



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 26, 2021 from 5:06 PM to 6:38 PM
 Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96635953539>
 Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 966 3595 3539#

Attendees: 30 attendees including 7 Planning Council members and 5 PC member applicants.

Attendees by County						
Essex	Union	Morris	Sussex	Warren	Unknown	Total
20	3	1	0	0	6	30

Support Staff: Tania Guaman and Vicky Saguary
Guest Speakers: N/A

- 1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**
 Warren Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:06 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.

- 2. Public Testimony**
 There was no public testimony.

- 3. Approval of the Meeting Summary from April 28, 2021**
 The April 28th meeting summary was sent electronically for review prior to the meeting. Poole asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary. One consumer motioned and another seconded. There were no abstentions or oppositions.

- 4. Ryan White Part A Updates**
 - Recommend topics for future CIA Presentations
 The committee mentioned at a previous meeting that they would like to have presentations on how to use Zoom and other technology. Other recommended topics were:
 - Members also requested a presentation on COVID-19 changes as the State is opening. There should also be a discussion about hesitancy to get the COVID-19 Vaccine.
 - Attendees want to know what should or should not be done since the mask requirement is no longer in place.
 - A provider in attendance recommends that people should still wear a mask on closed spaces such as public transportation and health care facilities. In addition, for those who are already

vaccinated can have their mask available and wear it as needed and/or wanted. And those who do not have their COVID-19 vaccine, they should still always wear a mask.

5. Old Business

No Old Business

6. New Business

- Core and Support Services; What is a Core Service Waiver?
 - The Newark EMA funds Medical (Core) and Non-Medical Services (Support Services). Core services are services related to direct medical care. Support services fund other services such as Emergency Financial Assistance, home-delivered meals, and others.
 - The Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) requires the Newark EMA to distribute 75% of Ryan White Part A funds to core services and 25% for support services. However, a Core Service Waiver allows the EMA to take away from the 75% for core services and add it to the 25% to increase support services.
 - Last year, there was a greater need for support services such as utility assistance, housing, among others due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the recipient, in consultation with the community, applied for and received approval of a Core Service Waiver to increase funds for support services.
 - For the FY2022 application, the Recipient wants to hear from the community about the need for a Core Service Waiver application. Attendees shared the following comments:
 - More funding should be available for **utilities, housing, and food** to prepare for the future since “we never know what type of crisis is about to hit us”.
 - “There seems to be a critical need for **housing**, but I agree with the other speakers, when they talked about **utility** and **housing** - homelessness prevention... There are some models out there and I know United Community Corporation (UCC) is promoting one where they have smaller housing components for people who may not have a home.... what I would categorize as homelessness prevention - having enough money to support your utilities and keeping your current place as this moratorium end.”
 - In Morris, Sussex, and Warren County, “people do not have **transportation services** and funds for transportation are very limited”, particularly for Medicaid and uninsured patients. The bus service in Warren County is at least one mile away from the client’s residency, a distance that clients must walk. Some patients are referred to other agencies who provide transportation services but not everyone qualifies for this service. Zufall prioritizes patients to receive transportation, but funding is limited.
 - **Food**
 - People are “going to need more funding for **food**.”
 - This morning, News 12 announced that the Food Stamp program was giving more funds during the pandemic. As the end of July, these funds will be returned to its original limits. Therefore, “more funds for **food** are going to be needed”.
 - **Other services**
 - It would be helpful to have funds for a father program that offers **job training opportunities** to learn **skills leading to employment** such as the FELLAS Program. This

program helps fathers be better fathers for their family. The FELLAS program can collaborate since fathers enrolled in the program need employment opportunities. Attendees agreed that job trainings leading to employment opportunities can be helpful and crucial as a long-term solution.

- Although the Ryan White Part A funds specific service categories, the Ending the Epidemic funds for jurisdictions might be able to fund job training. EHE provides funding for services not included in Ryan White Part A such as the housing program which will have a job training component. This approach was developed in response to the Needs assessment which showed that individuals who are not stably housed might not reach viral load suppression.
- The FY 2021 allocation was set at around 70% for core services and 30% for support services – which was outside of the 75/25 already.
- After this discussion, attendees were asked to submit their vote in favor of submitting a Core Service Waiver application for FY 2022.
 - The 16 attendees present agreed to put more funds into support services.
- Resource Allocation and Reallocations
 - HRSA provides funds to the Newark EMA Ryan White Part A services to be distributed according to the number of people living with HIV throughout the five EMA counties, and the services needed in the area. The unspent money gets sent back to HRSA, but it can also be reallocated to other services that need more funds including support services. A member reminded attendees that “if more money is put in support services, then less money will be available for core medical services.”
 - The Comprehensive Planning Committee and Planning Council go through a process to take into consideration to increase funds on those categories based on different data including the recommendation from the CIA, data utilization report, the needs assessment, and other data.
 - A member also suggested that people can also lobby outside of the congress to increase program funds, even outside of Ryan White. Some organizations that advocate on the state and federal level were mentioned such as AIDS Watch, and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council.
 - Support Staff noted that although the Planning Council does not lobby, community members can participate or become involved with advocacy in their own time as individuals.
- Funding priorities: which services will matter the most in 2022?
 - Attendees briefly reviewed the Newark EMA Core and Support Service Categories:
 - **Core Services** – Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services, Early Intervention Services, Oral Health Services, Mental Health, Medical Nutrition Services, Medical Case Management, Substance Use Outpatient Care, Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance.
 - **Support Services** – Non-Medical Case Management, Emergency Financial Assistance, Food Bank/ Home Delivered Meals, Housing, Medical Transportation, Substance Use Services (Residential), Psychosocial Support Services, Other Professional Services.
 - A discussion followed where meeting attendees shared service areas that they felt should be prioritized in 2022:

- **Housing, Medical Transportation, and Food** issues “are the main reason people fall out of care since finding a place to sleep or food are their main priority, not going to medical appointments or taking medicine.”
- The long-term effects of COVID-19 will also create a higher demand for **psychosocial support** services because of the long-term effects of social isolation, the COVID-19 vaccine, and the COVID-19 infections such as neuropsychological disorders.
- **Oral Health Care** was not available for a couple of months because of COVID-19. There is now a high demand for oral health appointments but there are not enough appointments available for these services.
- **Medical Case Management** because they keep the patient in care and help link patients to other services.
- **Emergency Financial Assistance** since it provides utility assistance, back rent assistance and other emergency assistance such as a refrigerator to a consumer who needed one.
- After this discussion, meeting attendees used a Priority Setting worksheet outlining funding priorities as follows:

FY 2022 Newark EMA Priority Setting Ranking

Service Categories	FY 2022	FY 2021	FY 2020	FY 2019
Medical Case Management, including Treatment Adherence Services	3	1	1	1
Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services	14	2	2	2
Housing	1	3	3	3
Medical Transportation	5	4	4	4
Early Intervention Services (EIS)	11	5	5	5
Non-Medical Case Management Services	10	6	6	6
Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA)	4	7	7	7
Mental Health Services	8	8	8	8
Residential Substance Use Services	9	9	9	9
Substance Use Outpatient Care	12	10	10	10
Health Insurance Premium and Cost-Sharing Assistance	13	11	11	11
Oral Health Care	7	12	12	12
Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals	2	13	13	13
Other Professional Services	15	14	14	14
Medical Nutrition Therapy	16	15	15	15
Psychosocial Support Services	6	16	16	16

Core or Medical Services
Support Services

7. Announcements

- A program is offers assistance to pay for utilities. Applications can be submitted until June 30th. Both PROCEED in Union County and La Casa de Don Pedro in Essex County can help. Contact Poole for more information.
- Hyacinth assist individuals having housing problems including back rent, first month rent, and utilities through the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) program. This is for Essex County residents and funds will be available on a first come first serve basis. Contact Natalie Muhammad at nbrown@hyacinth.org or 862-240-1461 for assistance. Proof of status and letter of landlord are required.
- In Union County, PROCEED has funds to help Ryan White consumers with rent and utilities.
- The Newark Housing Authority helps people get jobs at Walmart. Newark residency is not required.
- Poole mentioned that June is National Long-Term Survivors' month and asked all attendees to count down the number of years they had been living with HIV. The countdown ranged from 50 years to 3 years. The person with more years and least years of being diagnosed received a \$10 ShopRite gift card.

8. Next meeting

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 5 PM via Zoom.

9. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.

**There was also a raffle of 3 gift cards at the end of the meeting. Two \$10 Walmart and one \$25 stop and shop gift cards.