



Continuum of Care Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, September 8, 2022, from 10:01AM to 11:39AM

Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/85358756881>

Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 853 5875 6881

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

Guests: Sharon Postel and Stephanie Antoine

Support Staff: Carla-Ann Alexander and Victor Peralta

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Morales called the meeting to order at 10:01AM 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

Peralta conducted the roll call. Quorum was established later in the meeting.

3. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony at this meeting.

4. Approval of Meeting Summary from July 14th and August 11th

The July 14th and August 11th meeting summary was motioned to be approved and distributed electronically. Morales abstained the meeting summary from August 11th.

5. Standing Committee Updates

- *Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC)* – Peralta provided the August 12th CPC report.
 - The Recipient’s office gave a presentation on Ryan White Allocations for FY22, Ryan White Service utilization/spending data, and an update on MAI.
 - The Priority Setting and Resource Allocation report for FY22 was also reviewed. The committee adjusted the percentages for NEMA-wide Service categories for FY23. PC support staff will make the requested changes then submit to the Planning Council for thirty-day review.

- The next CPC meeting will be held on Monday September 9, 2022, at 9:30am via Zoom.
- *Research and Evaluation Committee (REC)* – Peralta provided the August 15th REC report:
 - Members reviewed section 3 Contributing Data Sets and Assessments for the 2022-2026 Integrated Plan.
 - Members reviewed and updated the FY 2022-2023 Workplan.
 - Sharon Postel gave a brief overview of the Needs Assessment Summary Draft. This survey aimed at individuals who had a medical visit and did not achieve viral load suppression. The goal is to highlight the type of services clients are receiving along with the providers.
 - Bagchi wanted the COC to know that she was surprised that people who had medical visits with providers, are the ones who are not achieving viral load suppression and have the “worst” outcomes, compared to the supportive agencies.
 - Postel stated that out of the clients surveyed so far, about 286, 75% of them did not achieve viral load suppression and/or did not have a medical visit reported but were seen by medical providers. They are still working on the final findings and reasoning behind this discovery.
 - Morales stated that some pharmacies are having patients sell their medication back. This can be another reason for patients not being virally suppressed, which is a big problem. Scangarello added that her pharmacy is doing outreach/follow-ups for the patients and keeping up with their prescription refills. It was commented that patients are falling out of care and CHAMP is not being updated. Morales stated that her agency attempts to email clients or mail letters out and that sometimes clients move and transfer care/treatment elsewhere.
 - The Administrative Mechanism was submitted to the Recipient’s Office and awaiting responses.
 - The committee sent out a request and is waiting on the 2022 Epidemiologic Profile Report.
 - The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, September 19, 2022, at 10AM via Zoom.
- *Community Involvement Activities Committee (CIA)* – Peralta provided the August 24th CIA report.
 - The committee discussed Co-Chair and Secretary responsibilities.
 - Alexander gave a brief overview about all NEMA’s sub-committees.
 - A discussion took place about different strategies for recruitment and engagement. The committee also gave opinions about having hybrid meetings in the future.
 - The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday September 28, 2022, at 5pm via Zoom.

6. Old Business

- **Planning for the 2022-2026 HIV Prevention and Care Planning**
 - Section 5 Situational Analysis
 - Scangarello commented on Pilar #3 Prevent PrEP, PEP. Challenges should include having primary care providers doing more sexual history intakes and mentioning PrEP

more frequently. Identified needs should be educating providers more efficiently. Even though the Ryan White Program does not fund PrEP, the state does, funds should be integrated in terms of services at a single agency/site. Bagchi agreed that primary care providers should be more aware/involved in HIV care-treatment-prevention and/or refer their patients, especially if they aren't comfortable enough.

- Dr. Efobi added that emergency room doctors/staff should be educated more on HIV and should also be doing sexual history intakes. When patients are sick, they tend to go to the emergency room first, especially if they cannot contact their PCP. This will help link more individuals to proper referrals. Rocha added that urgent cares are great target places as well. Providing these facilities with references can be beneficial.
 - Dumago mentioned that his clinic does provide PrEP through funding from the New Jersey Health Department.
 - Postel explained that the Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan includes a section called status neutral approach. If a new client comes in to get tested for HIV, and is positive, they can receive Ryan White Services. If they test HIV negative, they can go to PrEP services.
 - A strength Dr. Bagchi added was NEMA's infrastructure and well-integrated system. Newark, NJ is one of the first locations where the HIV outbreak started. This gives researchers a lot of historical information for planning.
 - Dumago stated that anyone who is initiating treatment after diagnoses should be aware that there are high risks of Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome (IRIS) development and Hepatitis-B. Pilar #4 Respond was edited to include the challenge, "Clinician have to assess patient thoroughly in a timely manner for risk of IRIS within seven days of rapid initiation treatment."
 - Another challenge added to Pilar #4 Respond was receiving CHAMP data right away. All data going into CHAMP and EMR, to capture viral loads within five days, was listed as an identified need along with having funding available for staff to do so.
 - Dumago inputted, "Availability of medication from pharmacy" as a challenge under Pilar #4 Respond.
 - An identified need added to Pilar #4 Respond was creating better linkage between providers that are Ryan White and non-Ryan White funded. Dr. Efobi added the need of providing education to both Ryan White and non-traditional providers on rapid ART. Postel noted that the Aids Education and Training Center (AETC) provide programs about this topic.
- The Section 5 Situational Analysis was completed and motioned to be sent to the CPC.

7. New Business

- Review/Update Substance Use (Residential)
 - Support Staff made requested changes. Part V. Assessment and Service Plan section B. Development and Implementation of Treatment Plan was reworded to state, "The Treatment Plan should include an outline of the steps for treatment progression and dates for measurable goal completion."
- The committee motioned to approve service standard to be sent to the Planning Council for review.

- Review/Update Substance Use Outpatient
 - Support Staff made requested changes. Part V. Assessment and Service Plan section B. Development and Implementation of Treatment Plan was reworded to state, “The Treatment Plan should include an outline of the steps for treatment progression and dates for measurable goal completion.”
 - The committee motioned to approve service standard to be sent to the Planning Council for review.
- Review/Update Health Insurance Premium & Cost-Sharing Assistance (HIPCA) for low-income individuals
 - The committee reviewed this standard. Due to lack of quorum, the vote to approve this standard has been tabled until the next COC meeting.
 - Dumago had a question on clarity about Part IV. This concern will be brought to the Recipient’s Office and answered at the next COC meeting.
- Review/Update Oral Health
 - The committee reviewed this standard. Due to lack of quorum, the vote to approve this standard has been tabled until the next COC meeting.

8. Administrative Issues— PC Support Staff

- There were no issues reported.

9. Announcements

- There were no announcements.

10. Next Meeting

- The next COC meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 10AM via Zoom.

11. Adjournment

- The meeting ended by Morales decree at 11:39 a.m.