

**Continuum of Care Committee  
 MEETING SUMMARY**

**Thursday, July 13, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 10:34 AM**

Video-Conferencie 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. Lauro Rocha 3. Cezar Dumago 4. Nancy Scangarello 5. Victoria Spencer 6. Dr. Wanda Figueroa 7. Ann Bagchi, Ph.D. (Secretary) 8. Denise Brown 9. Janet Hemingway		10. Dr. Lucy Efobi

**Guests:** Kathleen O'Brien, Shante, Sharon Postel, Ashley Bramble, Lemual Boyd-Wallace, Liselle Lewis

**Support Staff:** Carla-Ann Alexander, Destiny Smith, and Robeto Benoit

**1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**

Morales called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM 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**

Bagchi conducted the roll call. Quorum was established.

**3. Public Testimony**

There was no public testimony at this meeting.

**4. Approval of Meeting Summaries from June 8th**

The meeting summary from June 8<sup>th</sup> was sent out electronically and the committee requested some changes to be made to the minutes. Scangarello made a motion to approve the meeting summary with edits and Dumago seconded, all were in favor.

**5. Standing Committee Updates**

- *Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC)* – This committee last met on June 9, 2023.
  - During the meeting the Recipients Office gave a presentation on the FY23 Ryan White Service utilization spending data and gave an update on the MAI eligibility and services.
  - The next CPC meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 14, 2023. The meeting will take place at 9:30 am via Zoom.
- *Research and Evaluation Committee (REC)* – The committee last met on Monday, June 26, 2023.

- The committee Reviewed the Funding Stream Analysis and gave feedback. Additional funding information has been requested by DHSTS, DMHAS, and HOPWA. Support Staff is awaiting their response.
  - The Committee reviewed updates on the FY23 needs assessment.
  - Postel gave an update on the EPI Profile request to NJDOH. She noted that the request was sent out, but no response yet. The committee should expect the update to come in late June or early July.
  - The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 10 AM via Zoom.
- *Community Involvement Activities Committee (CIA)* - The CIA last met on Wednesday, June 24, 2023, at 5 PM via Zoom.
    - The committee worked on priority activity, and preparation for PSRA.
      - During the meeting the committee ranked service standards in order of priority, and then discussed how the funds are going to be distributed after the PSRA process.
    - The committee also hosted an HPV and cancer prevention workshop by cancer specialist Shantelle James from Rutgers Health.
    - The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 5 pm via Zoom.

## 6. Old Business

### **Monitoring for the 2022-2026 HIV Prevention and Care Plan**

- There are no updates for this meeting. Updates on the IHAP will be prepared for next month's meeting.

## 7. New Business

### **Review/ Update Mental Health Services**

- The committee reviewed the mental health service standard.
  - In Part V, Section D the committee made the following revision:
    - Number 4 was added to, "**Communication with referring agency [...]**", the last bullet point of the section.
  - Dumago had concerns about Part V, Documentation Section:
    - His concerns were how those who have virtual appointments will sign or initial the individualized treatment plan.
    - Morales recommended that the agency send to clients their individualized treatment plans for signature via mail or email; ask clients to sign and return to agency via email or mail.
  - Scangarello had a question about the status-neutral approach and whether-or-not patients without HIV are allowed to use Mental Health Services.
    - Postel Mentioned that those not diagnosed with HIV may use Mental health services, but they will not have their sessions billed to RW.
    - Scangarello continued to mention issues surrounding funding sources. There seems to be funding for those who are not living with HIV when it comes to non- HIV related services, but when HIV becomes involved, in the case of medicine and other HIV related services, where does funding come from?

- Rochal mentioned sliding pay scale within FQHCs as a strategy for funding mental health services for those who have yet to be diagnosed with HIV, but medication itself would have to be paid out of pocket.
- Dumago raised a question regarding mental health support for those related to the patient.
  - Postel mentioned that resources may be available, but she is not familiar with the subtypes for family council and what mechanisms are necessary to go about receiving that type of care. For it to be covered under Ryan White, the patient would have to be HIV positive.
  - Rochal suggested that if providers were to see the HIV+ patient together with the partner or family member, the facility/agency may be able to bill it as a social service billing under support groups. There are other ways to bill, including group services, and there may be ways to include family/partner as well.
  - Postel mentioned that this would be a great question to ask the recipient's office regarding the two different possibilities: (1) The status neutral approach. Where the patient comes in without a family relationship or partner and are simply receiving mental health services. (2) The patient or partner is part of a family unit looking for individual counseling. This concern should be raised to the Recipient's office for more clarity on how to approach this situation because it is not just an issue plaguing the EMA but may be a concern nationally as well.
- Dumago raised a question about HIV patients who are under probationary period and require extensive therapy.
  - Rochal mentioned that when patients come in for assessment, the treatment plan may already involve weekly/bi-weekly/monthly monitoring until the patient is stable. Therefore, the patient will be connected to psychologist or counselor for management who will be involved with Ryan White for billing.
  - Postel mentioned the different methods of billing including individual counseling levels 1, 2, and 3; Partial care; individual psychiatric family counseling; co-occurring disorders; group counseling; and screen monitoring. Ryan White is a payer of last resort, therefore, patients will exhaust the list of other funding resources, if applicable, before Ryan White is billed for services.
- All updates and corrections that were made to The Mental Health Services Standards were motioned by Bagchi and seconded by Dumago. All were in favor, No abstentions or opposition. The updates and corrections were approved and will now be sent out to the Planning Council for a 30-day review.

## **8. Administrative Issues— PC (Planning Council) Support Staff**

There were no issues reported.

## **9. Announcements**

- NJCRI's Pride Center is hosting a Pride Block Party, in Newark, NJ from 12 pm - 6 pm, Saturday July 15, Morales will send information to Support Staff to distribute to the rest of the committee.

## **10. Next Meeting**

The next COC (Continuum of Care) meeting will be held on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 10 AM via Zoom.

## **11. Adjournment**

Morales made a motion to adjourn, all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.