



Community Involvement Activities MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, March 27th, 2019, at 5PM-7PM
Willing Heart Community Center
555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07103

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Warren Poole, Committee Chair, welcomed all in attendance a moment of silence was observed for all those living with and have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

2. Introductions

Mr. Poole and Tania gave a brief overview of what support service and medical care services are about. Attendees were then asked to complete a survey in ranking their priority areas among support and core medical Ryan White Services.

3. Topic of discussion: Community Talk - Can we talk? – Phase Two

Attendees were asked to think and share some of the challenges that may prevent them from managing their HIV condition adequately.

“I went looking for utility assistance and it had run out. We need more funds in this area.”

My medical provider’s office does not provide medical management services. “I was not referred anywhere else either.”

Legal Counseling – “I wanted to know more about my rights if I am being forced to go seek mental health (legal assistance).”

Too many pharmacies will not cover the expenses for Ensure. Will insurance pay for that? The pharmacy on Main Street and East Orange – Mike’s pharmacy. “Nutrition services have disappeared now they’re rare to find”.

Transportation – how can I get a bus card if I have 2-3 appointments per week?

Health insurance – I have a toothache – we need to get oral health care. Rutgers Medical School dental services- Ryan White Program has a long waiting list. When a secondary condition is involved, “I could not access medical care” because I was bounced around between doctors.

Mental Health Services are important – because there is “unrecognized instability in our community.”

Ambulatory services are the “most important services.”

Housing is important because rent is too high and the “voucher is not enough for the cost of apartments nowadays. We just cannot afford it, so where do I go with my voucher?” Utility costs add to that. So people cannot live off of that.

Health insurance that covers all expenses and medications without copay.

Housing in Newark is changing – we have the highest fair market value and high housing costs. HOPWA was also cut by \$60 million.

Housing – “I was terminated by HOPWA so I am now homeless.”

Transportation – I never knew that I could get a car or bus to get to medical appointments. We are not told, we have to ask for these resources. We also need more than two tickets. Essex County provides free transportation with a 2-day notice.

Mental health services are needed “especially for newly diagnosed who are going through depression or those who are veterans”.

4. **Announcements**

Newly diagnosed individuals are invited to attend newly diagnosed classes at St. Michael’s.

An event will be held on how to reduce belly fat while being HIV positive will be held on April 19th 12 :00pm in the 7th floor.

All CIA members were encouraged to give their testimony at the Planning Council 1:30pm meeting taking place on April 17, 2019.

5. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 27th, 2019 at 5pm at Willing Heart Community Center 555 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark, NJ 07103

6. **Adjournment** This meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm