



# Community Involvement Activities Committee MEETING SUMMARY

*The Planning Council believes that the voice of the community is paramount. The purpose of the CIA 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 27, 2022, from 5:06 PM to 7:00 PM**

Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/86241473770>

Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 862 4147 3770#

**Attendees:** There were 16 attendees at the meeting and participated in the Zoom call.

Attendees by County							
Essex	Union	Morris	Sussex	Warren	Unknown	Other	Total
8	1				6	1	16

**Support Staff:** Carla-Ann Alexander

**Guests:** Sharon Postel

## 1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Warren Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:06 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. Poole provided a brief overview of the CIA's purpose and goals.

## 2. Public Testimony

A participant shared their experience at the eye doctor. She got to her appointment earlier than scheduled. She was waiting a very long time, then they dilated her eyes. She was then instructed to wait in the waiting room again. The participant noticed other patients coming in after her was being seen before her. She eventually went to the receptionist to explain her concern. The participant said the receptionist started arguing with one of the doctors about the wait time. The participant waited for a few hours and then left. She called her health care provider and requested a different eye doctor.

## 3. Approval of the Meeting Summary from May 25, 2022

The May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was sent electronically for review prior to the meeting. Poole asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary as presented.

One attendee motioned and another seconded. The vote passed unanimously. No abstentions or oppositions.

#### **4. Ryan White Part A Updates**

There were no updates.

#### **5. Old Business**

- Nominations for Co-Chair and Secretary
  - Calvin Toler was nominated for Co-Chair.
  - Juanita McClure is interested in becoming Secretary.
  - Nominations were postponed until September.
  - Poole created an updated membership list.
- Discussion:
  - War Talley recommended creating a recruitment strategy. This should be a task for committee members and support staff to craft a plan to enroll new members or participants. He mentioned that this is a great opportunity for engagement due to the many events taking place. He gave the CIA the idea of hosting an interest meeting or event. Including that the CIA have monthly meetings that is open to the public will help with engagement. Talley also recommended creating a flyer to distribute.
  - Poole mentioned the possibility of meeting in person again and if anyone is willing to. This should be a committee decision to bring to the Executive Committee. Poole did a vote of whether people wanted to meet in person, online, or in a hybrid format. Six people voted for in person meetings followed by seven for hybrid meetings.
  - Ed Barron stated that many consumers in Morris, Sussex. And Warren counties do not know what the CIA is. He elaborated by explaining an instance in which consumers he was working with weren't familiar with NEMA. Barron pointed this scenario out since the consumers were frustrated that no one is informing them on roles they can play for NEMA. He elaborated that no one talks to clients in depth about NEMA. He suggested creating more suggestive flyers so that consumers can know they have a "voice" as far as planning services for themselves. Poole explained that Support Staff created a poster, that had a brief overview of all the NEMA Committees, for every agency who receive Ryan White funding. Barron explained that these posters are put up, but no one is there to explain the information posted. Poole understood Barron's point of view and added that due to COVID-19 restrictions, going out to all five counties in person was not an option. Barron also suggested that a CIA member come to the Morris/Sussex/Warren counties' meeting and give a presentation. Their meetings consist of many providers.

- Support Staff created recruitment flyers in June. Abdulwaliyy suggested resending the flyers out along with sending more emails about CIA meetings.
- Dr. Okoroanyanwu mentioned that many organizations and institutes are meeting in person. He gave the example of NJCRI's National HIV Testing Day event. He stated that there should be a concerted effort to invite members to these in person activities. He also suggested forming a recruitment committee to focus specifically on outreach and other community involvement activities.
- Poole stated that if the CIA wanted to host an event, the committee will need permission from the Planning Council.

## 6. New Business

- Epidemiological Profile Overview—Sharon Postel did a presentation:
  - Epidemiology is a branch of medicine which deals with the incidence, distribution, and possible control of diseases and other factors relating to health.
  - There are two key terms when looking at an epidemiological profile, or study of any disease. The first is incidence, which is new cases, and the second is prevalence, which is existing cases. Both must be studied to treat existing cases, identify where new cases are, prevent spreading, and to stop or treat as soon as possible.
  - Epidemiology is based on results of testing, measurement, and study of data of those with disease. The type of data characteristics collected are based on age, gender, geography, biological and behavioral risk factors.
  - The Epidemiologic Profile Report is used by public health and other health professionals to prevent and treat diseases. The profile is known as the baseline starting point to help identify barriers, identify challenges, target resources, target messages, and provide innovative strategies for subpopulations. You can't prevent or treat diseases if you don't know who is getting it, where, and why.
  - The Newark EMA Epidemiological Profile is HRSA required and prepared annually. It is the starting point of the annual Needs Assessment. The data comes from the New Jersey's Department of Health (NJDOH) Division of HIV, AIDS, and STDs Services.
  - The Newark EMA Epidemiological Profile also analyze trends over the past 10 years using graphs. If available, transgender data is also a contended.
  - Key Findings within the profile included transmission, age, gender, geography, and new diagnoses. The Epidemiological Profile is used by

the Planning Council to create the annual Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Report, Ryan White Unit's annual RFP for services to agencies, NEMA's Clinical Quality Management Program, and the Needs Assessment.

- Abdulwaliyy asked if there is a correlation between Monkey Pox and HIV. Postel answered saying that she is not sure at the moment. She stated that all communicable diseases must be reported to the state for an analysis by law. Postel gave the example of how the state previously crossed analyze HIV with Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C. Talley also added that prevalence plays a role because some of the risk factors for Monkey Pox are like those of HIV.
- Preliminary update of needs assessment findings
  - This item was tabled for next month.

## **7. Announcements**

- 1) Ryan White Conference on AIDS to be held on August 23-26 virtually
- 2) War Talley thanked the committee for their help and knowledge and will be presenting at the Ryan White Conference on community engagement activities.
- 3) Dr. Okoroanyanwu posted in the chat information about Cancer Care and that they received a grant to provide services/treatment.
- 4) NJCRI is distributing Monkey Pox vaccinations. Talley will be sending more information.
- 5) Barron announced Gay Men's Awareness Day on September 30<sup>th</sup>, Transgender Day of Learning on November 18<sup>th</sup>, HIV and Aging is on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Flyers will be sent out. Barron mentioned that they are looking for more community engagement. Their council are looking for more consumers since the past two years consisted of mostly providers. Barron believes mental health is a bigger issue now due to COVID-19.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 5 PM via Zoom.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.