

# Continuum of Care Committee

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Thursday, July 8, 2021, from 10:07 AM to 11:56 AM**  
 Video conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98086438103>  
 Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 980 8643 8103#

Present	Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
1. Ann Bagchi, Ph.D. (Secretary) 2. Kendall Clark 3. Dr. Lucy Efobi 4. Wanda Figueroa, MD 5. Maisel Guzman 6. Vieshia Morales (Chair) 7. Nancy Scangarello	8. Dominga Padilla, MD 9. Lauro Rocha	10. Cezar Dumago 11. War Talley (Non-Voting)

**Guests:** Kathleen O'Brien, Jen Grimsich

**Support Staff:** Tania Guaman, Vicky Saguay

**1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**

Morales called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM 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. Roll Call**

Dr. Bagchi conducted the roll call. Quorum was established during the meeting.

**3. Public Testimony**

There was no public testimony at this meeting.

**4. Approval of Meeting Summary from June 10, 2021**

At the last COC meeting, the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was approved as presented.

The June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was sent electronically in advance for review. Morales asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary as presented. Scangarello motioned to approve. Dr. Efobi seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

**5. Standing Committee Updates**

- CPC – Guaman provided the following report for the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:
  - The committee finalized the allocation percentages for FY 2022.
  - The Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Report was approved, finalized, and sent to the Planning Council for consideration for vote at the next meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30PM.
  - The CPC will not meet in July.
 The next CPC meeting will be held on Friday, August 13, 2021, via Zoom.

- REC – Guaman provided the June 21<sup>st</sup> REC report as follows:
  - Brown hosted the meeting on behalf of Dr. Bagchi.
  - Postel provided the consumer and agency surveys preliminary findings of the Needs Assessment related to Telehealth. Conversations about telehealth being accessible in the Newark EMA regardless of race, gender or age. The quality of care was good. Some issues with technology were noted including timeliness of providers, access to technology, being able to use technology by agencies and consumers. The AETC can provide resources if needed.
  - The committee reviewed the Assessment Administrative Mechanism agency survey finding, which noted that the recipient did a good job in providing guidance during the contracting process. There was a request to allow at least two months between this start and submission of proposals in consideration of holidays that might shorten the submission time of applications.
  - The Annual Epidemiologic data from NJDOH has not been received as of the last meeting.

The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, July 19, 2021, at 10AM via Zoom.

- CIA – Guaman provided the June 23<sup>rd</sup> CIA report as follows:
  - An infectious disease specialist joined the committee to talk about COVID-19 vaccines, staying healthy and to debunk some of the COVID-19 vaccine myths. The recommendation was to get the vaccine. There was also a mental health provider who talked about how to cope with the pandemic, how to manage stress with the reopening, and considerations for the use of face masks. Tips and resources were provided through the meeting.
  - In commemoration of HIV Long-Term Survivors Awareness Day, a Long-Term Survivor shared his story of living with HIV for 50 years. There was an emphasis of the change between not having the medical and support care at the beginning to having programs like Ryan White and other resources to help fight this condition.

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday July 28, 2021, 5:00 to 7:00PM via Zoom.

## 6. Old Business

- **Complete the revision of the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services**

The committee continued the review of the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services Service Standard and updated the following:

- Assessment of Service Plan: The committee agreed to add a link for the new medical [Perinatal Guidelines](#) as reference for more detailed recommendations on the safety and effectiveness of ARV meds during pregnancy under the Initial Evaluation – Collection of health history section.

**Motion:** Morales asked for a motion to approve the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services Service Standard with edits. Scangarello motioned. Dr. Efobi seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

- **Review/Update the Housing Service Standard**

The committee reviewed the Housing Service Standard, and the following was updated:

- The first paragraph of the Program Guidance was kept under the Definition and the other paragraphs were removed since they stated service limitations.
- The service limitation was removed from the standard and the statement “Parameters for service category spending are determined by the recipient’s office and communicated directly to funded organizations by the recipient” was added.

- “Reassessment of individualized service plan as needed” was added to Key Service Components and Activities.
- Assessment and Service Plan: The SMART acronym was spelled out - Specific Measurable Attainable Realistic Timely (SMART) goals.

**Motion:** Morales asked for a motion to approve the Housing Service Standard with edits. Clark motioned. Scangarello seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

## 7. New Business

- **PRESENTATION: Telehealth concerns, benefits, challenges, and opportunities based on the 2020 NEMA Needs Assessment and a NJ telehealth study**

The Telehealth presentation provided an overview of findings of the 2021 needs assessment and Dr. Bagchi’s telehealth research study. The following highlights were shared:

- Telehealth is amenable to a “Clinical Diagnosis”, education, medication management, follow up appointments, behavioral health, health screenings and specialty care. However, blood work, x-rays, and vaccines cannot be done via telehealth.
- The Telehealth services provided under Ryan White Part A were Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services, Mental Health, Substance Use, Medical Nutrition Therapy, Medical Case Management, and Non-medical case management. Telehealth services were reimbursed at the same rate as in-person visits. 73% of NEMA clients used telehealth. The most common services provided by telehealth were medical nutrition therapy, Medical Case Manager, and Medical Visits.
- Most people do not have internet access at home (66.0%) or broadband access at home (52.8%), 10% cannot make video calls, 13% cannot use apps on their phone, 9.8% cannot access internet from phone. Challenges with telehealth were privacy to conduct telehealth visit, problems with technology complicated to use apps, provider problems with technology (staff not sufficiently computer savvy, unstable Wi-Fi, and lack of warmth in visits (robotic).
- From the Administrator’s perspectives:
  - Providers used services for specialty care, substance use counseling and non-medical condition.
  - Difficulty to reach homeless
  - People over 45 old were resistant to use technology

- **Review/Update the Emergency Financial Assistance Service Standard**

The committee reviewed the Emergency Financial Assistance Service Standard, and the following was updated:

- Key Service Components and Activities: “Move-in Assistance” was removed and replaced with “Rental Assistance”
- Service Limitation was removed from the service standard and the statement “Parameters for service category spending are determined by the recipient’s office and communicated directly to funded organizations by the recipient” was added.
- Staff Qualification/Trainings: The duties/responsibilities of the Staff Qualifications/Trainings were removed since these are stated on the Non-Medical Case Manager and Medical Case Manager Service Standards. The statement “Refer to the Medical Case Manager and Non-Medical Case Manager Service Standard” was added as bullet 6.

- Documentation Section: For consistency, the statements that are mentioned in the Universal Standard were removed from this standard and the other standards approved today.

**Motion:** Morales asked for a motion to approve the Emergency Financial Assistance Service Standard. Scangarello motioned. Dr. Efobi seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

#### **8. Administrative Issues— PC Support Staff**

- Support Staff will email the final versions of the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services, Housing, and Emergency Financial Assistance to the committee. These standards will be presented to the Planning Council on July 21, 2021.
- The COC does not have a Vice-Chair. Nominations will be accepted for consideration. Nominations can be sent via email to Support Staff before the next meeting.

#### **9. Announcements**

- The City of Newark will distribute COVID-19 Vaccines to the homeless at the Penn Station on July 9 at 8 PM.
- The Community Involvement Activities (CIA) Committee meeting will be focused on ending the epidemic on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. The flyer was shared via email.
- Since the COC completed the review of the service standards as planned during the last couple of months, the COC will have a break in August and will resume meetings on September 9, 2021.

#### **10. Next Meeting**

The next COC meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 10 AM via Zoom.

#### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.