part of that process is getting done. Also, the community already provided their input on the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation, which was also documented.
 - One consumer thanked for all the information provided and stated that she is part of the Ryan White program.
 - **Motion:** The recipient asked everyone to unmute themselves and/or write their support on the chat. The recipient asked that all in favor on requesting the core service waiver say ay. All 49 attendees agreed by saying ay.
- **Community Raffle**
 Poole announced that there were 11 gifts for the live raffle. Support Staff used an online tool for the raffle and announced the winners.
 Poole also stated that everyone at the meeting will receive an Uber eats food voucher, which can be used tomorrow from 12 pm until 5pm.

7. Announcements

Funding for utility and rental assistance was increased due to COVID-19.

St. James Social Services located at 6 Martin Luther King Boulevard has funds for these services.

8. Next meeting

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2020 at 5PM via Zoom.

- The conversation with the Recipient about funding allocations will continue on January 13.

9. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.