

Continuum of Care Committee MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, July 11, 2019, 10AM-12PM
Willing Heart Community Center
555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102

Present	Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
1. Ann Bagchi, Ph.D. (Secretary) 2. Richlyn Burnham 3. Kasny Damas (Non-Voting) 4. Cezar Damago 5. Maisel Guzman 6. Imad Ibrahim 7. Vieshia Morales 8. Mario Portilla 9. Lauro Rocha 10. Nancy Scangarello	11. Wanda Figueroa 12. Pat Moore 13. Aliya Onque (Non-Voting) 14. Dominga Padilla	15. Kendall Clark

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Mario Portilla, COC Chair, called this meeting to order at 10:01AM. Portilla welcomed all in attendance and called for a moment of silence to be observed for all those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

2. Roll Call

Ann Bagchi, Secretary, conducted the roll call. Quorum was established later during the meeting.

3. Public Testimony

Public testimony was given by Mario Portilla, Chair of the COC Committee. Portilla requested an update on the Newark EMA website. Tania Guaman, Support Staff, shared that the Recipient provided an update at the last CPC meeting, explaining that the website is still in discussions in the Recipient's Office. Kasny Damas, Recipient, also reported that discussions are still happening to discuss this project.

4. Approval of Meeting Summary for June 13, 2019

The June 13, 2019 meeting summary was reviewed. Mario Portilla, COC Chair, asked for a motion to approve. Vieshia Morales motioned to approve the meeting summary. Imad Ibrahim second the motion. None opposed. The motion was passed, and the summary was approved with edits.

5. Standing Committee Updates:

- **Comprehensive Planning Committee:**

Tania Guaman, Support Staff, provided the CPC report. The Comprehensive Planning Committee last met on Friday, June 14, 2019 at the Willing Heart Community Center in Newark. The following occurred at the meeting:

- Quorum was not established.
- As part of the priority setting and resource allocation (PSRA) process, the committee received a presentation on Quality Management and a H4C update from the recipient. The committee members held a discussion regarding the findings. Benchmarks used by the recipient to figure out the progress on continuation of care and viral suppression were discussed as well as how agencies are doing in comparison with these targets. Most of the agencies are doing good. The Recipient shared the strategies used to support agencies in improving their numbers.
- Support Staff reported that the 2019 Funding Stream Analysis is almost complete and will be prepared to present at the next meeting on July 12, 2019.
- The CPC July Meeting was cancelled. The 2019 Funding Stream Analysis Presentation and the presentation on Ryan White Utilization of Services will be held at the next meeting on August 9th.

The next CPC meeting will be held on Friday, Aug. 9, 2019 at the Willing Heart Community Care Center located at 555 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102. All are encouraged to attend.

- **Research and Evaluation Committee:**

Ann Bagchi, REC Chair, provided the REC report. The Research and Evaluation Committee met on Friday, June 17, 2019 at the Willing Heart Community Center in Newark. The following occurred at the meeting:

- Short meeting because of confusion about contracts for the Needs Assessment and other Reports that REC needs to work on. The issue was resolved.
- Sharon Postel will resume work on the 2019 Needs Assessment upon a signed agreement
- UWGUC published a RFP for bids to complete the 2019 Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism and the 2019 Epidemiological Profile. The RFP was shared with the NJHPG and Passaic TGA networks. The deadline for proposals is Friday July 12th at 4pm.
- Discussions were held about last year's Epidemiological Profile or and the need to conduct a new one this year

The Next REC meeting will be held on Monday, July 15th, 2019 at the Willing Heart Community Care Center located at 555 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102.

- **Community Involvement Activities/Community Conversations Committee:**

The CIA last held a meeting on June 26, 2019 at the Willing Heart Community Center in Newark. The following occurred at that meeting:

- The CIA developed mutual agreements on expectations from each member. Some of these agreements included: being respectful, starting the meeting on time, being mindful of privacy and many more. The agreements will be posted at each meeting moving forward.
- A Long-Term Survivors discussion was held where most of the participants shared their stories using 4 questions:
 1. **At what point in time of your journey did you wanted to give up? What three things did you do to keep moving forward?**

Consumers shared challenges lived throughout their journey and had a long discussion about some of the things that helped them to move forward. Some of those things were positive affirmations either from themselves or people around them (loved ones or friends), faith, self-acceptance and other support systems, which included health education interventions as well as being able to deal with stigma in different situations. One of the most important things they mentioned was family support especially when first diagnosed.

2. What would be different if there would be no stigma attached to HIV?

Without HIV stigma, consumers felt that people would be able to talk about it openly and that more people would get tested. They also thought that there would be less depression, less violence and less suicide rates among PLWHA.

3. If a cure would be found today, what would be different in your life?

Consumers had different perspectives about this question. Some consumers were concerned about losing their current benefits and other were happy to not take medications or going to multiple doctor appointments.

4. If you had an opportunity to disclose your status to a newly diagnosed person, would you tell them your status to help them?

There was controversy on this topic since consumers were concerned about privacy issues. Some consumers argued that once they get to know the person, they may feel comfortable sharing their story to help this person, but not always.

- Warren Poole, CIA Chair, and Tania Guaman, Support Staff, shared some tips for a successful public testimony narrative. Some of the tips included making sure the testimony goes along with the meeting agenda, feeling comfortable, visualizing themselves speaking to the group, not apologizing for being nervous, feeling encouraged to speak for themselves and for others.
- BLOC Training – Warren Poole received a scholarship to attend this 3-day training in Maryland which aims to empower consumers to be leaders.
- Announcements:
 - Summer Cookout – Aug. 20th
 - Kid's day Event – July 19th
 - There is no July Meeting.

On Tuesday, August 20, 2019, the CIA/CC will hold a Summer Cookout event. This event was planned in collaboration with the Peter Ho Clinic and will be held at 268 MLK Jr. Blvd. in Newark, NJ from 5 to 7PM. All PLWH are welcome to attend.

6. Old/ Business

- Finalize review of the Emergency Financial Assistance Standards
COC members discussed and finalized the review of the EFA Standards. Mario Portilla, COC Chair, asked for a motion to approve the Emergency Financial Assistance Standards. Ann Bagchi motioned to approve. Vieshia Morales second the motion. The Emergency Financial Assistance Standards were approved with edits.
- Announce decision on COC August meeting
9 members voted in favor of not having a meeting. There will be a meeting recess in Aug. COC meetings will resume in September.

7. New Business

- Start the review of Medical Transportation Standards
This item will be reviewed at the next meeting on Sept. 12th.
- Discussion on issues regarding Aging and eligibility to health benefits by Ms. Elizabeth Kocot from the Medicaid District Office in Essex County:
Elizabeth Kocot provided hand-outs with information about Medicaid and Medicare programs for aging populations since there are a lot of changes happening when people reach the age of 65 on eligibility for services. Elizabeth Kocot reported that Eligibility changes every year based on poverty level. She also stated the different parts of Medicare and services covered:
 - o Part A – Hospital
 - o Part B – Medical services
 - o Part C – Medicaid Advantage
 - o Part D – Prescription.
 Information about the following programs was also provided:
 SHIP, State Health Insurance Assistance Program
 DSNP, Dual Eligible Special Needs Program
 SLMB, Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary
 MLTSS, Medicaid Managed Long Term Services and Supports

Elizabeth Kocot mentioned that people can have a private insurance and still be able to apply and have Medicare/Medicaid. Also, Medicare is always the primary insurance and Medicaid will be the secondary insurance when the consumers are enrolled in the DSNP Program
 Information on all Medicaid Programs discussed at this meeting will be kept with COC Meeting records for reference.

8. Administrative Issues:

Support Staff is conducting outreach to consumers. On Monday, July 8, Support Staff attended the Peter Ho Memorial CAB Meeting. On Thursday, July 11th, Support Staff will be going to the PROCEED CAB Meeting.

Tania Guaman, Support Staff, asked for all members to share any CAB Meeting dates they know are happening. This outreach is trying to increase consumer numbers on Planning Council since there is only a 29% of consumer representation on PC instead of the required 33%. A Planning Council one pager was also posted on Facebook to recruit consumers for the PC.

9. Announcements:

Ann Bagchi, COC Secretary, made the following announcements:

- Dr. Bagchi is conducting 2 research studies:
 1. Stigma reduction workshops will be held in Newark, New Brunswick, and Atlantic County. Each group will be comprised of at least 15 PLWHA. The group in Newark will start on Sept. 7th from 10am to 1pm. Flyers will be distributed. Kasny Damas, Recipient's office, can be contacted to refer clients.
 2. Rutgers has an Interdisciplinary Group, which received pilot funding to conduct a Needs Assessment for underserved communities and their ability to access Telemedicine services in the Newark area and Atlantic county. This will be focused on the PLWHA. Consumers and providers will be surveyed and there will be 3 focus groups in the Newark area (1 in English, 1 in Spanish and 1 for young African American gay/bisexual men)

Kasny Damas, Recipient, introduced a new team member, Karen Ehiri, who will be joining the CQM team.

Vieshia Morales announced that NJCRI has funding for Emergency Financial Assistance. Morales can be contacted to request this service.

Lauro Rocha made the following announcements:

- On July 21, a Portuguese Speaking Health Fair will be held in Newark hosted by the Adventist Church on Newark Ave. in the Ironbound. Rosha is looking for agencies who provide HIV testing to participate. Morales recommended that Mosel Coker from NJCRI be contacted.
- Introduced a student from Broadway House, Daniel Hup, who announced a Health Fair in Passaic County on July 20th 10am-2 pm.

Tania Guaman, Support Staff made the following announcements:

- July 23 (9am-3pm) – Beyond Survival – HIV Stakeholders Engagement Conference – 200 Pennington Rd. Ewing, NJ 08628
- July 19 (5pm-7pm) – Peter Ho Memorial Clinic Kid’s Day– 268 MLK Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 7TH Floor- Conference Room 7B
- Aug. 20 (5pm-7pm) – Peter Ho Memorial Clinic and CIA Summer Cookout – 268 MLK Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 7TH Floor- Conference Room 7B
- NJ ETE Webinar Summary and recording is now available. Link will be emailed.

10. Next Meeting:

The next Continuum of Care Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 10AM, at Willing Heart Community Center located at 555 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Newark, NJ 07102.

11. Adjournment:

Mario Portilla, COC Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vieshia Morales moved to accept. Imad Ibrahim second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM.