



Community Involvement Activities Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of the CIA is to help bridge the gap between the community and service providers by creating opportunities to involve community members in the planning process. In addition, community members will receive crucial updates on changes in Ryan White and related health/social services.

Wednesday, September 25, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 6:10 PM

Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/86241473770>

Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 862 4147 3770#

Attendees: There were 8 attendees at the meeting, and they took part in the Zoom call.

Attendees by County							
Essex	Union	Morris	Sussex	Warren	Unknown	Other	Total
7	1						

Support Staff: Roberto Benoit, Richell Garcia

Guests: Ashley Bramble, Sharon Postel, War Talley

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM and welcomed all in attendance. Support Staff supplied a brief overview of the CIA's purpose and goals. A moment of silence was observed for all those living with, those who have passed, and those affected by HIV/AIDS.

2. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

3. Approval of the Meeting Summary

The meeting summary was approved.

4. Ryan White Part A Updates

- Bramble informed the committee that on June 26 HRSA released a dear colleague letter regarding Security Deposits. The RW unit is preparing the policies and forms to establish a Universal standard landlord agreement. The recipient will not be providing security deposit for the remainder of the year FY24. The FY 25 request for proposal will include an outline of the process and technical assistance will be provided to agencies
- Bramble mentioned that on August 16 HRSA released a letter regarding their collaboration with the administration for Communities Living Aging Network. This collaboration expands

support services such as nutrition, transportation, caregiver support and insurance counseling.

- Bramble acknowledged that with the feedback of the community on the FY25 priority setting and resource allocation process, the RW unit was able to prioritize a new service category that will furthermore support the aging population. Bramble will provide more details in future meetings.

Pillboxes Projects – Cohort 4

- Bramble mentioned that the quality management team is currently conducting a project that focuses on those living in Essex County that are not virally suppressed. The project will distribute pillboxes that will help clients organize and remind them to take their medication.
- Postel added that the reason why we chose this pill box was because of some of the barriers that were mentioned for the cohort, which is the non-virally suppressed in Essex County, a lot of our clients were saying that they just don't remember to take their medication during the day.
- Bramble presented various options of pill boxes. Bramble requested feedback from the CIA community members for the selection of the pillboxes:
 - Bramble demonstrated a pillbox option with 28 grade /seven-day with an alarm clock. The parts are detachable, and it contains a key chain.
 - Abdulwaliyy mentioned that the size of the pillbox was too big for her, but it may work for other individuals. Abdulwaliyy mentioned that in her organization a more compact pillbox was utilized.
 - Williams mentioned that prior pillboxes did not seem to secure the medication in the compartments. Williams mentioned how many pills fit in the compartment selection of the pillboxes depends on how many pills fit in one section or how big the pills are. Williams mentioned that some individuals take vitamins as well and that now vitamins are gummies. Williams added that gummies make it easier for individuals to take their vitamins.
 - Bramble mentioned that it seems the pillbox option has small compartments. It is possible it can fit 8 pills in a day. Bramble will make a note on the feedback received.
 - Poole requested clarification if the pillbox alarm can be set at different times, being that individuals may take medication more than once a day. Bramble informed the committee that the alarm can be set periodically during the day if needed. Bramble mentioned that the alert can be turned off and that the parts can detach.
 - Poole inquired if the pillboxes were under the RW program funding. Bramble informed that the pillboxes are under the EHE program funding
 - Bramble will provide a presentation of the Cohort projects. The pillboxes distribution will begin first with the clients that are not virally suppressed and expand to other clients.
 - Williams added to consider in the pillbox selection that some individuals may take more pills in the morning than in the evening. Deborah inquired if the pillboxes come in other colors than white color. Bramble mentioned that the pillboxes come in other colors.
 - Tally inquired about community engagement or focus groups with cohort clients to discuss these tools or other supports for medication adherence. Bramble mentioned that the pillboxes will be distributed from the recipient office to the agencies. This is specifically for the clients that are not virally suppressed. Bramble informed that clients

receive a cohort guideline sheet when seen by medical providers. Bramble will be working on focus groups as soon as all data is received from Cohorts.

- Postel mentioned stigma of pillboxes are not only for PLWH but other groups, as individuals over 65.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

Presentation: Need Assessment

Postel presented the findings of the Needs Assessment report:

- Postel acknowledged the work of all involved in the completion of the Needs Assessment. Postel mentioned the scope of the research was related to undocumented and newly diagnosed individuals. The same methodology was used for both groups. The first was demographic profile with a data snapshot of the individuals. The second was an agency survey with a questionnaire for the undocumented and newly diagnosed individuals. The undocumented survey was focused on needs of resources. The newly diagnosed survey focused on the process from diagnosis to medical care, mental health, support at time of diagnosis and ongoing services.
- There were 1023 undocumented client in the RW units, as of 6/30/24.
- Undocumented clients increased from 739 at the beginning 2023 to 962 as of 12/31/23.

Demographics snap shots:

- 2/3 are Hispanics/Latino and 29 percent are Black/ African American
- 2/3 are Male, age 24-44
- 70% are uninsured
- 77% have income < 100 % FPL and 85% < 139 FPL (Medicaid Expansion)
- Nearly all live in Stable Permanent or Temporary Housing
- 1 in 6 (16%) reside outside of the EMA
- 11% are newly diagnosed with HIV

By Country/ Region of Origin

- Over 2 in 5 (41%) are from South America, Central America and Mexico
- 1/3 (31%) are not Hispanics
 - Tally inquired about the Black/African American included in the undocumented data. Postel referenced that classification are from the Standard OMB categories. The changes of OMB categories will be updated in 2027. Postel mentioned that the needs assessment was approved by the planning council.

Undocumented

- Postel mentioned that 30 agencies responded. Postel informed that agencies provide or are linked to all 31 RWHAP service categories funded or not funded by the RW unit.
- The survey concluded that undocumented need language services, housing and understanding all available resources.
- The recommendation was for the individual to utilize RHWAP EHE funds and new housing policy on security deposits, etc. In addition, the used of resource listed in the NJ information of newcomer's guide for new Americans.

- Tally mentioned that the term undocumented is being used as an umbrella. Citizen status can be either emigrant or migrant, depending on the way the individual entered the country. The legal services may vary depending on citizen status.
- Bramble added that in the last Early Detection and Collaborate meeting there was a discussion on legal services for undocumented individuals. Bramble recommended Community Law Project to provide a presentation on their services.

Newly diagnosed

- 18 (56%) of 32 agencies conduct HIV testing
- All provide mental health / support services before and after testing HIV diagnosis.
- Barriers in service coordination and fill in service gaps.
- Language Barriers still exist
- Gaps in linkage to medical care and ARV delays linkage to care
- The recommendation was to use RWHAP funds for Medicare and ARV, while waiting for approval of charity care /ADDAP.
- Additional recommendation continue linkage to care. Follow-evidence based & best practices to engage PLWH.

Bus Tickets

- Poole inquired about the issues with the NJ transit bus tickets. Bramble will follow up with Part A Program monitor.
- Abdulwaliyy mentioned that some agencies are suggesting expiration dates on the bus tickets being that purchasing is involved in the process.
- Cato added that agencies cannot provide individuals with expired tickets.
- Tally mentioned that the monthly bus passes would be beneficial and will decrease the issue of unused tickets.

7. Announcements

- Tally announced training opportunities on Engaging with older adults on October 2 and Interpretating and Communicating HIV labs results on October 17. Tally is creating training on how to work with the migrant population.

8. Next Meeting

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday October 23, 2024.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.