



# Planning Council

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Wednesday, December 15, 2021 from 1:31PM to 2:00 PM**  
 Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94744802916>  
 Teleconference: (929) 205 6099 / Meeting ID: 947 4480 2916#

Present	Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
1. Janice Adams-Jarrells	19. Ketlen Alsbrook (Recipient)	25. Jeremiah Cohen
2. Dr. Ann Bagchi	20. James Carrington	26. Debbie Morgan
3. Kendall Clark	21. Thomas Johnson	27. Dr. Dominga Padilla
4. Cynthia Cocagee	22. Elizabeth Kocot	28. Ricardo Salcido
5. Cezar Dumago (Secretary)	23. Rev. Donald Ransom	29. Calvin Toler
6. Dr. Wanda Figueroa	24. Aliya Roman (Non-Voting)*	
7. Juanita Howell		
8. Dr. Robert Johnson (Chair)		
9. Gloria Jones		
10. Tamerla Lawrence		
11. Joann McEniry (Vice-Chair)		
12. Patricia Moore (Treasurer)		
13. Vieshia Morales		
14. Natalie Muhammad		
15. Dr. Walter Okoroanyanwu		
16. Warren Poole		
17. Sharon Postel (Non-Voting)*		
18. Providencia Rodriguez		

**Guests:** Kelly Martins

**PC Support Staff:** Tania Guaman; Unnati Guru

**1. Welcome & Moment of Silence**

Dr. Johnson welcomed all attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM. A moment of silence was observed for those affected, those who have passed, and those living with HIV/AIDS.

**2. Roll Call**

Cezar conducted the roll call for this meeting. Quorum was established.

**3. Public Testimony**

There was no public testimony.

**4. Approval of the Meeting Summary from November 17, 2021**

At the previous meeting, the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was approved as distributed and posted on the NEMA website.

The November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was sent electronically in advance for Planning Council review.

**Motion:** Dr. Johnson asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary as distributed. Morales motioned to approve. Adams-Jarrells seconded. The vote passed unanimously, and the meeting summary was approved.

## 5. Report from the Recipient

- No report was provided at this time.

## 6. Standing Committee Updates

- **Continuum of Care (COC): Vieshia Morales** – provided the December 9<sup>th</sup> COC report:

- o The Other Professional Service Standards completed the 30-day public review period, with no feedback received.

**Motion:** Dr. Johnson asked for a motion to approve the Other Professional Service Standards. Morales motioned. Dumago seconded. The vote passed unanimously. The revised Other Professional Service Standards will be made available on the Planning Council website.

The next COC meeting will be held on January 13, 2022, at 10am via Zoom.

- **Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC): Joann McEniry** – provided the December 10<sup>th</sup> CPC report.

- o The Committee received a presentation by Dr. Lucy Efobi “Rapid Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy In An HIV Clinic – “Implementation Strategy” in preparation for the Committee’s work on the 2022-2026 Integrated Health Plan goals and objectives.
- o The committee reviewed the goals from the Essex County EHE plan, the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, and the 2017 Integrated Health Plan for consideration in planning for the 2022-2026 goals. Preliminary goals were drafted under the four EHE pillars of Diagnose, Treat, Prevent, and Respond.
- o At the next meeting, the committee will focus on finalizing the goals and begin drafting the objectives in accordance with the timeline that was developed for the plan.

The next CPC meeting will be held on January 14, 2022, at 9:30am via Zoom

- **Research and Evaluation Committee (REC): Ann Bagchi, Ph.D.** – provided the November 15<sup>th</sup> report.

- o Discussion took place regarding the methodology for the Full 2022 Needs Assessment, which include Agency Surveys, Client Surveys, and CHAMP data. The committee created their timeline for the Integrated Plan.
- o The REC continued the review of the Integrated Health Plan, Section 3: Contributing Data Sets and Assessments.
- o The Update on Quality Improvement Plan and Benchmarks was tabled for the time being due to no updates from the Recipient’s Office.

The next REC meeting will be held on December 20, 2021, at 10am via Zoom.

- **Community Involvement Activities (CIA): Warren Poole** – Support Staff provided the November 17<sup>th</sup> report.

- o PC Support Staff shared Policy Clarification Notice 21-02 regarding determining client eligibility and payor of last resort. Consumers felt it was a great update, as using electronic data sources to confirm eligibility will avoid the need for clients to go in-person to sign documents, especially when they are unable to leave their homes or are hospitalized.

- The committee had a conversation regarding the importance of their input and lived experiences. The Committee felt community engagement should occur throughout the entire planning process for the 2022-2026 Integrated Plan, which was added to the overall timeline.
- Together, attendees put together a list of organizations and entities that should be involved, as outlined in Appendix 3 of the guidance. This document is available with the CIA meeting minutes, with the advisement of organizations outside of the Ryan White prevention and community groups should be a part of it.
  - The CIA's recommendation is that committees have access to this information, so they can invite applicable organizations to their committee meetings to assist and advise when planning the Integrated Health Plan.
  - Support Staff is putting together a list of contact people as well for each of the recommended organizations and entities. Any recommendations for contacts should be shared with the Support Team.
- Community Engagement guidance was reviewed, and discussion took place regarding how to reach out to these identified stakeholders; how to engage these groups; and needing support from the other PC committees.

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 5PM via Zoom where the committee will be hosting a holiday social that is open to everyone.

**Motion:** Dr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the Standing Committee Updates. Adams-Jarrells motioned. Dumago seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

## 7. State & National Updates -

- **Report from the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH)** – Dr. Johnson provided the following report:
  - December 15, 2021 is the one-year anniversary of the first COVID-19 vaccines in New Jersey. In recognition of this event, there was a press event at the University Hospital with Governor Murphy.
  - December 15 is also Boost NJ Day, and Dr. Johnson encourages everybody in the State of New Jersey to get their Covid boosters. Many hospitals around the state are hosting special events to encourage people to get their booster dose.
- **Report from the Governor's Advisory Council (GAC)** – Dr. Bagchi provided the following report:
  - A Plan from the GAC's Ending the HIV Epidemic plan work group was finally announced, and they are looking for people who are interested in participating and implementing the plans that were recommended.
- **Report from the NJ HIV Planning Group (NJHPG)** – Guaman advised a report was sent out with full details by the Support Staff. At this time, there is no report, as the NJHPG meeting will take place on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - NJHPG has not yet reviewed the Integrated Health Plan guidance. However, there was a presentation on health equity, which focused on what equity means and how it would impact the Integrated Health Plan. This led to a conversation on what the status neutral approach is, and the meaning of key terms provided in the guidance. Once the presentation is available, it will be shared with the Planning Council and its various committees.
  - The next NJ HIV Planning Group meeting will be held on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

## 8. Planning Council Administrative Issues

- **Report from Executive Committee** – Dr. Johnson provided the following report:
  - The committee had a detailed conversation in response to the HRSA site visit:
    - Planning Council Reflectiveness – the reflectiveness report was already submitted, but it requires more details such as: how representation gaps will be filled; how the over-representation of big institutions like Rutgers will be handled; ways in which the PC can expand their representation and include state agencies.
    - Planning Council Structure – discussion involved how the council functions and its structure, part of which may require changes in the bylaws. Pat Moore, as the chair of the Bylaws committee, will be reviewing this. Any significant changes will require the involvement of the mayor.
    - Implementations of the changes – The council wants to ensure any radical changes needed in leadership, structure, and function of the council will require a detailed plan and strategy to not adversely affect the outcome, as the outcomes in the Newark EMA have been pretty good
  - The Executive Committee will be working on addressing the reflectiveness, changes to the bylaws, and then the development of an implementation plan.
  
- **Report from Treasurer** – Moore provided the following report.
  - The Planning Council has received, in addition to the original award, the amount of \$8,729.22, which brings the total to \$254,492.22. This will make up the deficit that was expected at the end of the year.
  - As of the November 2021 financial report, the PC is within budgeted amounts.
  
- **Report from Planning Council (PC) Support Staff** – Guaman and Guru reported the following:
  - The Support Team has been working on gathering as much information and resources for the Integrated Plan. The webinars below will be made available on the Planning Council website as they become available:
    - The National HIV/AIDS Strategy webinar held on December 9<sup>th</sup> provided many resources for communities to end the HIV epidemic, as well as a layout of Federal Official plans to use in the strategy within their own jurisdictions.
    - Another webinar series, “Moving From Anti-Racism Intention to Action” took place, providing a data equity framework, which is one of the guidance documents for the integrated plan. The framework provides guidance across different systems, including public health, social philanthropy, and healthcare, and would allow organizations and individuals to apply this framework in action and review design and driver elements that can move them towards an anti-racist system.
    - NASTAD hosted a “Status Neutral 101” webinar on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The slides and recording will be made available in the next week. This webinar showcased the NYC status neutral approach, highlighting the concept of looking at a person as a whole and a one-door approach, which means having both treatment and prevention in the same place, offered alongside other medical and support services. The webinar also included some frameworks to integrate a status neutral approach. Ka’leef from NJDOH was present at the webinar, and he provided his perspective in regards to how New Jersey is trying to apply the status neutral approach and announced ELIXIR: “Comprehensive Status-Neutral HIV Services for Focus Populations,” applications of which are currently being reviewed for funding. The goal is to focus on HIV services linking clients to some

services, including PrEP, behavioral intervention or Ryan White Part A services, state-funded services, as well as to build capacity to get people to come to one door to get that the need.

- The Support Team also provided a friendly reminder regarding the updated NEMA Planning Council policies. The initial email regarding members to fill out the policies was sent out on December 1<sup>st</sup>. A reminder email will be sent out to all those whose policy forms are pending. These policies can be filled out on the Planning Council website:  
<https://www.nemaplanningcouncil.org/pc-forms-and-documents-1>

## 9. Old/New Business

- **Approval of the Other Professional Service Standards after a 30-day review**  
The Other Professional Service Standards was approved during COC's Standing Committee Update
- **Community Engagement for Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Planning**  
This item was tabled for the January meeting as the CIA Chair was not present at the time to lead the discussion.

## 10. Announcements

- Clark provided the following announcements:
  - As of last week, New Jersey has made the first step towards decriminalizing HIV. Clark was on a conference call with senators, feedback was provided by listeners, and the vote was approved to take the step to the committee to take it to the house for approval. This is the first time that there has been some type of modernization not dealing with laws from 1981-1982. Clark or Adams-Jarrells will be in touch with the PC when this goes to the House for approval to decriminalize HIV.
  - EHE funding is available and geared towards HIV positive people who are working but are homeless. Clark will be working with War and Ron and those in charge of the EHE funding through the Ryan White office to get this word out. This funding can pay up to 100% of one's rent for six months, and then 70% of one's rent for a year and a half.
- NJCRI is having a job fair on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10AM - 2PM. Positions are available in the following departments: LGBTQ Services, Administration, Counseling & Testing, Clinical, and Behavioral Health Services.

## 11. Next Meeting

The Planning Council meeting will meet on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 1:30pm via Zoom.

## 12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at Dr. Johnson's decree at 2PM.