

# 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, March 23, 2022 from 5:10 PM to 7:15 PM**  
 Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/86241473770>  
 Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 862 4147 3770#

**Attendees:** There were 10 attendees at the meeting and participated in the Zoom call.

Attendees by County							
Essex	Union	Morris	Sussex	Warren	Unknown	Other	Total
15	3	0	0	0	0	1	19

**Support Staff:** Juanita Vargas and Unnati Guru

**Guests:** Saymah Nah – Gateway U, Aliya Roman, NJDOH

### 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

One attendee shared with the Committee that he recently had surgery and that he is recovering well. He reminded everyone that keeping medical appointments is critical for one's health.

### 3. Approval of the Meeting Summary from February 22, 2022

The February 22nd 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. Old Business

- **Newark EMA Core Service Waiver**
  - Roman led the discussion, advising attendees the Recipient would like to waive the required minimum allocation of 75% of all Ryan White Part A funds towards core medical services and 25% maximum of funds towards support services. Roman explained this waiver would allow for more of the funds to be put towards support services.
  - Based on the FY2022 Priority Setting and Resource Allocation report, which includes consumer input, the Planning Council's recommendation led to a core service allocation of 71.75%, and 28.25% in support services. Roman advised they do not see a need or gap to fund the core medical services in excess of 75% because the uninsured population is 18% in the Newark EMA, and their needs would still be met.

The Committee unanimously approved the Core Service Waiver presented by the Recipient's office.

- **Planning for the 2022 – 2026 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan**
  - Continue conversations about Community Engagement – The Committee discussed the most recent consumer engagement activity and that outreach materials had been shared with all subrecipients. It was acknowledged that the increase in consumers present at the meeting was a direct result of this activity. In addition, the flyers serve as outreach for consumer engagement in the development of the Integrated plan.
- **Discuss the Newark EMA's approach to Ending the HIV Epidemic -**
  - The integrated plan is going to be focusing on the four pillars 1. diagnose, 2. treatment, 3. prevention, and 4. response to diagnosis. Below are highlights of the discussion:
    - One of the goals for diagnosis is to promote access to testing so 100% of persons living with HIV or AIDS know their status by 2026.
    - Promoting access to testing can include identifying settings that are already doing routine HIV testing, identifying best practices used by those agencies, and how screenings were provided.
    - Expanding or implementing routine HIV screening at health care and institutional settings.
    - Consumers shared that home testing has positive and negative outcomes and there is a particular concern about how an individual would get care and support the moment they learn they are positive.
    - It was recommended that home test kits should come with instructions on who to contact if results are positive, how to get counseling, and what should be done next.

- There should be a professionally trained person that follows up with individuals to see if they need assistance accessing services.
- Until an individual is ready to get into care, it does not matter if they get tested at a mobile unit, if they get tested at home, or if they get tested in the clinic.
- There are two different testing programs that are being considered:
  - ✓ Individuals complete a home test, send the sample for diagnostics, and participate in a Telehealth meeting for the result.
  - ✓ Individuals secure a home test kit from a pharmacy without any additional support.
- The importance of reminding individuals that the diagnosis and care does not just affect them but that it affects other people.
- Providing information that it is not the end of the world if tested positive using mainstream media to promote this.
- Promoting the importance of using condoms.
- Creating a 24-hour hotline for individuals who need help. A member shared that he/she is working on this concept to support people who test positive for people who need a little more support.
- Informational pamphlets with a list of agencies that individuals can contact for help can be created/shared.

## 5. New Business

- **Seeking Vice Chair and Secretary for the CIA Committee** (not originally on the agenda)
  - The Committee engaged in a discussion on the importance of having a Vice Chair and Secretary for the Committee. Ms. Vargas and Ms. Roman shared that there is a recent HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) requirement that committee members that hold positions (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary) must also be members of the Planning Council.
  - The Committee discussed updating the bylaws to include this guidance and that any additional guidance from HRSA also be included.
  - Mr. Tally inquired if these changes had been announced at the Planning Council, Ms. Roman confirmed that they were shared and that there will be a continued effort in sharing the information to ensure that members interested in positions were aware of the opportunity and the requirements.

- Ms. Vargas suggested that anyone interested in being considered for a position should send their information to Mr. Poole and that once the Recipient's office receives written guidance from HRSA, we would circle back to those who have expressed interest.
- In addition, Mr. Poole explained that to maintain confidentiality of Consumer's and appropriately record meeting summaries, CIA members would be identified by a number and not by name.
- **Overview of purpose of the NEMA Planning Council and its Public Hearings**
  - Ms. Guru explained that Dr. Johnson will continue being the Chair of the NEMA Planning Council and that discussions were held at the subcommittees regarding the importance of consumer engagement and input and on ideas for recruiting more members.
  - The Committee discussed ideas for engaging Consumers and the following recommendations were made:
    - Having speakers at various locations sharing information about HIV/AIDS
    - Making sure that there's information available at local schools, making sure there's information available at Community level.
    - Using social media to share notifications and to target outreach promotions.
    - getting pharmaceutical REPS begun to pay for commercials.
    - Sharing posters that went out to all the subrecipients with schools and other agencies serving youth.
  - A Committee member shared that the integrated plan does not specifically focus on people who are living with HIV, it is focused on all areas including prevention.
  - Next Steps include creating a plan of action.

## **6. Announcements**

- Kasny Damas and Saymah Nah shared information about the Gateway U college access program located in Newark. Gateway partners with New Hampshire University to provide online affordable, accessible, and accredited College degrees.
- Gateway provides one-to-one coaching, wraparound support and access to resources needed for students to be successful.
- The Look at Me now HIV through the generations, presentation is open to the public, and it is an in-person event on April, the 20th.

- Janssen pharmaceuticals will be at St. Michaels on Monday, March 28th to host the meeting.

**7. Next meeting**

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 5 PM via Zoom.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.