



Community Involvement Activities Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

The Planning Council believes that the voice of the community is paramount. The purpose of the CIAs 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 the Ryan White and related health/social services.

Wednesday, May 27, 2020, 5-7PM

<https://www.gotomeet.me/UWGUC/ciameeting>
(669) 224-3412 / Access Code: 669-287-333

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order 5:10 PM and welcomed all in attendance. A moment of silence was observed for all those living with, those who have passed, and those affected by HIV/AIDS and COVID-19.

17 Attendees were at the virtual meeting, including 2 PC Support Staff, 2 Planning Council members and 1 service provider representative.

2. Mission statement & Ground rules

Poole stated the committee's mission statement. Poole explained that the Planning Council allocates Ryan White Part A funds for 5 counties in the EMA area and is interested in hearing from people affected by HIV/AIDS who do not work for a Ryan White funded agency. All attendees were encouraged to be part of the CIA Committee and the Planning Council.

3. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

4. Approval of the February 26th Meeting Summary

Committee members approved the Feb 26 meeting summary.

5. Ryan White Part A Updates

- a. COVID-19 funding - Support Staff shared that HRSA provided additional funding to the Recipient's Office for COVID-19 related needs. Support Staff added that Ryan White Part A funds usually do not support some funding allocations during the crisis such as funds to purchase gloves and masks. This fund is less restrictive than the Ryan White Part A fund. Individuals are asked to contact their MCM to ask for this resource. Each sub-recipient should contact their Project Monitor to inquire about allowable services with this new funding.

Support Staff mentioned that there are 3 types of funding available for the Ryan White Community. These funds are the Ryan White Part A Fund, the Ending the Epidemic Fund, and the COVID-19 Fund. All these funds have different restrictions and complement each other.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

- a. Needs Assessment Update – Support Staff shared that the Research and Evaluation Committee is updating the Needs Assessment with a focus on Housing. At the February meeting, the Recipient Office Representative, Aliya Onque, conducted a focus group about housing to gather information for the Needs Assessment and for the new Ending the Epidemic Fund, which will be used to expand housing services. Community Health workers were also important and could be funded using the Ending the Epidemic fund.

Support Staff added that the Comprehensive Planning Committee is working on the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation for Fiscal Year 2021. The Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Process allows Newark EMA Planning Council to determine what services are most important in providing a comprehensive system of care and how much RWHAP Part A program funding will be allocated to each service categories. There are 16 service categories funded in the Newark EMA.

An attendee mentioned that Housing has been the number 1 topic for the past years during CIA and Planning Council Meetings and that it has become “redundant”. The attendee mentioned that until the “Federal Government puts Housing as a priority, the state can’t do much.” A service provider stated that Housing is indeed a big concern and agrees with the attendee in that the Federal Government must put priority into housing if they want to End the Epidemic. She also stated that if the community is homeless, how is the government going to end the Epidemic. She stated that throughout the years HOPWA funds have decreased. There was also a waiting list, which it has gotten longer since HOPWA funds have lessened. It was mentioned that the State pays for housing complex that the HOPWA program and other Housing programs use, and it was recommended that the state owns these housing complexes so the cost of paying these complexes decreases.

- b. Community conversations about COVID-19
 - How is COVID-19 impacting you and your mental health?
 - An attendee reported having bumps on his hands when he used gloves. Consumers noted that he might have allergies to a latex. So he needs to use gloves made of other material.
 - An attendee reported having issues in his current apartment building due to odors. The attendee claimed he informed management and escalated the issue to the Health Department and Trenton and did not receive any help. The attendee claims he had this issue for about a year and a half. He reported he currently lives in Irvington and tried to apply for a housing program in Newark but was denied because he was not living in the same city he applied for. The service provider reported that the Housing Authority in the Newark Municipality wants to keep Newark residents in the city and does not accept people from outside the city into their program. The service provider, Michelle Harvey, offered to help the attendee with this issue.
 - What are your worries about COVID-19? How are you preparing to go back to how it used to be?
 - An attendee claimed it is going to be hard to go back to how it used to be because the food prices have gone up since the pandemic and it seems that the prices are likely to continue to go up.

- An attendee asked if anyone else have heard about everybody getting food stamps in addition to the stimulus check. It was clarified that there would be additional funds on food stamps for those already in the program and not everyone will get food stamps.
- Have you had a doctor visit via telehealth? Are you receiving your medication?
 - An attendee reported he is in need of a dental appointment and that some Dr. offices are closed. Consumers shared that he can contact their Medical Case Manager to find out more information on what service providers are currently open as well as if they have any issues with their medication.
 - Some attendees reported that using telehealth was “easy”. Others said that they do not own a smartphone.
- c. Q&A – regarding COVID-19 services in the Newark EMA
No additional questions were asked about the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. Announcements

- Support Staff asked attendees if they would like to keep meeting every two weeks or if they would like to go back to monthly meetings. Members agreed that meetings should only be held once per month.
- Poole announced that there will be a drive-thru food distribution on Saturday 30th at Kean University. To register go to uwguc.org/registration.

9. Next meeting

The next CIA/CC meeting will be held on June 24, 2020 at 5PM via GoToMeeting.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.