



Research & Evaluation Committee MEETING SUMMARY

Monday, June 17th, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Videoconference via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89756434893>

Teleconference: (929) 205 6099 / Meeting ID: 897 5643 4893

PRESENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
1. Ann Bagchi, PhD/DNP (Chair) 2. Corey Destefano (Vice-Chair) 3. Kasny Damas (Secretary) 4. Sharon Postel (Non-Voting) 5. Lynette Abduwaliyy	6. Natalie Muhammad	7. Debbie Mohammed 8. Warren Poole

Guests: Ashanti Simpson-Little, Ashley Bramble, Liselle Lewis

PC Support Staff: Roberto Benoit, Richell Garcia

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

- Bagchi called this meeting to order at 10:02 AM. 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 not established.

3. Public Testimony

- There were no public testimony

4. Approval of the Meeting Summaries from May 20th, 2024

The meeting summary was sent out electronically ahead of the meeting. Quorum was not established.

5. Standing Committee Updates

- **Continuum of Care Committee (COC) – Support Staff provided the report.**
 - The committee last met on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 10 AM via Zoom.
 - The committee meeting for June 13, 2024, was tabled due to the Clinical Update Conference
 - The next COC meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 10AM via Zoom.
- **Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) – Ricardo Salcido provided the update.**

- The CPC last met on Friday, May 10, 2024, at 9:30 via Zoom.
- The meeting was June 14, 2024, was table due the Clinical Conference.
- The next CPC meeting will be held on Friday June 21, 2024, at 9:30am via Zoom.

- **Consumer Involvement Activities Committee (CIA) – Support Staff provided the update.**
 - The committee last met on Wednesday, May 22, at 5PM via Zoom.
 - During the meeting, support staff informed the committee members of the Priority Setting and Resource allocation process.
 - The community members participated in the service categories ranking process
 - The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 5 PM via Zoom.

- **Nominations committee (NC) – Support Staff provided the update.**
 - The committee last met on Friday May 17, 2004, at 12pm via zoom.
 - During the meeting the committee selected a consumer that will be attending the Ryan White conference.
 - The committee announced that the Treasurer position is open. If interested, please send an email to the support staff.
 - The next nominations committee meeting was table until further noticed.

6. Old Business

FY 2024 Needs Assessment Update

Postel updated the committee on the NEMA Needs Assessment for 2024.

- Thirty-two agencies responded to the survey. Postel mentioned that agencies have good referral networks both in Essex Union, Morris, Sussex and Warren County for services funded and not funded by Ryan White. Part 2 of the survey tabulated the needs of the newly diagnosed individuals.
- 56.3 % of agencies conduct HIV testing and 43.8 % do not conduct testing.
- The highest percentage of HIV method was Rapid Test Only with 25% and the lowest percent was the blood draw only with 9%.
- Bagchi commented that agencies may complete both a rapid test and blood draw.
- Postel mentioned that the information is available for interested agencies. The Ryan White Unit can utilize the findings for quality management and initiatives.
- Bachi noticed that 14 percent of agencies do not complete HIV testing. Postel informed that the survey included non-medical services. The support services are Legal, Case Management and Housing.
- Postel mentioned that the work of the agencies is substantial and listed their duties.
- The agencies offer Mental Health Counseling, licensed therapist, substance abuse counselors, LCSW and Psychiatrist in the initial month of diagnosis.
- Bagchi noted that primary care clinicians may not know the current HIV testing recommendations. Bagchi mentioned that a clinician assumed that the ages 18-34 are the only group at risk. Bagchi mentioned that only 25% of individuals that are newly diagnosed present risk factors. Completing testing only when individual expose risk factors behavior is not reliable.
- Postel reported that all agencies submitted different responses to when newly diagnosed individuals start their antiretroviral medication after a positive test. Postel mentioned that

antiretroviral medication should start immediately after diagnosis. Postel suggested that it's possible that the start of medication depends on the waiting for the approval of ADDAP.

- Postel mentioned that waiting to receive medication should not be a barrier being that emergency financial assistance is available.
- Postel mentioned that the agencies have done impressive work. The question on how the agencies overcome the barriers will be on the next survey.

7. New Business

Monitor Survey findings – 2024 Administrative Mechanism

- The administrative Mechanism survey was submitted to the agencies on June 10th. Currently, six agencies have responded to the 2024 Administrative Mechanism. Support will be reaching out to the agencies to respond. The recipient survey is due on July 15.

Review 2024 Epidemiological Profile

- Postel presented the finding for the Newark EMA:
 - The individuals with living with HIV/AIDS continued to slightly decrease in Newark EMA on 20203
 - The epidemic continued to increase among male individuals.
 - In the gender category, female individuals have declined in Newark EMA
 - 72% of PLWHA are 45 and older and the individual 45-54 are aging into the group over 55 years.
 - Individuals between 13-24 years old are aging into the group 24-34 and 35-44.
 - PLWH of Hispanic ethnicity continued to increase in 2023.
 - NEMA epidemic among males continues to increase among MSM.
 - In the transmission category IDU's and MSM are decreasing slightly.
 - The NEMA epidemic among females continue to decrease among IDU's and increased among those exposed by heterosexual contact.
 - Bagchi mentioned that clinicians should not limit testing only to younger age groups being that the age group from 45 and older remains 72% of the epidemic.

8. Administrative Issues

- No Administrative issues to report.

9. Announcements

- There were no announcements.

10. Next Meeting

- The REC meeting on Monday, July 15, 2024, was cancelled. The next meeting will be held on August 19, 2024.

11. Adjournment

- Bagchi called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was successfully adjourned at 10:48 AM.

