

**Planning Council
MEETING SUMMARY****Wednesday, September 20, 2023, from 1:35 PM to 2:09 PM**Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87025952739>

Teleconference: (929) 205 6099 / Meeting ID: 870 2595 2739

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

Guests: Chevonne Cato, Kyra Watts, Gabrielle Ferrigno (NJDOH EHE)**PC Support Staff:** Roberto Benoit**1. Welcome & Moment of Silence**

McEniry welcomed all attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:35 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 established.

3. Public Testimony

There were no public testimonies.

4. Approval of the Meeting Summary from August 16th, 2023

The August 16th meeting summary was sent out electronically. Bagchi made a motion to approve the meeting summary and Dumago seconded. The motion was properly moved and seconded. There were no discussions or revisions made to the meeting summary. All were in favor, no opposition. Adams-Jarrells, Muhammad, Salcido, and Abdulwaliyy abstained. The meeting summary from August 16th was approved.

5. Report from the Recipient—Aliya Roman

- The recipient's office is working on the bi-annual progress report for EHE. The progress report covers the period of March 1 – August 31, 2023.

- Recipient's office is anticipating applications for the FY 24 Ryan White Non-Competing Continuation (NCC) from subrecipients due October 6, 2023. The recipient's office is also working on FY'24 Ryan White Part A NCC to be delivered to HRSA on October 2, 2023.
- The recipient's office is expecting a busy Fiscal year for 2025. This year includes a full administrative mechanism in addition to the annual reports required by HRSA. Being that the agenda for the year will be packed with deliverables, the recipient's office is suggesting that the committee be proactive and begin working on the PSRA and Epi Profile for FY 2025 a closer to the end of the year—to ensure that the documents are in time for September of next year, ahead of FY'25 RFP.
- The recipient's office has reported the continuous investigation into linkage to care within 30 days. Though the FY 23 Needs Assessment is in completion, the RWU is still investigating linkage to care through their EIRCs meetings. The recipient's office has generated a list of clients who have not been linked to care after the needs assessment was completed and will be assessing these clients for barriers to care. Once the analysis has been completed, updates and feedback will be given to the CQM committee as well as the NEMA PC.
- The next EIRC's meeting is tentatively scheduled for the fourth Monday of October, October 23, 2023

6. Standing Committee Updates

- **Continuum of Care (COC)—McEniry provided the report.**

- The COC (Continuum of Care) last met on August 10, 2023.
- During this meeting, Postel reviewed Progress Report #3 Performance on the goals/objectives of the 2022-2026 Integrated Prevention and Care Plan
- The Outpatient Substance Use service standards were submitted to the Planning Council for a 30-day review process in last month's meeting. This service standard is slated to be voted on for approval in today's PC meeting.
 - Jarrells made a motion to approve the outpatient substance use service standard. Bagchi seconded the motion. The motion was properly moved and seconded. There were no additional discussions surrounding the service standard.
 - All were in favor of accepting the service standard as presented. No objections, No abstentions. The service standards were approved as presented.
- The committee approved the Health Insurance Premium and Cost-sharing Assistance (HIPCA) for low-income individuals and Oral Health service standard and is submitting it to the Planning Council for a 30-day review process.

The next COC meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 10 am via Zoom.

- **Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC)— Salcido provided the report:**

- The CPC last met on Friday, September 08, 2023.
- During this meeting, Postel reviewed Progress Report #3 Performance on the goals/objectives of the 2022-2026 Integrated Prevention and Care Plan

The next CPC meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 13, 2023, at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

- **Research and Evaluation Committee (REC)— Bagchi and Support staff provided the report:**

- The REC last met on Monday, September 18, 2023, at 10 am via Zoom.
- Due to a scheduling conflict, Bagchi is unable to attend REC meetings for the next couple months. DeStefano, the REC co-chair, will be filling in her place while She is away. Being that Bagchi was unable to attend the meeting, she deferred the Committee report to support staff to provide updates.

- Support staff reports that in their September meeting, the REC experienced a few technical difficulties resulting in a lack of quorum.
- Postel was slated to give a few presentations including the 2023 Administrative Mechanism and 2023 Needs Assessment. Because Postel was unable to give those reports, the presentations were tabled until next month's meeting.
- The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 10 am via Zoom.
- **Community Involvement Activities (CIA)—Support Staff provided the update:**
 - The CIA last met on Wednesday, August 23, 2023.
 - During this meeting, Morales gave a presentation on NEMA Service Standards and why it's important for the committee to review and stay abreast on service standards.

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 5 pm via Zoom.
- **Nominations Committee – Dr. Walter Okoroanyanwu provided the updates.**
 - The committee did not meet this month due to no outstanding business.
 - Okoroanyanwu provided updates that the committee is in the process of swearing in and renewing memberships for the planning council. Support Staff has been working closely with the recipient's office and the City of Newark to coordinate a time/day to host the Oath Ceremony. The tentative date is October 13, 2023. Support Staff will be following up with members on the official date once the request has been approved.
 - The next NC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2023, at 6 PM via Zoom.

7. State & National Updates

- **Report from the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) – Gabrielle Ferrigno**
 - Gabrielle Ferrigno, the Ending the Epidemic coordinator for NJ, will be the new state representative for NEMA PC meetings moving forward. As the new representative, Ferrigno inquired of the committee what are a few updates that they would be interested in receiving.
 - As many of the members of NEMA are service providers, McEniry stated that the committee would benefit from learning more about new state funded opportunities that would assist providers within NEMA.
 - Salcido mentioned the need for additional information surrounding workforce training opportunities. As NJ begins to transition into a status neutral approach of care, Salcido is wondering if there have been any changes to the workforce training programs and if there are any additional trainings to be had regarding status neutral approach and HIV care in general.
 - Roman mentioned the need for more guidance surrounding the status neutral approach. The recipient's office has been given directives from HRSA to collect status neutral flow charts from sub-recipients. Roman notes that the status neutral approach went from being an introduction to now being a requirement from HRSA. It was first introduced last year, but now circling back this year to collect documents, there remains a lot of questions on the subrecipient level and how agencies can support HIV Negative Individuals. The recipient's office requests that NJDOH provide more information, if available, on how to best support HIV negative individuals being that it is now a government mandate.

- Ferrigno mentioned that anyone receiving ELIXR grant funding should already have a status neutral framework in place, given the fact that it was a requirement to apply for the grant.
 - On the federal side of funding, CDC's EHE funding will be ending in May. Once that happens it is suspected that the EHE Breakout and 18-1802 will be rolled into one grant. Once this happens there will be new grant opportunities for agencies to reapply or to apply for funds.
 - On the state level, last year NJDOH received small funding for EHE. The funding was initially released for 3 categories, PREP emergency financial assistance, non-traditional testing, status neutral case management. That funding was only to be utilized for priority cities within the statewide plan. Some agencies within NEMA received funding because they were in the priority city, but others did not. This year, the state has opened the opportunity to more agencies to allow for opportunities for those who were previously ineligible.
 - Regarding assistance surround status neutral framework, NJDOH is in the process of developing Status neutral case workers to be able to help agencies with their status neutral approach. Those who are interested in learning more can reach out to Ferrigno for more information.
 - Outside of funding, Ferrigno has been working on My voice or stories through ARFC, with Michael Hager. The opportunity will be expanding and Ferrigno highly encourages agencies to get involved and spread the word.
 - Ferrigno mentioned that the initial rollout of EHE cast a small net to be cast in reaching out to agencies to get involved. NJ does not have county level recipients, rather municipal level recipients; For this reason, agencies that might have wanted an opportunity during the initial stages of EHE rollout may have missed out on what was originally being pitched. In the upcoming fiscal year, new funding opportunities are being introduced statewide and the re-release of RFA's will allow agencies who previously did not qualify to get a chance to apply.
 - If anyone is interested in learning more about funding opportunities, feel free to contact Ferrigno at gabrielle.ferrigno@doh.nj.gov.
- **Report from the Governor's Advisory Council (GAC)—Dr. Ann Bagchi**
 - The Department of Health gave an update – 5 applications were approved for harm reduction sites; 2 harm reduction sites were expanded, and 3 new sites have been developed. In total, there are now sites in 10 counties. The goal is to have sites in every county.
 - There have been claw backs in certain funding opportunities due to federal debt ceiling issues.
 - Bagchi mentions that most of the meeting was centered around NJCRI's Hepatitis C program. NJCRI has a Mobile tele-med, in-person service. The service is at no cost to patients, but those looking to be seen require a prescription for any medication. A Caseworker will be in the van to help patients enroll in health insurance as needed, for Medicaid or Obamacare coverage. Most of the testing equipment on van focuses on Hepatitis C but the mobile unit also has capabilities to test for HIV and a myriad of other tests.
 - Bagchi also noted that the committee discussed the need for increased HIV testing in jails. It was noted that HIV testing is available in prisons, but many individuals are not getting HIV tested while in jail.
 - **Report from the NJ HIV Planning Group (NJHPG) Support Staff**
 - No new updates to report.

- The next NJHPG will be meeting next month on October 19, 2023.

8. Planning Council Administrative Issues

• Report from Executive Committee—Joann McEniry

- The Executive Committee held a meeting, prior to the PC meeting at 1:00PM.
- The committee introduced two new members at EC: Calvin Toler as treasurer and Debbie Morgan as secretary. Unfortunately, those members were unable to make it to the meeting but will be in attendance moving forward. The Executive committee is now in full compliment.
- The committee discussed the full PC budget. The amended budget was presented to the executive committee by support staff and was approved to be presented to the planning council. The executive committee will be taking a vote to ratify actions of budget in this PC meeting.
 - The full PC budget was presented to the Planning Council by Support Staff. McEniry noted that a request for additional administrative funds was sent to the recipient's office, but they were unable to meet those requirements. Therefore, adjustments were made to the full FY 23 budget to reflect the funding that was made available. McEniry outlined all the changes within FY 23 budget.
 - Adams-Jerrells raised a concern regarding the funds designated for the 2024 Ryan White Conference. Currently the budget for Conference Travel is at \$300, but Jerrells noted that would not be enough to allow CIA members to join the RW conference.
 - Romans, from the recipient's office, noted that the administrative funds for this year have been completely exhausted and the RW office does not have enough funds to be able to accommodate travel. Because of the reduction in funds, the RW unit and their staff will be attending the conference virtually; The unit is proposing that all those desiring to go to the conference attend virtually as well.
 - Mc Eniry noted that, though there is not enough funding for this current fiscal year, it is indeed on the council's radar, and will be requested for the following fiscal year.
 - Lastly, McEniry mentioned that If anyone in the community requires additional technical support or a place with minimal distractions and privacy to attend the conference virtual, EDGE NJ and the recipient's office has volunteered their space to accommodate those individuals.
- Adams-Jarrells made a motion to approve the budget as amended. Lawrence seconded the motion. The FY 23 budget was moved and properly seconded. All were in favor of ratifying the budget as amended, there were no abstentions or objections. The FY 23 budget was ratified and successfully passed.

• Report from Treasurer—Calvin Toler

- There were no updates reported.

• Report from Planning Council (PC) Support Staff

- There were no updates reported.

9. Old/New Business

10. Announcements

- McEniry mentioned that EDGE NJ is relocating and will be moving from their Denville location. They are expecting to take occupancy in their new location on 11/1/23. EDGE will be using the month of October to properly outfit the new space before clients start coming in; therefore, many of their services are going to be held remotely. Some services such as transportation will be held in person.

11. Next Meeting

The next Planning Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 1:30 PM via Zoom.

12. Adjournment

Lawrence made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Adams-Jarrells seconded. There were no objections or oppositions. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09PM.