



**Continuum of Care Committee  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Thursday April 11, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**

Videoconference via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82086702402>

Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 820 8670 2402

Present	Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
1. Viesha Morales (Chair) 2. Lauro Rocha 3. Cezar Dumago 4. Nancy Scangarello 5. Dr. Wanda Figueroa 6. Dr. Lucy Efobi 7. Sharon Postel	8. Ann Bagchi, Ph.D. (Secretary)	9. Janet Hemingway

**Guests:** Ashley Bramble, Ashanti Simpson-Little

**Support Staff:** Roberto Benoit, Richell Garcia

**1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**

Morales called the meeting to order at 10:09 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**

Benoit conducted the roll call. Quorum was established.

**3. Public Testimony**

There was no public testimony at this meeting.

**4. Approval of Meeting Summaries from March 14th**

The March 14<sup>h</sup> meeting summary was distributed electronically and was motioned to be approved by the committee. Morales called for a motion to accept the March 14th meeting summary; Scangarello made the motion; Dr. Efobi seconded the motion. The motion was advanced. All were in favor, no objections. No abstentions. The Meeting Summary was successfully passed.

**5. Standing Committee Updates**

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

- The committee last met on Monday, February 26, 2024
- During this meeting, the support staff hosted the annual members orientation with Parliamentary procedures.

- The committee finalized their FY 2024 Committee Workplan
- The committee voted on a new member. Lynette Abduwaliyy was officially sworn in as a member of the REC.
- Survey Tools for the 2024 Needs Assessment were scheduled to be reviewed for this meeting but due to the consultant's absence, the review of the survey tools and distribution were tabled for next month.
- The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10AM via Zoom

**Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) – Ricardo Salcido provided the update.**

- The CPC last met on Friday, March 08, 2023.
- During the meeting, the committee reviewed the priority setting and resource allocation process, the Ryan White Part A core service model and discussed the historic need of core service waiver application.
- The committee discussed priority setting and resource allocation questions for other committee chairs, for input or recommendations in the upcoming PRSA process.
- Lastly, the committee reviewed the FY24 service categories definitions and supplemental material to identify changes for the FY25 definitions.
- The next CPC meeting will be held on Friday April 12, 2024, at 9:30am via Zoom.

**Community Involvement Activities Committee (CIA) – Support Staff provided the update.**

- The committee last met on Wednesday, March 27, 2023, at 5PM via Zoom.
- During the meeting the CIA hosted a workshop/presentation by Viiv at the Kings Family Restaurant in Newark.
- The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2023, at 5 PM via Zoom.

**Nominations Committee (NC) – Support Staff provided the update.**

- The committee last met on August 9, 2023.
- The Nominations committee meets have been tabled until an oaths ceremony date has been established.

**6. Old Business**

- **Vote for Membership:**
  - Gouldburne and Simpson-Little were scheduled to be voted new members in today's meeting.
  - Simpson-Little was voted as new member of the COC committee. Morales called for a motion to approve the new member. Figueroa motioned to approve and Scangarello seconded the vote.
  - Gouldburne was not able to attend the meeting. Vote for her membership will be tabled for next month's meeting.
- **Review Medical Case Management, including treatment adherence service standard.**
  - Morales reported that there were no changes made to the Medical Case Management Standards. The committee was waiting for clarification on HRSA new care plan guidelines. Morales mentioned that Ashley Bramble from the quality office, clarified that the treatment plans are to be continued every 6 months.
  - Morales called for a motion to approve the Medical Case Management service standard as is, Scangarello made the motion and Rocha seconded the motion. The Medical Case Management Service Standard was successfully approved and forwarded to the planning council for a 30-day review process.

- **Approval for Housing Service Standard.**

- The committee members reviewed the Housing Service standard. There were no updates made to the service standards.
- Morales mentioned that the presentation in the last meeting from Tyrone Mans and Kyra Watts provided insight and clarification on the HOPWA program.
- Morales called for a motion to approve the service standard as is, Scangarello made the motion and Dumago seconded the motion. The motion was advanced. All were in favor, and there were no objections. The Housing Service Standard was successfully passed on April 11, 2024, and will move forward for a 30-day review process to the planning council.

## 7. New Business

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

- Postel reported to the committee the 2022-2026 HIV prevention and care plan for Newark EMA. The annual report included data from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. The following are key findings regarding RWHAP Part A clients in the EMA:
  - MSM, Black African Americans (Total), Individuals Age 25-34, and Medicaid Recipients all saw an increase in their VLS, DVLS 1-year, and DVLS 2-year.
  - Black Women VLS, DVLS 1-year and DVLS 2-year measures remained the same.
  - Decrease in VLS Were seen in Transgender, but DVLS 1 and 2-year increased.
  - Uninsured individuals saw a decline in VLS and DVLS 2-year, but increased in 1-year.
  - Youth ages 13-24 have seen increases in VLS and DVLS 2-year, but decreased in DVLS 1-year.
  - The number of RWHAP clients slowly increased in 2023 from 6413 in 2022 to 6671 as of 12/31/23. This is a 4% increase.
  - Men who have sex with men (MSM) account for ¼ (26% of RWHAP clients in the EMA.
  - Black/ African American are nearly 2/3 of clients – 36% men and 28% women.
  - Youth are 3% and most of those are ages 19-24.
  - Nearly 1 in 6 are 25-34.
  - Nearly half (47%) are very low income (receiving Medicaid with incomes < 139% Federal Poverty Level)
  - Nearly 1 in 5 (19%) are uninsured, possibly low income, and RWHAP- funded services, especially medical care.
- Scangarello mentioned that approval for ADAP for uninsured patients is taking longer than usual at her organization.
- Morales recommended submitting documentation for new clients or undocumented by email to ADAP instead of faxing. The application process should take around two days. In case the new patient is undocumented, a letter of support is needed. The letter of support should indicate the patient is self-supporting and no mail to be sent to their address, being that no one is aware of their status. Another letter is a declaration of income.
- Simpson-Little mentioned that part of the reason ADAP approval process is behind is the influx of Medicaid insurance coverage renewal after Covid -19. Being that during Covid patients Medicaid was extended.

- Dumago mentioned that ADAP will not process unless they receive the results of viral loads.
  - Morales recommended requesting an immediate 30-day supply from Gilead or Viivv for patients waiting for approval from ADAP.
  - Postel recommended to have Joann, or Aliya from the planning council request a presentation regarding eligibility and processing time updates from the Health Department. Postel also recommended presenting a list of questions or issues to the planning council.
- Fiqueroa noted of an increase in Haitian/creole at her organization. Fiqueroa inquired on how other agencies are monitoring language barriers.
- Postel mentioned that CHAMP has as a country of origin/language section. Postel recommended reporting the issue to the program monitor and/or Roman. Reporting to the planning council or RW Unit an increase in language barriers will enable the data collected to be more comprehensive.
- **Review/Update Outpatient Ambulatory service standards.**
  - During the meeting the committee members reviewed and updated the service standards.
  - Morales mentioned that the recommendations from Caroll Davidson and Heidi Kaiken -- from Rutgers University, were added to the Outpatient Ambulatory service standards.
  - Morales called for a motion to approve the service standards. Scangarello made the motion and Dumago seconded the motion. There were no objections. The Service Standard was successfully accepted.
  - The Outpatient Ambulatory Service services standard was submitted to the Planning Council meeting for a 30-day review.

#### **8. Administrative Issues— PC Support Staff**

- There were no administrative issues.

#### **9. Announcements**

- Postel and Benoit reminded the committee to complete the Need assessment Survey. The due date to submit is April 26.
- Morales reminded the committee to support and donate to the NJ AIDS Walk. The event will take place on May 5, 2024 at Branch Brook Park, Newark. Morales noted to register to other locations near you.

The next COC meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10AM via Zoom.

#### **10. Adjournment**

Morales called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dumago made the motion. Rocha seconded the motion. All were in favor. No objections. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.