



**Planning Council  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023, from 1:30 PM to 2:01 PM**  
 Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83368597496>  
 Teleconference: (929) 205 6099 / Meeting ID: 833 6859 7496

Present	Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
1) Dr. Ann Bagchi	12) Ricardo Salcido	17) James Carrington
2) Cezar Dumago	13) Dr. Wanda Figueroa	18) Jeremiah Cohen
3) Thomas Johnson	14) Tamerla Lawrence	19) Kourtney Puliam
4) Vieshia Morales	15) Joann McEniry (Interim Chair)	20) Janice Adams-Jarrells
5) Dr. Walter Okoroanyanwu	16) Debbie Morgan	21) Cynthia Cocagee
6) Aliya Roman (Recipient)*		22) Patricia Moore (Treasurer)
7) Natalie Muhammad		23) Warren Poole
8) Sharon Postel (Non-Voting)		24) Lynnette Abdulwaliyy
9) Calvin Toler		
10) Gloria Jones		
11) Dr. Dominga Padilla		

**Guests:** Chevonne Cato

**PC Support Staff:** Carla-Ann Alexander, Roberto Benoit

**1. Welcome & Moment of Silence**

Morales (filling in for McEniry) welcomed all attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM. A moment of silence was observed for those affected, those who have passed, and those living with HIV/AIDS.

**2. Roll Call**

The Support Staff, Benoit, conducted the roll call for this meeting. Quorum was not established.

**3. Public Testimony**

There were no public testimonies.

**4. Approval of the Meeting Summary from June 21, 2023**

The June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting summary was tabled due to a lack of quorum.

**5. Report from the Recipient—Aliya Roman**

- The Recipient’s office previously reported the closing of FY22, which had to be further adjusted. The closing balance for FY 22 is now \$453,799.82 .
- The Recipient’s Office has begun paying their sub-recipients for the FY23. The sub-recipients that were adopted on May 4<sup>th</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>, with 20 contracts, are currently being processed. The Recipient’s Office has 12 more contracts that are being adopted in today’s meeting.
- After August 2<sup>nd</sup> the remainder of the contracts for 2023 will be completed.

- The 2023 award letters for the full awards have been released. The due dates were for Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Several sub-recipient programs have extensions due this Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
- Regarding the needs assessment, Postel received the responses for all 77 clients, and they are being summarized. She'll be able to present those findings in the next PC meeting.
- The State Department of Health meeting is ongoing. The recipient's office did get interest from the EHE project officer for the State who's in charge of the Essex and Hudson County plan for Ending the Epidemic. She expressed interest in attending our PC meetings. The invitation was sent out, so the recipient would like the support Staff to follow up on her request to attend PC meetings.
- The Recipient's Office is working with City Hall and the Planning Council on membership appointments/ renewals. The oath ceremonies are being moved to August.

## 6. Standing Committee Updates

- **Continuum of Care (COC)—Vieshia Morales gave the report:**
  - The COC (Continuum of Care) last met on July 13, 2023.
  - The committee approved the Mental Health Service Standards and is submitting them today for 30-day review.
  - The COC has 3 Service Standards up for approval today.

The next COC meeting will be held on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 10 am via Zoom.

- **Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC)— Support Staff gave the report:**
  - The CPC last met on Friday, July 14, 2023.
  - The committee discussed the finalized rankings and allocation of percentages for the NEMA Wide Service categories for FY24, making sure that all service standards are prioritized.
  - The committee finalized the FY24 PSRA report and completed any remaining PSRA tasks and approved the FY24 PSRA report to be submitted to the planning Council for 30 Day review in today's meeting.

The next CPC meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 11, 2023, at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

- **Research and Evaluation Committee (REC)— Bagchi gave the report:**
  - The REC last met on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 10 am via Zoom.
  - The committee reviewed the status of the needs assessment and the interim findings.
  - The REC committee finalized the Draft Survey for the assessment administrative mechanism.
  - REC committee had a guest speaker Michael Hagen

The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023, at 10 am via Zoom.

- **Community Involvement Activities (CIA)—Support Staff gave an update:**
  - The CIA last met on Wednesday, June 28, 2023.
  - The CIA committee ranked service standards in order of priority, making sure all service standards were prioritized. The committee also discussed how funds are going to be distributed after the PSRA process.
  - The committee hosted an HPV & Cancer Prevention workshop Hosted by Shantelle James from Rutgers Health.

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 5 pm via Zoom.

- **Nominations Committee – Dr. Walter Okoroanyanwu, gave the updates.**

- The committee last met on July 12, 2023.
- The committee considered the 2 open positions for the secretary and the treasurer position. The treasurer position has been accepted by Mr. Toler.
- The secretary was originally filled by Natalie Mohammad. But the position was later rescinded due to competing priorities. The committee is now in search of a new Secretary.

The next NC meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 6 PM via Zoom.

Morales requested a motion to receive all the standing committee updates. Toler made the motion, There were no abstentions. All were in favor. No opposition. The Standing Committee Updates were approved.

## 7. State & National Updates –

- **Report from the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH)**

- There were no updates reported.

- **Report from the Governor’s Advisory Council (GAC)—Dr. Ann Bagchi**

- There was some discussion about the prevalence and incident numbers in New Jersey going up. The council discussed whether or not the changes are due to an influx of people moving into New Jersey.
- The council discussed Medicaid reimbursement for PrEP. There has been some resistance in terms of paying for the injectable versions of PrEP vs oral medication. Insurance providers are requiring that patients provide documentation explaining the need for injectables vs. oral medication before paying for the requested meds. Someone on the council mentioned that there has been over \$200 million dollars in funding to offset the high cost of injectables, therefore there shouldn't be a reason for denial.
  - Dumago mentioned that the availability of injectables are determined by the insurance company. Some are approving the medication right away, but other companies may resist paying for the prescription. Even in the case of Descovy, a PrEP medication, Dumago has found that insurance companies would not approve the medication unless a person has a real kidney problem, brittle bones, or hypersensitivity to Tenofovir.
- ADAP Slush funds for rebate are being depleted. Therefore, there will be a push to get more people into marketplace coverage, but there are 2,000 people have no other option because they don't qualify for health insurance coverage.
- There was additional discussion about the shortage of Bicillin, a drug to treat Syphilis. It is not available through the federal stockpile, so discussions were had about alternative treatments that are available and just as effective
- The council also discussed HIV molecular testing. It's not done for every HIV test, but there is a need, because genotype testing helps to guide treatment choice, and it helps identify people who might have resistance. Through this form of testing the state can receive full genetic code and determine cluster of cases, identifying priority areas for testing. Genotype testing costs \$200 dollars per test and can be covered by insurance when required by the guidelines.
- There's been a request for an executive order for the renaming of the committee. The original order was signed by Governor McGreevey in 2003. The name and the membership roster for the committee need to be updated.

- **Report from the NJ HIV Planning Group (NJHPG) Support Staff**
  - There were no updates given. The General Assembly is going to be held tomorrow, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## 8. Planning Council Administrative Issues

- **Report from Executive Committee—Joann McEniry**
  - The Executive Committee did not meet today No Updates given.
- **Report from Treasurer—Patricia Moore**

There was no report given.
- **Report from Planning Council (PC) Support Staff**
  - Support Staff is working closely with the Recipient's office to schedule membership renewals in August. For those who have memberships that need renewal, they will have to come into the recipient's office to sign their oath letter then attend the oath ceremony where they will be sworn in again for a new term. Support Staff will be working with Romans, from the recipient's office, to send a letter of Request to the City of Newark so the process can get started and an oath ceremony be scheduled.

## 9. Old/New Business

- **Nominations for Treasurer and Secretary**
  - Dr. Walter opened the floor for Toler to be voted on for the position of treasurer with the Planning Council. Toler accepted the nomination and the committee took a vote to have him on as treasurer. There were no objections, no abstentions, all were in favor.
- **Approval of Service Standards:**
  - Non-medical Case Management, Emergency Financial Assistance, and Outpatient Ambulatory Health were tabled for next month's meeting due to a lack of quorum.
- **Submission for thirty-day review:**
  - Mental Health Service Standard is being submitted for 30-day review.
  - FY24 Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Report is being submitted for 30-day review.
  - PC Support Staff will be sending out the Mental Health Service Standard and FY 24 PSRA report to the committee for review prior to the end of the meeting.
  - The recipient's office emphasized a need for PC to fully review minutes and meeting materials prior to the meeting, to ensure that pertinent information is accurately recorded within the minutes. If any important details are missing, please be sure to let PC Support Staff know so these can be addressed.
  - Morales also mentioned that items being submitted for 30-day review should be sent prior to the meeting in addition to the other meeting materials.

## 10. Announcements

- Bagchi announced that the REC was introduced to Michael Hager, from My Voice our Stories, in their last REC meeting on July 17, 2023. Michael's work gives PLWHA the opportunity to share their stories surrounding stigma and lived experiences. These stories are then turned into qualitative data that will ultimately inform policy and decision-making. He is currently in search of interns to assist with this work. If anyone on the PC has anyone who may be interested, please contact Support Staff. He is especially looking for queer, black brown indigenous, hispanohablante, gender expansive, folks in recovery, and others who have lived experience

relevant to their work! The role comes with a nominal stipend. Open opportunities include Social Media Intern, Health Policy and Administrative intern, and an Intern to Code Storytelling Data (appropriate for grad school level individuals).

**11. Next Meeting**

The Planning Council meeting will meet on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 1:30 PM via Zoom.

**12. Adjournment**

Morales made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Toler seconded. There were no abstentions or oppositions. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:01PM.