



**Research & Evaluation Committee  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Monday, April 17, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 10:43 AM**  
 Videoconference via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86359953177>  
 Teleconference: (929) 205 6099 / Meeting ID: 863 5995 3177

PRESENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
1. Ann Bagchi, PhD/DNP (Chair) 2. Sharon Postel (Non-Voting) * 3. Kasny Damas 4. Natalie Muhammad 5. Debbie Mohammed		6. Warren Poole 7. Corey DeStefano (Vice-Chair)

**Guests:** Ashley Bramble and Liselle Lewis  
**PC Support Staff:** Carla-Ann Alexander and Roberto Benoit

- 1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**
  - Dr. Bagchi called this meeting to order at 10:00AM. A moment of silence was observed for all those living with, those who have passed, and those affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 2. Roll Call**
  - Support Staff conducted roll call. Quorum was established.
- 3. Public Testimony**
  - There were no public testimonies.
- 4. Review Action Steps**

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>
2023 Needs Assessment Survey	Consultant, Support Staff

- 5. Approval of the Meeting Summaries from March 20, 2023**
  - The meeting summary from March 20<sup>th</sup> was sent out electronically. Muhammad made a motion to approve the meeting summary from March. Damas seconded. The meeting summary was approved.
- 6. Updates from other Committees—PC Support Staff gave the updates.**
  - **Continuum of Care (COC)**
    - The COC last met on April 13, 2023.
    - The committee reviewed the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Service Standard.

- The committee continued monitoring for the 2022-2026 IHAP.
- The next COC meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 10AM via Zoom.
- **Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) -**
  - The Comprehensive Planning Committee last met on April 14, 2023
  - The Committee reviewed their Membership Roster – determined areas of need for FY '23-24.
  - The committee updated their Membership Recruitment Letter to distribute to providers within areas of need.
  - The committee discussed PSRA questions for other committee chairs. Members reviewed the 2023 service category definitions and supplemental materials to identify any changes necessary for the fiscal year 2024 definitions. Members then reviewed and updated the Allocation Guidance narrative portion of PSRA report.
  - The Recipient's office gave a presentation on Quality Management (HIV Care Continuum (H4C) Update).
  - The committee also identified priority populations for deficient areas and discussed best practices for barriers to care.
  - The next CPC meeting will be held on Friday, May 12, 2023, at 9:30am via Zoom.
- **Community Involvement Activities Committee (CIA)**
  - The CIA has not met this month.
  - They will be having a Financial Foundation Workshop hosted by State Farm during their next meeting.
  - The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 5PM via Zoom.

## 7. Old Business

- There was no old business discussed.

## 8. New Business

- Review of Baseline 2022 Priority Population Data
  - Support staff emailed members the IHAP Evaluation Report that included 2022 baseline data.
  - Postel gave a review of the 2022 baseline IHAP population data that will be monitored for the next four years by the Planning Council, sub-committees, and the Recipient's Office.
  - Postel reviewed the selected priority populations. Comments based on the number of newly diagnosed included:
    - Forty percent were men who have sex with men.
    - Slightly more than half, about fifty-five percent, were African Americans. This is lower than the sixty-nine percent in the epidemic.
    - Twelve percent were youth.
    - Forty-one percent were ages twenty-five to thirty-four.
    - Eighty-four percent had incomes at or below 138% of Federal Poverty Level, which means that they're eligible for Medicaid expansion.
  - Postel stated that the groups/priority populations sometime overlap.
  - Comments based on the Treat Pillar included:

- Data shows seventy-four percent of clients are linked to care within thirty days of diagnosis. This is a twenty-one percent difference from the goal of ninety-five percent by 2026.
- In reference to the goal of increasing VLS to ninety-five percent by 2026, all populations are below ninety-five percent. The highest population are African American Women at eighty-nine percent. MSW counties are at ninety-four percent, Union County is at eighty-eight percent, and Essex County is at eighty-seven percent.
- This report demonstrated a table that compared all priority population's VLS.
- Postel also reviewed trends in maintain VLS within NEMA.
- Postel reviewed the total DVLS by priority populations, counties, and towns. Postel emphasized that all priority populations are targets. Although, MSM and African American Women numbers are improving. This is just baseline data, and all must be targeted with interventions.
- FY23 Needs Assessment
  - The questions for the FY23 Needs Assessment survey were finalized and emailed to the committee.
  - Postel gave an overview of the FY23 Needs Assessment Research questions and methodology. The FY23 Needs Assessment will focus on linkage to care within thirty days. We will investigate barriers and reasons why clients are not being linked to care and work to improve the percentages.
  - The committee agreed on the launch date of May 1<sup>st</sup> and deadline of May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Support Staff will create the survey, distribute the survey to the Recipient's Office who will then disseminate to administrators.
  - The committee reviewed the draft letter that will accompany the survey when distributed.
- Review Funding Streams Report Update
  - Support Staff is still working on the Funding Stream Report. Data from 2022 is available, but the support staff is still awaiting data from 2023.
  - The committee provided input and discussed ways they can assist throughout the process.

## 9. Administrative Issues

- There were no issues reported.

## 10. Announcements

- Alexander announced that State Farm is going to be joining the CIA meeting to do a financial literacy workshop on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.
- Alexander announced that the annual NJ HIV AIDS Walk is on May 7, 2023. Essex County and Morris County will be hosting a walk. Individuals can register at <https://www.njaidswalk.org/>
- Medicaid is resuming eligibility determination.

## 11. Next Meeting

- The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 10AM via Zoom.

## 12. Adjournment

- The meeting ended at 10:43 AM.