

Continuum of Care Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, June 10, 2021 from 10:02 AM to 11:42 AM

Videoconference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98086438103>

Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 980 8643 8103#

Present	Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
1. Ann Bagchi, Ph.D. (Secretary) 2. Cezar Dumago 3. Dr. Lucy Efobi 4. Wanda Figueroa, MD 5. Maisel Guzman 6. Vieshia Morales (Chair) 7. Dominga Padilla, MD 8. Lauro Rocha 9. Nancy Scangarello 10. War Talley (Non-Voting)		11. Kendall Clark

Guests: Jen Grimsich, Denise Brown (NJHC), Kathleen O'Brien, Jose Avila, Angela Vivar, Sharon Postel

Support Staff: Tania Guaman, Vicky Saguy

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Morales called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM 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. Roll Call

Dr. Bagchi conducted the roll call. Quorum was established.

3. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony at this meeting.

4. Approval of Meeting Summary from May 13, 2021

At the last COC meeting, the April 8th meeting summary was approved as presented.

The May 13th meeting summary was sent electronically in advance for review. Morales asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary as presented. Dr. Bagchi motioned to approve. Dumago seconded. There were no oppositions or abstentions.

5. Standing Committee Updates

- CPC – Guaman provided the following report for the May 14th meeting:
 - The CPC discussed about the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Process. The committee reviewed Planning CHATT's resources for the PSRA.

- The committee received a Quality Management and H4C update from the Recipient; as well as a one-year feedback presentation from the Community Involvement Activities group.
- Lastly, the committee received an overview of needs assessment key findings from the consumer and the agency survey.

The next CPC meeting will be held on Friday, June 11, 2021 via Zoom.

- REC – Dr. Bagchi provided the May 17th REC report as follows:
 - Postel provided the consumer and agency surveys preliminary findings of the Needs Assessment related to Telehealth. The sample of consumer surveys seems biased since not many people used telehealth. However, good information about barriers and facilitators of Telehealth use was gathered. A CHAMP Analysis was also done and shared.
 - The committee received a comprehensive Funding Stream Analysis Report from Support Staff; as well as an update of the Assessment Administrative Mechanism.
 - The Annual Epidemiologic data from NJDOH has not been received as of the last meeting.

The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 10AM via Zoom.

- CIA – Guaman provided the May 26th CIA report as follows:
 - 25 attendees were present at the meeting.
 - This was an opportunity for consumers to provide input as to whether Support Services are still a priority in the Newark EMA. Consumers felt that, yes, support services are an immediate priority, particularly in the areas of housing, food, utilities, transportation, psychosocial services, mental health, and oral health. With a unanimous vote, the community supported the idea of submitting a core service waiver request.
 - The Committee also did a priority setting activity and they ranked the 16 service categories in order of importance. The CIA summary will be sent to the COC committee via email.

The next CIA meeting will be held on June 23, 2021 5:00 to 7:00PM via Zoom.

6. Old Business

- **Complete the revision of the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services**

The committee continued the review of the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services Service Standard and updated the following:

- Program Guidance information was kept under the Description for clarity.
- Under Key Components and Activities:
 - “Education and counseling on health and prevention issues including PrEP and PEP and contraception counseling” was changed to “Education and counseling on health and prevention methods including PrEP and PEP for partner counseling as appropriate”.
 - “Contraception counseling” was changed to “Preconception counseling as indicated”.
- The Indicators/Performance Measures Section was removed for consistency and since HRSA recommended to not include this section on service standards.
- Under the Service Limitations/Requirements, the statement, “Parameters for service category spending are determined by the recipient’s office and communicated directly to funded organizations by the recipient.” was added as recommended by the Executive Committee.

- Under the Initial Evaluation – Collection of health history
 - o To have the most up to date laboratory testing, the committee took in consideration the *IDSA Primary Care Guidelines for Persons with HIV, Nov. 6, 2020* guidelines:
 - “Viral Load” was changed to “HIV Viral Load (RNA PCR)”
 - The sixth bullet point was changed from “If previously antibody positive, annual Hep C viral load; if positive for Hep B test for Hep B DNA PCR” to “If previously HCV antibody positive, annual Hep C viral load; if positive for HBsAg or HBV Core antibody and HBV Surface antibody negative, test for Hep B DNA PCR”.
 - The laboratory tests no longer recommended in the *IDSA Primary Care Guidelines for Persons with HIV* were removed, which included: HSV Serology, Toxoplasma Antibody status, Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
 - “MMR and Varicella titers as indicated” was added.
 - “HLAb5701” was changed to “HLAb5701, must be performed before the initiation of abacavir, otherwise not routine.”
 - o Vaccinations: “if applicable” was added to HPV. COVID-19 vaccines are recommended.
 - o Under the section regarding “Female clients (In addition to the above) Pregnancy or pregnancy potential”, “Pelvic exam” was changed to “Pelvic exam, if indicated. The committee agree to state the guidelines this section is referring to for further clarification. The committee agreed to review this section at the next meeting.

Motion: Due to time constraints and to allow time for the presentation scheduled today, Morales asked for a motion to table the Outpatient/Ambulatory Services Service Standard. Dr. Padilla motioned. Scangarello seconded. No abstentions or oppositions.

- Discuss updates regarding limitations for the revision of Oral Health, Housing, and EFA
 - A discussion was held by the Executive Committee to address the funding limitations listed under the Oral Health, Housing and Emergency Financial Assistance Service Standards. Guidance from the Executive Committee suggested that the Planning Council oversees service standards but does not set any funding limitations which is a responsibility of the Recipient. The committee recommended that a general statement be added instead to provide flexibility for the Recipient to make changes as needed. The statement will read as follows: “Parameters for service category spending are determined by the recipient’s office and communicated directly to funded organizations by the recipient.” This statement will be used when updating future service standards.
 - The Oral Health Service Standard was reviewed in March 2021 already. Since the addition of the new statement was the only new change, the committee approved this service standard with the recommended edit. **Motion:** Morales asked for a motion to approve the Oral Health Service Standard with this edit. Scangarello motioned. Dumago seconded. The Oral Health Service Standard was approved with recommended edit. No abstentions or oppositions.
 - The Housing and Emergency Financial Assistance Service Standards were last revised one year ago. Therefore, the committee agreed to review these at future meetings. **Motion:** Morales asked for a motion to table the Housing and Emergency Financial Assistance Service Standards for future meetings. Scangarello motioned. Dumago seconded. No abstentions or oppositions.

7. New Business

- PRESENTATION: Housing assistance for PLWH in the Newark EMA by Denise Brown
 - The New Jersey Housing Collaborative is a pilot program from the Department of Health Division of HIV, STDs and Tuberculosis Services working since 2017 to respond to treatment barriers for people living with HIV in New Jersey. Housing is a major barrier for People Living With HIV (PLWH) and a critical component to end the HIV Epidemic in Essex County New Jersey.
 - An overview of all housing options that people living with HIV would qualify for were shared, including those that are open to the general public. These housing resources included emergency financial assistance, prevention or short-term assistance, transitional opportunities for PLWHA, permanent supportive housing, subsidized apartments, and rental subsidies or vouchers.
 - The presentation will be available on the website at www.nemaplanningcouncil.org. The Collaborative provides training that introduces the housing continuum for social service providers interested in serving as housing ambassadors. There is also a Housing Case Manager Training more specific for case managers. Those interested can contact Denise Brown at dbrown@njhhc.org.

- **Review/Update the Housing Service Standard**

Motion: Due to time constraints and to allow time for the presentation scheduled today, Morales asked for a motion to table the Housing Service Standard. Scangarello motioned. Dr. Efobi seconded. No abstentions or oppositions.

8. Administrative Issues— PC Support Staff

- The Oral Health Service Standard will be introduced to the Planning Council on May 16.
- The Outpatient/Ambulatory Health & Housing Service Standards will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- The Early Intervention, Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals, and Mental Health Service Standards are posted on the website at <https://www.nemaplanningcouncil.org/service-standards>.
- The Service Standard section of the NEMA website will now list the latest revision dates of standards.

9. Announcements

- NJCRI will host an Annual HIV Testing Awareness Day on June 25 from 11am to 3pm. HIV Testing, COVID-19 vaccination will be provided.
- Rutgers received the Title X grant that allows to provide sexual and reproductive health services to women under 30, including free PAPs and contraception care such as LARCs, regardless of insurance status. To access these services, call 973-972-8216.
- Broadway House will offer COVID-19 vaccines on June 26, 2021 from 10am until 3pm.
- The CIA will host a COVID-19 Panel including discussions on COVID-19 updates, HIV and the COVID-19 vaccine, and a long-term survivor reflection on June 23 from 5pm until 7pm.

10. Next Meeting

The next COC meeting will be held on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 10 AM via Zoom.

11. Adjournment

Morales asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Scangarello motioned. Dumago seconded the motion. All members agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am.