

## RESEARCH & EVALUATION COMMITTEE

### MEETING SUMMARY

Monday, August 9, 2019 at 10AM  
**Willing Heart Community Center**  
**555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102**

PRESENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
1. Ann Bagchi, Ph.D. 2. Summer Brown 3. Natalie Brown-Muhammad 4. Kasny Damas 5. Travis Love 6. Warren Poole 7. Sharon Postel	8. Corey DeStefano 9. Patricia Moore 10. Providencia Rodriguez	11. Debbie Mohammed 12. Jamir Tuten

**Guests:** Jokebed Saintil, Karen Ehiri  
**Staff:** Tania Guaman, Vicky Saguy

- 1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**  
Ann Bagchi, Chair of the Research and Evaluation Committee, called this meeting to order at 10:10AM. A moment of silence was observed for all those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and for those who have passed.
- 2. Roll Call**  
Tania Guaman, Support Staff, conducted the roll call for this meeting and quorum was not established.
- 3. Public Testimony**  
No public testimony at this meeting.
- 4. Review Action Steps**

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>
Develop a Behavioral Health Cascade	Sharon Postel
Create Summaries of the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan Presentation	Kasny Damas/ Karen Ehiri
Update Calendar	Tania Guaman
Email Jamir about missed meetings	

- 5. Approval of Meeting Summaries** from July17, 2019  
The July Meeting summary was reviewed. No edits were recommended. The meeting summary will be approved when quorum is established at the next meeting.
- 6. Updates from other Committees**
  - **COC – Continuum of Care Committee**

Tania Guaman, Support Staff provided the COC report. The Continuum of Care Committee took a recess in August. The next COC meeting will be held on Sept. 12, 2019 at the Willing Heart Community Center located at 555 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102.

- **CPC – Comprehensive Planning Committee**

Tania Guaman, Support Staff, provided the CPC report. The last Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting was held on Friday, August 9, 2019 at the Willing Heart Community Center in Newark. The following occurred at the meeting:

- The May and June Meeting summaries were approved
- Recipient Report: Ketlen Alsbrook, Project Director, provided the report for the Recipient.
  - The FY'2019 Core Service Waiver was approved by HRSA. This waiver allows Ryan White funds to provide additional funding for support service categories that need the extra funds outside the 75/25 split.
- Presentation: Ketlen Alsbrook, Project Director, conducted a presentation of the 2019 Ryan White Service Utilization and Spending data. This data was analyzed and used to update the EMA allocation percentages.
- The 2019 Funding Stream Analysis was reviewed to consider the impact of changes in funding streams for priority setting and resource allocation: Tania Guaman, Support Staff, provided the Funding Stream Analysis Presentation and reported no major changes on funding streams.
- Based on Ryan White Service Utilization and the 2019 Funding Stream Analysis, the CPC reviewed the EMA-wide allocation percentages and changes were made considering a non 75/25 split and assuming the course service waiver will be approved next year. These percentages will be reviewed again at the next CPC Meeting as well as the EMA-wide ranking.

The next CPC meeting will be held on September 13, 2019 at the Willing Heart Community Care Center located at 555 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102.

- **CIA/CC – Consumer Involvement Activities/Community Conversations**

Tania Guaman, Support Staff, provided the CIA report. The CIA took a recess in July. On August 20, the CIA/CC will hold a Cookout event inviting all PLWH to come out. 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.

## 7. Old Business

- 2019 Needs Assessment Follow Up/Draft: Sharon Postel presented Question#2 Behavioral Health Outcomes.
  - There were 7 B-HIP agencies and 7 Non-B-HIP agencies screened within 6 BHIP categories in 4 periods (12/31/18, 2/28/2019, 4/30/2019, 6/30/2019). The measurement is based on a 12-month period and run bimonthly. The data is updated weekly based on CHAMP changes.
  - BHIP agencies are the following Hyacinth, Rutgers IDP, Rutgers Start, St. Michaels, NJCRI, Trinitas, and Zufall.
  - BHIP 1: PLWH Screened for Depression (Based on NQF 418) using evidence-based tools under SAMSHA

- The amount of people screened for depression has decreased. The percentage of people screened for depression on a BHIP agency is lower than those in Non-BHIP agencies.
- A data entry issue was found – Data might not be accurate.
- Agencies are required to screen people for depression every 6 months.
  
- BHIP 2: PWLH Screened for Substance Abuse (Based on NQF 418) using evidence-based tools
  - The amount of people screened for substance abuse has decreased. The percentage of people screened for substance abuse on a BHIP agency is lower than those in a Non-BHIP agency.
  - A data entry issue was found in this category – Data might not be accurate.
- BHIP 3: PLWH with Positive Screens who have Follow up Plans (Based on NQF 418): A follow up Plan is defined very broadly.
  - If screened positive in any of the tools and does not have a written plan, referrals are considered a follow up plan.
  - The percentage of people who screened positive and have follow up plans is increasing.
  - There is a big difference in follow up plans between BHIP agencies and non BHIP agencies
- BHIP 4: PLWH with BH Disorders Retained in BH Care (Not NQF Measure); People who completed follow up plans.
  - If a person had only a couple of counseling sessions or group counseling or did not need a full referral or treatment, they were not included on this data.
- BHIP 5: PWLH with BH Disorders Viral Suppression
  - Viral Load Suppression percentages have been around 85% but have been decreasing in the last couple of months
  - Non- BHIP agencies have higher percentages than BHIP agencies
- BHIP 6: PWLH with Viral Suppression (NQF 2081, collected through NJ CPC) age 18 or older
  - Agencies have individual performance reports to indicate how the agency is doing with viral suppression
  - BHIP agencies have higher percentages than Non BHIP agencies in this category.
  
- Housing Status and Behavioral Health Outcomes within the BHIP and Non – BHIP agencies
  - Definition on Housing by HHS and federally vary.
  - Unstable Housing, as defined federally are those in emergency shelter, homeless, in a hotel or motel with subsidy-voucher, or in jail/prison and the percentage is 5% to 6%
  - For BHIP agencies during 4/30/2019, 87.5% of people had stable permanent housing, 82.7% of people had temporary housing and 77.8% of people had unstable housing and achieved viral suppression,
  - For Non-BHIP agencies during 4/30/2019, 86.4% of people with stable permanent housing, 84.7% of people with temporary housing, 60.0% with unstable housing achieved viral suppression
  - People who have stable or temporary housing are more likely to adhere to viral suppression, clinic appointments and are more involved in Ryan White activities.
  - Data about housing is self-reported and it might not be accurate. Percentages may be higher from what is being reported. Also, consumers might have funds through a Non-Ryan White agency.

- Discussion/Update on the 2017-2021 Integrated Prevention and Care Plan: Karen Ehiri and Kasny Damas provided the update.
  - NHAS Goal #3: Decrease Gap from 12% to 10%:
    - Of the subgroups identified in the presentation, MSM and the age group of 25-34 have the highest percentage of gap with 9.23% and 9.03% respectively, but these are still under the goal of 10%. However, the Total EMA GAP percentage is 14.41%. Since the gap number increased a lot, the Committee recommended that further analysis is conducted analyzing data of additional subgroups.
  - NHAS Goal #3: Increase VLS to 80% EMA-Wide: CHAMP data showed that 741 clients were not virally suppressed. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that 158 additional clients were virally suppressed but were not reported as such. This error brought down the number of clients who were not virally suppressed by 20% NEMA-Wide. A data cleaning process is under works to train agencies.
  - NHAS Goal #3: Increase ART to 96% EMA-wide:
    - NEMA Performance is at 97.39%
    - 123 clients were not prescribed ART, 80 were Virally suppressed, 79 were African American, 71 were males and 63 had Medicaid.
- 2019 Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism: Sharon Postel provided an update. For the update, only the Recipient will be assessed not funded agencies. The tool for the Recipient survey was finalized on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> at the CPC. It was sent to the Recipient office on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> and a response is expected by September 6<sup>th</sup>. The results will be reviewed, and the final report will be completed by the end of September.

## 8. New Business

No new business to discuss at this meeting.

## 9. Administrative Issues

There are no administrative issues at this moment.

## 10. Announcements

Warren Poole, CIA Chair made the following announcements:

- Summer Cook Out on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 268 MLK Jr. Blvd Newark, NJ from 5 to 7PM.
- On September the Peter Ho CAB and CIA Committee will host events on HIV and Aging at different locations and dates. The Peter Ho CAB will host an event on HIV and Aging on September 24 from 5 PM until 7 PM at St. Michael's Medical Center. NEMA CIA will host a meeting about HIV and Aging scheduled for September 24 from 5 to 7PM at Kings Restaurant in Newark. Food and parking will be provided.

Tania Guaman, Support Staff made the following announcement: The End the Epidemic Update (National Level) will host a webinar on Friday, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 pm to 3:00pm. The link is on the Newark EMA Facebook and will be sent via email to those interested.

Sharon Postel mentioned that the City of Newark is applying for a grant due on October 15<sup>th</sup>. It is a 5-year End the Epidemic project between HRSA and the City of Newark.

Travis Love made the following announcements:

- Jersey City Pride will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2019
- A Pride Center is now in Downtown Newark near Halsey Street.

Ann Bagchi, REC Chair, made the following announcements:

- The End the Epidemic (Taskforce) sent the report to the Governor. An editor offered to review the report, but no updates have been reported.
- The Department of Health Services Commissioner and their subordinate left the department. Updates are pending.

- Ann Bagchi, PhD is conducting two research studies:

- 1) Bagchi will conduct stigma reduction workshops (StepUp! to Stamp Out Stigma) for 3 groups of 15 PLWH, people affected by HIV or the community in general. The workshops will be held in Newark and Camden. Recruitment is now open. Those interested can reach out to Kasny Damas (Recipient's office).

The Newark-based workshop will be held on September 7th from 10am to 1pm at the Rutgers Nursing School in Newark. The study will offer incentives to participate such as meals, travel reimbursements, and a gift card. The other workshop will be held on August 24<sup>th</sup> in Camden.

- 2) Rutgers received pilot funding to conduct a Needs Assessment to measure the access of underserved communities to telehealth /telemedicine services in Newark and Atlantic county. This study will focus on staff and clients at agencies serving PLWH. Consumers and providers will complete surveys, participate in telephone interviews, and focus groups. Three focus groups will be held in the Newark area (1 in English, 1 in Spanish and 1 for young African American gay/bisexual men) and 1 in Atlantic County. This research project requires a Research-Driven Community Advisory Board to help with the study design and data analysis. Recruitment is open for 12 people, mainly community members, but providers are also welcomed to join the study.

#### **11. Next Meeting**

The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 10:00AM at the Willing Heart Community Center located at 555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102.

#### **12. Adjournment**

Ann Bagchi, REC Chair, asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Since quorum was not established earlier. No motions or votes were required. The meeting was adjourned at 11:43am.