



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, January 13, 2021, 5-7PM

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

There were 25 attendees.

Guest Speaker: Aliya Roman, Ryan White Program Coordinator of the Ryan White Program.

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. Mission statement & Ground rules

Poole stated the committee's mission statement. Poole explained that the CIA committee offers the most feedback from the Ryan White Community's Consumers including individuals infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to the Planning Council.

3. Public Testimony

No public testimony

4. Approval of the December 18th Meeting Summary

The December 18th meeting summary was sent electronically for review prior to the meeting. Poole asked for a motion to approve the December meeting summary. One consumer motioned and another consumer seconded. There were no abstentions or oppositions.

5. Ryan White Part A Updates

The Ryan White Part A Update was given as part of the Old Business.

6. Old Business

- FY 2021 Needs Assessment

The Planning Council asks the community about their needs every year. This year, the Needs Assessment is focused on telehealth services. The Research and Evaluation Committee prepared the questions for the agency and community members surveys. These surveys will provide feedback on how to improve the telehealth system. All feedback is important and needed. There

will be an online version of the survey for easy access and a paper version as usual. The paper copy can be sent if requested.

7. New Business

- Community Conversation: Should RWHAP support services have a greater funding allocation for FY'21?
 - HRSA requires the Ryan White Program to allocate 75% of all the funds to Core Medical Services and 25% to Support Services. The Core Medical Service funds medical services such as Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Oral Services, among others. The Support Services includes Emergency Financial Assistance, Transportation, Housing, Non-Medical Case Management, Nutritional Therapy, and others. At the last meeting, there was a conversation on the need for applying the Core Service Waiver to allow the recipient to allocate more funds to Supportive Services. COVID-19 increased the need to cover for these services.
 - Roman stated that the recipient is finalizing the FY2020 allocation and must make sure that no more than 25% of awards are spent on support services and 75% to core services. Based on the FY20 and FY21 Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Report, (which includes consumer input) the Planning Council's recommendation for funding was 71.95% in Core Service and 28.05% in Support services for FY2020, and 72.10% Core with 27.90% Support for FY2021 Allowing the Recipient's office to fund services like EFA, NS, Housing, and Transportation Et above 25% maximum. The recipient wants to apply for a Core Service Waiver for FY 2020 and mentioned that a Core Service Waiver will be also requested for FY 2021 when available.
 - To close out the final spending for FY2020 and enter FY2021 based on the Planning Council's recommendation, the recipient's office must document community feedback from the affected communities including consumer and provider input. The recipient began to survey the agencies to make sure of all core services, whether funded through the Ryan White Program or other programs, are provided within 30-days.
 - The Recipient's Office is seeking the community support to reallocate the unspent core funds to reflect the needs of the Newark EMA and to enter FY 2021 with awards reflective of your input and the recommendation of the Planning Council's Priority Setting and Resource Allocation report. Without a waiver of this requirement, the recipient is unable to place any additional funds into support.
 - An attendee asked if the funds would be reallocated to cover utility assistance. Roman stated that the Emergency Financial Assistance covers back rent up to 3 months services, and PSEG assistance a well. The recipient mentioned that the Emergency Financial Assistance covers for emergencies even if not clearly stated on what those are. A client was moving and needed a refrigerator. The agency that wanted to provide the services contacted their program monitor and had a conversation with the Ryan White Program Monitor. Roman encouraged all clients to have an open conversation and a fluid relationship with Medical Case Managers and Non-Medical Case Managers to express their needs. Emergency Financial Assistance can cover most emergencies including telephone assistance, transportation, medications if the latter are not covered by the agencies.
 - An attendee asked if an agency covers for medications. Roman explained that if a client goes to a service provider and does not have funds to cover their Co-payment or the medication for that month under HIPCS but has Emergency financial Assistance Funds, these can be cover through the Emergency Financial Assistance.
 - The attendee stated that Union county residents pay for public service and gas bills separately. Roman stated that gas bills can be covered as well.

- A Dover resident stated he is having issues with transportation from NJ Transit. Roman stated that Hope House in Dover provides transportation services and advised to talk to Team Management Case Manager to intervene for him with Hope House to secure transportation services.
- An attendee asked if bus cards are given for those who have transportation issues. Roman stated that bus cards are not issued by the Ryan White Program because the Ryan White Program asks to spend the funds on core medical services and supportive services. Bus Car rides are limitless and cannot account for what it is being used. The Dover resident mentioned that Team Management was providing him with bus cards but due to the pandemic this stopped. Morales, COC Chair, advised the attendees that these bus cards were being requested for them from LogistiCare and to contact someone at Medicare or LogistiCare to find what is going on. LogistiCare is a Medicare program. Morales also mentioned that complaints can be made to Medicare. Morales will provide the information to complain about this issue.
- **Motion:** Roman asked that all in favor to support the Newark EMA to request the FY 21 Core Service Waiver to HRSA to say Aye. All 25 attendees were in favor of support the Core Service Waiver Application. None opposed.
- An attendee asked for the number for support services in Passaic. Morales provided the Passaic resources information: <https://capcoresource.com/office/>, and the resource directory <http://resources.e-compas.com/>.
- Support Staff will send the Newark EMA service providers link as requested by an attendee.
- 6 attendees asked to be included in the CIA list serv moving forward.

8. Announcements

- Poole mentioned that St. Michael's CAB will meet on Wednesday, January 20th from 5 to 7pm and will talk about "Prioritizing your Health Care". All interested parties contact Mr. Poole to register.
- Adams-Jarrells stated that Rutgers is conducting a study for people with HIV and is seeking research volunteers for the study. Subject must be 18 years or older with HIV. Participation will be a confidential call. A gift card will be given at the completion of the study. To register call 973-972-1748 or chibps.rutgers@gmail.com. There is a 10 min qualification questionnaire. All providers should have the research study information as well.

9. Next meeting

The next CIA/CC meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021 at 5PM via GoToMeeting.

10. Adjournment

Poole asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. One attendee motioned to adjourn. Another seconded. This meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

A raffle of gift cards that were received after the holiday party occurred after the meeting was adjourned.