



# 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, October 23, 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	1					

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

**Guests:** Ashley Bramble, Sharon Postel, Vieshia Morales

**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 mentioned that the importance of the Cohort is to increase viral load suppression and improve retention. The Cohort assesses the subpopulations that have below average viral load suppression. In addition, the recipient office identifies barriers of each client achieving their viral load suppression, develop and implement strategies to improve viral load suppression and identifies best practices to increase VLS. Furthermore, in improving retention the Cohort identifies and assesses sub-populations i that are lost in care by re-engaging the clients and implementing strategies for retention.

- The VLS load suppression in Essex County is 87%, Union County 90% and Morris/Sussex and Warren altogether have 93%. Essex has the lowest VLS and there needs to be an improvement. The Cohort qualifications are residing in Essex County and were not virally suppressed. The cohort consists of 182 clients. There are over 11 agencies and eight were primary medical agencies or outpatient ambulatory.
- In order to be removed from the Cohort the client has to move out of EME, pass away or have been incarcerated. The Cohort began in February 2023.
- Thomas asked if individuals in the VA health systems are counted. Postel mentioned that if the individual utilizes the VA services and the Ryan White Unit services they are counted. If the individual uses VA services, they are not counted.
- Bramble mentioned that a guidance worksheet with information to assist with viral load suppression. In addition, clients mention forgetting taking the medication, expiration of insurance and mental health were barriers. Also, clients mentioned having too many appointments. Language barriers were mentioned in the needs assessments and transportation. The Cohort was extended until February 2024
  - Poole mentioned to reach out to Positive Health for non-medical case manager. Their location is at 395 Central Ave. Poole also mentioned to reach out to NJCRI for assistance. Morales added that individuals should not miss appointments because of not having insurance. The agencies have better contact to ADDAP than the individual.

## 5. Old Business

## 6. New Business

Morales from the Continuum of Care Committee, requested feedback from the CIA committee members. Morales mentioned that there have been discussions on creating the Home and Community Base Health Service standard that assists the aging population. The description of the service standard comes directly from HRSA:

### **Home and Community-Based Health Services**

Home and Community-Based Health Services are provided to an eligible client in an integrated setting appropriate to that client's needs, based on a written plan of care established by a medical care team under the direction of a licensed clinical provider. Services include Activities provided under the Substance Use Services (residential) service category include:

- Appropriate mental health, developmental, and rehabilitation services
- Day treatment or other partial hospitalization services
- Durable medical equipment
- Home health aide services and personal care services in the home

*Program Guidance:* Inpatient hospitals, nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities are not considered an integrated setting for the purposes of providing home and community-based health services.

Morales mentioned that the Home and Community Based service standard is important to the aging population, being that Medicare does not fund services for Home Healthcare where Medicaid does. Homebound clients may need to utilize home health services where Medicare is not funded.

Morales left her contact information for the community members. Please contact Morales at [v.morales@njcrl.org](mailto:v.morales@njcrl.org) or 973-558-5041

## **7. Announcements**

Morales announced the Trunk and Treat event from NJCRI. The event will be on October 31 from 4:30 -6:30pm

Poole announced the event called the Night of 10,000 sandwiches The event will be October 26 at 1016 Broad St, the location is Rock Place from 12:00PM to 4PM

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.