



Continuum of Care Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, October 14, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 11:55 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. Cezar Dumago 3. Dr. Lucy Efobi 4. Wanda Figueroa, MD 5. Masiel Guzman 6. Vieshia Morales (Chair) 7. Dominga Padilla, MD 8. Sharon Postel (Non-Voting) 9. Nancy Scangarello 10. Lauro Rocha 11. War Talley (Non-Voting)	12.	13. Kendall Clark

Guests: Roxanne Barker (St. Bridget’s), Denise Brown, Jen Grimsich (Merck), Kathleen O’Brien (Merck), Pearl Akwajapi

Support Staff: Tania Guaman, Unnati Guru

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Morales called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. All attendees introduced themselves and welcomed Unnati Guru to the team.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony at this meeting.

4. Approval of Meeting Summary from September 9, 2021

At the last COC meeting, the July 8th meeting summary was approved with edits. The edits were made and the revised version is posted on the NEMA PC website.

The September 9th meeting summary was sent electronically in advance for committee review.

Motion: Morales asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary as presented. Dr. Bagchi motioned to approve. Scangarello seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

5. Standing Committee Updates

- *Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC)* – Guaman provided the following report:
 - At the October meeting, a CPC member made a recommendation for consideration during needs assessment discussions. They recommend to review the capacity of aging service providers to support people with HIV (such as nursing homes and hospice centers) and their understanding of HIV and the unique needs of this population as they age.
 - The CPC also recommends that the COC considers the NJ priority populations, and most specifically focus on the jurisdiction’s populations as the committee works on the Situational Analysis section of the Integrated Health Plan.
 - The last CPC recommendation was to consider what work has been completed that can meet the requirements of the Integrated Health Plan; what is needed; and what resources/support will be needed to complete the assigned work.
 - The next CPC meeting will be held on November 12, 2021, via Zoom.

- *Research and Evaluation Committee (REC)* – Dr. Bagchi provided the following report:
 - The committee received a preliminary update on the 2021 epidemiologic profile.
 - The Support Team provided an overview of the guidance for the Integrated Plan. There is a lot of information for the committee to consider.
 - The committee also started having conversations about the next needs assessment topic. The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, October 18, 2021, at 10AM via Zoom.

- *Community Involvement Activities Committee (CIA)* – Guaman provided the following report:
 - The committee received a presentation on HIV and Aging by Allison Modica from Gilead. Some consumers reported having concerns with taking medications for a long time. Some of them felt that building routines to take their medication helped them be more consistent. For instance, one person who was diagnosed over 50 years ago would set an alarm and take their medication at 1:30 am everyday consistently. Wellness practices were shared to help keep a healthy body.

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday October 27, 2021, 5:00 to 7:00PM via Zoom. at this meeting the committee will review the Community Engagement section of the Integrated Health Plan guidance.

6. Old Business

- **New Member Election: Denise Brown and Co-Chair Election**
 Since the candidate for membership was not present, this item was tabled for the next meeting.
Motion: Morales asked for a motion to table the election of Denise Brown to the next meeting. Dumago motioned to approve. Scangarello seconded.

There were three nominees for the Vice-Chair position. Two nominees declined the nomination. One nominee: Kendall Clark is not present. Since the nominee who accepted is not present at this meeting, **Motion:** Morales asked for a motion to table this election until the next meeting. Guzman motioned to approve. Dumago seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business

- **Review/Update the Other Professional Services Standard**
 The Support Team made edits live as committee discussion occurred.

- Edits were made under service limitations/requirements following the guidance of Policy Clarification Notice 16-02 Rev. 10/22/18.
- The documentation already outlined in the Universal Service Standard was removed, and the service category specific requirements were kept.
- Staff qualifications and training were modified per recent changes in licensing requirements.

Action Step: For the above service standard, the PC Support Team will reach out to agencies funded by the Other Professional Services in preparation for the next meeting

- **Planning for the 2022-2026 HIV Prevention and Care Plan**

- **Overview of assigned section 4 Situational Analysis**

The committee started reviewing the guidance from section 4 and discussed the following:

- The HIV prevention and care plan focuses on prevention. For the FY 2022 Ryan White grant application and the next three years, there are three new/updated populations of focus and/or topics:
 - 1) Unmet Need – there are three measures - late diagnosis, unmet need (people who have not been in care for the past year), and non-virally suppressed.
 - Populations: age 13-24 (with focus on 19-24); everyone 25-34 and 35-44
 - 2) HIV Care Continuum which has new definitions from the CDC.
 - 3) Subpopulations of focus these groups will be monitored by the jurisdiction for the next three years.
 - Populations: ages 25-34 Black/African American males and females; Hispanic; MSM of color; and people age 45+.
- Given the clinical experience of the COC, the committee can help formulate interventions that can reach people that have not yet been reached. The committee can help by looking at the data and making recommendations on how to better serve clients.
- The webinar on October 27 will emphasize the need to integrate prevention and care. Members should focus on emphasizing testing services with strong referrals to care.

As of now, the data captures clients within the Ryan White Part A program (about 6,000). However, there are about 12,000 people diagnosed with HIV in New Jersey. There is not currently a way to figure out the number of clients living in NJ who are not receiving Ryan White services. Postel reported that conversations on this topic are being held with the State, and that conversations will continue.

With the EHE initiative, the federal government uses the AHEAD Dashboard at <https://ahead.hiv.gov/> to monitor numbers of people living with HIV in jurisdictions. There are also considerations of integrating the Ryan White data with the EMA's CHAMP data. Other states have done this work.

The COC is ideally positioned to provide feedback on what and how to better provide care to PLWH in the HIV/AIDS in the EMA.

- **Review/Update the Medical Nutritional Therapy Service Standard**

The Support Team made edits live as committee discussion occurred.

- The additional Program Guidance was added to the description.
- The key service components were organized in bullet points.
- Indicators and performance measures were removed from service standards as recommended by HRSA Program Officer.
- The committee questioned whether service providers were still using levels of care. Members would like to get clarity on how these definitions apply in service provision.
- The service limitations were removed, and a new standard statement was added as “Parameters for service category spending are determined by the recipient's office and communicated directly to funded organizations by the recipient.”
- Committee members wanted to get feedback from service providers on whether the assessment and service plan section of the standard are still up to date.
- The documentation section was updated to include only service-specific documents. All other required documentation will be outlined in the Universal Service Standard.

Action Step: For the above service standard, the PC Support Team will reach out to agencies funded by the Medical Nutritional Therapy in preparation for the next meeting.

8. Administrative Issues— PC Support Staff

- The Support Team will take the following action steps:
 - Gather input from community members related to the next steps for the work of the Integrated Plan and bring that back to the next meeting in November.
 - Collaborate with the Recipient to send out the Other Professional Services and the Medication Nutrition Therapy Service Standards to agencies funded for these services.
 - For nominations, the team will confirm attendance with Denise Brown (candidate for membership) and Kendall Clark (Vice-Chair nominee).

9. Announcements

NJCRI will host the following events at 393 Central Ave, Newark, NJ 07103

- In recognition of National Latinx HIV Awareness Day on Friday on 10/15/2021 from 11am -2 PM.
- Project WOW will host a Halloween on October 29 from 4-8PM, and a Trunk or Treat event from 3-5PM

10. Next Meeting

The next COC meeting will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 10 AM via Zoom.

11. Adjournment

Morales asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Bagchi motioned to approve. Guzman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.