



# 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.*

**Friday, July 24, 2020, 5-7PM**

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

### **1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**

Warren Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order 5:13 PM and welcomed all in attendance. A moment of silence was observed for all those living with, affected, those who have passed with HIV/AIDS, and those who have passed from COVID-19.

Poole explained that the meeting on Wednesday, July 22 was rescheduled to Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> to allow more people to attend the meeting. Poole also mentioned that this meeting should have at least 7 to 8 consumers participating since he reached out to consumers via phone and confirmed their attendance.

There were 6 attendees, including the CIA Chair and both Support Staff. All attendees reside in Essex County.

### **2. Mission statement & Ground rules**

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 June 24 Meeting Summary**

This item was not discussed.

### **5. Ryan White Part A Updates**

### **6. Old Business**

### **7. New Business**

#### **a. Priority Setting and Resource Allocation:**

Support Staff mentioned that the CIA provided feedback on priority setting of the 16 service categories at the last meeting. The committee recognized that there was a small number of participants, which does not reflect the Newark EMA. Support Staff added that during today's meeting, the CIA will provide feedback on resource allocations but will be limited since once again, there is a small number of participants.

Committee members talked about what priority setting means. One attendee mentioned that priority is when you figure out what service comes first for the Ryan White community. Another attendee mentioned that is how much money goes to service categories in the Newark EMA. Then, Support Staff showed a table and a graph with the resource allocation for FY 2019, FY 2020 and FY 2021 for all 16 service categories in the Newark EMA.

In 2019, the service category ranked as #1 was Medical Case Manager with 30% of funding. In 2020, Medical Case Management was only ranked as #1 but the percentage of allocation increased to 35%. Support Staff explained that there is no allocation for 2021 since the CIA will help decide how much funding will go to this and every service category today. An attendee mentioned that in 2020 the percentage went up in comparison from the previous year and assuming the trend will continue then more funding will be needed for 2021.

An attendee asked how the Council knows what service category to put more money into and stated that it seemed a bit arbitrary. Support Staff added that the committee in charge of the Priority Setting and Resource allocation report reviews different documents, presentations as well as the recommendation from the consumer group before deciding how much money gets allocated into each service category. However, Support Staff added that consumers' input is most meaningful for the Planning Council when a diverse group of representatives is present.

One attendee mentioned that today's meeting has too few people and asked to reschedule the meeting, if possible. Poole mentioned that there is a deadline to complete the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation and it would not be possible to reschedule the meeting. Attendees were encouraged to use public testimony as an opportunity to provide feedback since everyone can join the meetings and provide their input on any issue. For example: if an agency runs out of money for Emergency Financial Assistance, consumers can go to the Planning Council Meeting to give a public testimony stating that more money is needed in that service category.

Poole stated that some service categories can receive the same amount of funding or be increased or decreased and asked to attendees to state where more money should go based on the categories that were prioritized at the last meeting. Poole mentioned that consumer input matters and that he wants to hear from them what service category funding should increase, decrease, or remain the same. Poole mentioned that **Medical Transportation** is needed to go to medical visits. Another attendee mentioned that **housing funds should increase** since people have unique situations g. Also, putting funds to create more housing programs. He also mentioned that **transportation** funds should be increased because you need transportation to go to your medical appointments. Another attendee mentioned that **other service categories can have funding according to usage so that the most used categories do not run out of money.**

Another attendee mentioned that things have changed due to the COVID-19 and affects different service categories. **Housing, Mental Health, Emergency Financial Assistance, and Medical**

**Transportation should be increased.** The last attendee mentioned that all service categories funding should be increased.

Support Staff thanked all attendees for their input and the activity was completed. Support Staff mentioned that the Newark EMA has 5 different counties and asked what county the attendees reside in. All attendees are from Essex County. Poole stated that he reached out to people who reside in Union and Morris county and a couple of Union county residents mentioned that they will attend the meeting but did not.

***Issues noted at this meeting:***

Some attendees were not able to see the graph and allocation ranking worksheet since they were using a smartphone or the phone option. Support Staff sent them the document so they could see the allocation graph and table, but attendees reported that they are not able to access their email or text while using GoToMeeting. Some attendees also had technical difficulties with their connection and were in and out of the meeting.

***b. Community conversations about COVID-19***

A consumer mentioned that Housing programs in Newark should accept those who reside in Essex County. He explained that he lives in Essex County and applied for a housing program in Newark and was not accepted because he does not live in Newark currently. He asked to look into expanding programs for Essex County residents and not only for Newark residents Programs should give assistance to other cities as well. Poole mentioned that some programs give priority to Newark residents.

Another attendee mentioned that she had an issue with her refrigerator a couple of weeks ago and is not sure if this is covered under Emergency Financial Assistance. She stated that she went to different agencies for funding and was denied. She wanted to find out what is being covered under Emergency Financial Assistance. Poole mentioned that he was not sure if Emergency Financial Assistance covers appliances, but Emergency Financial Assistance covers emergency rent, utility assistance, cover funds for a phone due to COVID. Support Staff asked if the attendee reached out to her Case Manager. Attendee mentioned that she reached out to her HOPWA Counselor at La Casa and was not able to help. Attendee mentioned that her landlord does not want to replace the refrigerator and she has issues storing her food. Support staff will assist with this issue.

Support Staff encouraged consumers to provide public testimony regarding any service category that needs to be improved.

**8. Announcements**

The CIA will not meet in August.

**9. Next meeting**

The next CIA/CC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 5PM via GoToMeeting.

**10. Adjournment**

This meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM.