



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, July 28, 2021 from 5:05 PM to 7:00 PM
 Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96635953539>
 Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 966 3595 3539#

Attendees: 20 attendees including 6 Planning Council members and 2 Essex County providers.

Attendees by County							
Essex	Union	Morris	Sussex	Warren	Unknown	Other	Total
17	1	0	0	0	1	1 (Bergen)	20

Support Staff: Tania Guaman and Vicky Saguary

Guest Speakers: War Talley (Essex Ending the HIV Epidemic Coordinator), Isaam Houston (NJDOH Public Health Representative), Kimberly Guthrie (NJDOH Public Health Advisor)

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Warren Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 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

There was no public testimony.

3. Approval of the Meeting Summary from June 23, 2021

The June 23rd meeting summary was sent electronically for review prior to the meeting. Poole asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary. One consumer motioned and another seconded. No abstentions or oppositions.

4. Ryan White Part A Updates

- The Part A funding Priority and Allocation recommendations was finalized and approved by the Planning Council. The Community Involvement Activity Committee feedback on priorities was included in the report. The report is now open to the public, and the link was made available in the chat [FY 2022 Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Report](#).
- The Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism Report evaluates how fast the recipient gives the funds to agencies. If agencies do not have funds, they cannot provide the services. HRSA requires the recipient to provide the funds to agencies between 30 to 45 days after an award letter is given. The findings for this report can be found on the [Newark EMA Website](#).

5. Old Business

No Old Business.

6. New Business

- **Reframing the Focus: Communities Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE)** – Presentation by War Talley with support from Isaam Houston, and Kimberly Guthrie
The presentation began with these two pool questions:
 - How familiar are you with Essex County's Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) plan? **13 attendees responded.**
 - Very familiar (6), Somewhat familiar (3), No Idea (4)
 - How involved was the HIV community in the development of the EHE plan? **15 attendees responded.**
 - Somewhat involved (7), Very involved (4), Unsure (3), What Plan?! (1)

Presentation:

- Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) is a national 10-year initiative that aims to reduce new HIV infections by 75% in 5 years and to less than 3,000 new infections per year by 2030. The initiative focuses on 48 Counties in the US with 2 New Jersey counties: Essex and Hudson.
 - The Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative has four pillars: 1) Diagnose, 2) Treat, 3) Prevent, 4) Respond. The Ending the Epidemic in Essex County focuses on Pillar 2 and 4. The NEMA EHE will work to increase linkage to care and Viral Load Suppression for newly diagnosed and for “hard to serve” clients to 90%.
 - The presenter shared the number of people living with HIV based on Essex County data from the 2020 Epidemiologic Profile. This report is available on the NEMA website for your review.
 - Community members can stay connected in these conversations through PC and committees meetings, New Jersey HIV Planning Group (NJHPG), and Other Committees. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these discussions.
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- **Discuss the Ending the HIV Epidemic goals for Essex County as outlined in the plan found at www.nemaplanningcouncil.org/ending-the-hiv-epidemic**
Discussed above.
 - **Obtain Community members input and feedback on how to meet these goals**
 - The following questions were asked to obtain input on how to meet the EHE goals:
 - How can we treat HIV timely and effectively, to achieve the pillar 2 goal?
 - Bring back the NJ Speaker Bureau that provided HIV 101 education, particularly in counties with higher HIV prevalence. Education is key.
 - Break HIV myths and stigma.
 - Using mobile units to go to the community to provide HIV tests.
 - Have more home testing kits.
 - Get youth involved and have speakers for the youth that youth can relate with.
 - Have mentorships for youth to continue the work.
 - Approach the youth through social media, Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, Twitter to inform them about Ending the Epidemic.
 - Have the EHE Initiative in other Counties in New Jersey such as Bergen and Passaic.

- Create a game for Ending the HIV Epidemic and/or HIV.
 - Share sexual education information with seniors.
 - Have prevention services beyond the usual 9am-5pm weekdays. Have clinics with weekend hours and evening hours. For instance, SkyHeart medical provides rapid start on Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 10 pm
 - Improve the sexual reproductive health education at schools.
 - Destigmatize Sex and HIV and talk about other prevention types besides condoms.
 - Condoms cannot be given at schools but can be put on a basket for people to take.
 - Create a culture in Essex County where you do not need a diagnosis to receive services.
- How do we ensure everyone living with HIV has access to HIV treatment when they are ready for it?
 - Avoid the 30 day wait-time for ADDP or other programs to pay for medications. Instead have a program to start medications right away for the first 30 days, particularly for those who are not insured. Currently, clients can get pharmaceutical coupons for HIV medicines while waiting for their ADDP application. Pharmaceutical companies also provide samples.
 - Get “treatment on demand” meaning get treatment the same day.
 - Make the ADDP application easier to fill out.
 - Have someone to support people after diagnosis to get them started on medication and other next steps. Sometimes people are confused.
 - Have more mental health and social support outside the medical environment.
 - Have an HIV Hotline with videochat or have zoom calls as a direct contact with someone who can help people living with HIV get the services needed.
 - Providers serving people living with HIV have medicine samples to provide to them.
 - Clinics to help with the commitment to stick with the HIV Treatment program.
 - Clear communication barriers and interpreting the policies.
 - What can the Essex County community, as a whole do to lessen the health disparities faced by its residents?
 - Encourage counseling and testing in mobile units in front of stores and businesses.
 - Have continuing education classes for Case Managers
 - Go to City Hall to talk to the Council about your needs and your community needs.
 - Create more affordable housing on buildings based on income in East Orange like in Newark.
 - Community outreach
 - Get Rutgers NJ Medical School and Rutgers School of public health involved in Newark community care and invest in the community more.
 - How can we build trust and long-term partnerships with community members?
 - Call City Hall to find out about council meetings to speak about the community needs.
 - Sign up for your city community calendar and receive emails containing info on what's going on. Newark has a program that's helping families buy homes.
 - Mentor and mobilize the youth to stand up for their needs and for community needs.
 - Youth are interested in voicing their concerns like they did with the Black Live Matters.

- Voice the concern of HOPWA getting less and less funding each year.
 - Voice concerns to Washington, Trenton, City of Newark, Housing Authority, etc.
 - Increase the percentage of affordable housing units in the new buildings to make sure people can afford to live there.
 - Have housing lotteries. Secaucus has a lottery process every 10 years.
 - New Jersey has a law that requires buildings to have certain number of units for low income, fixed income, etc. Enforce this law.
- After attending this presentation, how informed do you feel about Essex County's Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) plan? **15 attendees responded.**
 - Somewhat involved (7), Very involved (4), Unsure (3), What plan?! (1)
- **Play trivia and other games at this virtual event**
Attendees played a trivia game with HIV-related questions. 10 gift cards were raffled off to those who answered the trivia questions correctly.

7. Announcements

8. Next meeting

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 5 PM via Zoom.

9. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.