

Planning Council MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 1:30 – 3:00PM
Willing Heart Community Center
555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102

1. Swear-In Oath Ceremony

The meeting agenda was amended by the Vice Chair and the Swearing In ceremony took place. The Clerk from the City of Newark conducted the Swearing In ceremony for all renewals and for new members. Those who participated in the ceremony included: Ann Bagchi Ph.D, Kendall Clark, Cezar Dumago, Juanita Howell, Elizabeth Kocot, Patricia A. Moore, Viesha Morales, Walter Okoroanyanwu, MD, Dominga Padilla, MD, Warren Poole, Rev. Don Ransom, Providencia Rodriguez, Ricardo Salcido, and Calvin Toler. The certificates of the Oath of Office were distributed to participating members and the signed copy of it will be submitted to the City Clerk for the record.

2. Welcome & Moment of Silence

Joann McEniry, Vice Chair of the Planning Council, welcomed all attendees and called for a moment of silence for those who have passed and those living with HIV/AIDS.

3. Roll Call

Cezar Dumago, Planning Council Secretary conducted the roll call for this meeting. Quorum was established later on during the meeting.

4. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony at this time.

5. Approval of the Meeting Summary from January 16, 2019

The last Planning Council meeting took place in January 16, 2019. The February meeting was canceled due to snow. Joann McEniry called for a motion to approve the meeting summary from January 16, 2019. The motion was passed and the meeting summary was approved.

6. Report from the Recipient

The FY2018 site visits will continue through the beginning of the first quarter in FY2019. All sub-recipients will have at least one visit for the FY2018 contract. All sub-recipients must submit their final expenditure report by the end of March 2019. If this deadline cannot be met, the Program Monitor should be notified immediately. If the final report is not submitted on time and the City closes out, the agency will be responsible for unreported costs. The FY2019 award letters, which include the MI allocations that were not distributed in the first round of awards, will be dispersed by mid-April. For FY2019, one hundred percent of contracts are registered and to date 18 contracts have been adopted. The remaining contracts are scheduled to be adopted on April 3rd.

The RSR report was submitted to HRSA on time for FY2018.

The City of Newark will pursue a Core Service Waiver within this first quarter for FY2019 which will add flexibility to budget revisions and will ensure money is spent where needed.

The Ryan White Unit participated in the HRSA sponsored webinar on Ending the Epidemic on March 13. A meeting with the Executive Committee has been scheduled for April 10th to discuss this topic. More information will follow.

7. Standing Committee Updates

- **COC: Mario Portilla**

Mario Portilla, COC Chair was not present so Ann Bagchi, PhD reported on his behalf. Ann reported that a training Presentation was held during the March meeting sponsored by Gilead Sciences. The presentation was given by Dr. Felipe Arias, an Infectious Disease Specialist from Philadelphia. Dr. Arias spoke about the correlation between the opioid epidemic and the spread of Hepatitis C via Intravenous Drug Use as well as the potential risk of undiagnosed HIV among these populations. Dr. Arias emphasized the need for a strategy to reduce the spread of Hepatitis through screening, treatment, prevention and risk reduction of Hepatitis C.

Also, the Service Standards for Oral Health Care will be emailed to members for review prior to the next scheduled meeting on April 11, 2019. There were two persons nominated for the Vice-Chair position: 1) Viesha Morales and 2) Richlyn Burnham. Prior to the next meeting, members will vote by email and the new Vice Chair will be announced at the next meeting in April. The next COC meeting will be on February 14th at 10AM at Willing Heart Community Center located at 555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07103.

- **CPC: Joann McEniry**

In lieu of the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) meeting, the CPC hosted a community education event on Friday, 3/08/19 from 10am – 2pm at the BF Johnson Community Center. The event was a deliverable of the 2017-2019 Integrated HIV/AIDS Health Plan. It was well attended with more than 45 people present.

Alison Modica and Marina Leonardos from Gilead Sciences presented on PrEP and attendees discussed barriers with access to Truvada/PrEP. Knowledge among private providers, outreach and engagement with youth, ability to maintain youth confidentiality on insurance records, unawareness of financial assistance, maintaining the requirements of care (ie. bloodwork), lack of advertising for people outside the gay community (women, hetero-sexual discordant couples) and instability in housing were among the barriers identified.

Julio Roman from NJCRI presented on the syringe access program in Newark. Discussions focused on the legislative history, access to care, program success, participant requirements, and the need for continued support for Fentanyl testing kits. Barriers included, lack of funding, geographic limitations, homelessness, and ensuring family engagement in care. The next meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Committee is scheduled for Friday, April 12, 2019 at 9:30AM. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

- **REC: Interim Chair Ann Bagchi, Ph. D**
The Research and Evaluation Committee last met on Monday, March 18th, 2019. The REC has approved all meeting summaries to date. The REC finalized its research question and methodology for the Needs Assessment. There are three questions that will be addressed based primarily on CHAMP analysis. There was a presentation from NJCRI on test and treat. The workplan calendar was updated. A discussion was held about membership and members attendance at REC meetings. The REC will discuss the Integrated Plan at the next meeting. The next REC meeting will take place on Monday, April 15 at 10AM.
- **CIA/CC: Warren Poole**
Mr. Warren Poole shared a thank you card in thanks to the Planning Council for their support for the CIA Holiday party in December 2018. The Community Involvement Activities/ Community Conversations Committee last met in February 27, 2019 for an open forum *Can We Talk: Phase One*. Attendees were provided with information on the Ryan White Program, Part A– what it covers for core medical vs. support (social services, food, and housing) services. A lively discussion followed where consumers shared challenges with internal stigma, access to medical care, and discrimination. Part two of this community forum will be held on March 27, *Can We Talk: Phase Two*. Lastly, during the CIA/CC April meeting, all agencies are welcome to join the April CIA community forum *Can We Talk: Phase Three* to share information about their services. The next CIA/CC meeting will be held on March 27th at 5PM.

8. State & National Updates

- **Report from NJ HIV Planning Group**
 - o Dr. Ann Bagchi reported that the NJ HIV Planning Group is meeting tomorrow March 21st, 2019. The state was in the process of interviewing a new person for a combined position of Prevention and Care at the NJDOH. The NJHPG is also working to align its work with the End the Epidemic Initiative. The Stigma Committee is working to develop a standardized tool for agencies to measure progress in eliminating HIV related stigma issues.
- **Report from Governor’s Advisory Council**
 - o Dr. Ann Bagchi reported that the Governor’s Advisory Council last met on March 7th, 2019 and that they also have a focus on the End the Epidemic Initiative. The group also wants to change the composition of the gap – the gap membership list is now being updated.

9. Planning Council Administrative Issues

- **Report from Executive Committee**
The Executive Committee met immediately before the Planning Council meeting. The End the Epidemic Plan was briefly discussed. The primary focus of the meeting was the Core Service Waiver and how to move through this process. Sharon’s consulting firm will assist with the Core Service Waiver application process.

Sharon explained that some of the requirements for the Core Service Waiver application include: a written justification, consumer feedback, support letters from NJ Medicaid, and feedback from providers. She also reports that the justification letter will explain the impact of

the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion where uninsured people who were then enrolled into Medicaid or Medicare released some funds back into the Ryan White Program. Sharon also explained that prior data has shown that housing is a priority, especially since HOPWA had a reduction in funding. Lastly, she mentions the impact of BHIP which will also be discussed because more non-Ryan White services are serving as funding sources for mental health and substance issues. So, more funding is to be directed for Medical Case Management to improve viral load suppression and referrals. The requirement for Ryan White Funding is that funds would be distributed 75% Core Medical Services and 25% in support services. The Core Service Waiver would allow the RW funding in the Newark EMA area to be distributed more adequately based on need.

The NEMA website is still on the works. The PC is working to figure out how to bring the website back and make it available to the public. More information to follow.

- **Report from Treasurer**

- Pat Moore, Planning Council Treasurer, does not have a report since the final spending report has not yet been completed. Pat will meet with United Way within this week to complete a report and to submit a modification if necessary.

- **Report from PC Support Staff**

- Tania M. Guaman is the new Support Staff at United Way of Greater Union County. Tania welcomes will serve as the point of contact for the PC and she welcomes all feedback from staff at any time.

10. Old/New Business

There was no old business at this time.

11. Announcements

Kendall announces that the National HIV Coalition needs support to reject the proposal of Congress to make cuts in HOPWA and other services which affects the needs of people living with HIV. It is recognized that the Planning Council is not an advocacy organization and the Council is not asking individuals to reach out to members of Congress. If interested in the advocacy initiative that Kendall involved, members should contact Kendall directly.

Warren Poole shared a flyer announcing a three-week program for newly diagnosed individuals who learned about their status three years ago or after at St. Michael's Hospital. Interested people can register by calling the phone number listed on the flyer. Parking will be available on site.

Ann Bagchi, PhD announces that three workshops on stigma will be conducted. One will take place in Newark, another in New Brunswick, and the last one in Camden. The STEP-UP SOS workshops focus on empowering people living with HIV, their family members, and healthcare workers to address HIV related stigma. More information will be available soon.

The CDC is looking for initiatives that address the opioid overdose epidemic and morbidity. Dr. Bagchi has submitted a proposal to the CDC which would bring a trained practitioner to train a provider in an evidence-based practice (academic detailing). Dr. Bagchi is looking for nurse practitioners, PAs, and MDs interested in being trained as detailers for this project. Anyone with a background in HIV, hepatitis C or the opioid/pain management is welcome.

Dr. Bagchi has been asked to serve as liaison between the Newark EMA and the End the Epidemic Taskforce. She is a member of this Taskforce which has developed three primary goals:

1. To reduce the number of new HIV infections by 75% by 2025
2. Ensure that 100% of people living with HIV or AIDS know their status
3. Ensure that 90% of people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are virally suppressed.

Three committees were developed to discuss objectives to achieve these goals. A survey will be sent out to obtain opinions from organizations. The Taskforce meets every two weeks.

The AIDS Walk will take place on May 5th at three different locations in New Jersey. Two of these locations are located within the Newark EMA area: Another one is located in Newark and another one in Morristown. Everyone is invited to register and attend the AIDS walk.

12. Next Meeting: April 17th, 2019 at 1:30PM. Willing Heart Community Center, 555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102.

13. Adjournment

Joann McEniry called this meeting adjourned at 2:35PM.