



Community Involvement Activities Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

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

Wednesday April 26, 2023, from 5:04 PM to 6:29 PM

Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/86241473770>

Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 862 4147 3770#

Attendees: There were eight attendees at the meeting, and they participated in the Zoom call.

Attendees by County							
Essex	Union	Morris	Sussex	Warren	Unknown	Other	Total
10	2				11		12

Support Staff: Carla-Ann Alexander and Roberto Benoit

Guests: Marc X.

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:04 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. Poole provided a brief overview of the CIA's purpose and goals.

2. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

3. Approval of the Meeting Summary from March 22, 2023

The March 22nd meeting summary was sent electronically for review prior to the meeting. Poole asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary as presented. One attendee motioned and another seconded. The vote passed unanimously. No abstentions or oppositions.

4. Ryan White Part A Updates—Aliya Roman gave the updates.

- Going forward, there will be a recipient's office representative at all CIA meetings.
- Aliya Roman, the Ryan White Part A and EHE Project Director, introduced the recipient's office EHE Coordinator Liselle Lewis and Quality Management Specialist Ashley Bramble.
- NEMA is trying to connect with clients that are the most impacted and has a goal to reach VLS and retention in care to 95%. Linkage to care within seven days of diagnosis is also a goal. The

recipient's office will now be present to hear community feedback so these goals can be reached. When looking at the different fluctuations in data, the recipient's office wants to make sure that our target populations are our true target populations. This will help when seeing things within certain demographics because they can go back to sub-recipient programs to look at that region.

- Roman informed the committee that she will be joining this meeting later in the year to discuss PSRA with the committee.

5. Old Business

- Elections for Co-chair
 - Poole asked if anyone was interested in being nominated for the Co-chair position.
 - There were no nominations, therefore, elections will be tabled until next month. Nominations for the Co-Chair position can be emailed to Support Staff or the Chair.
- Newark EMA's approach to Ending the HIV Epidemic discussion.
 - Lisselle Lewis, EHE Coordinator for Newark's DOH Ryan White Unit, did a presentation on Ryan White Part A Services/EHE Initiative Services.
 - Lewis listed all NEMA's Core and Support services. She also listed EHE Initiative services: Housing Opportunities for Priority Populations (HOPP).
 - EHE target population primary focus are young gay and bisexual men between the ages of thirteen and twenty-four, individuals and families in emergency shelters, individuals and families that are at risk of losing housing or homelessness.
 - Nine hundred and sixty-one (961) clients received EHE initiative services during the reporting period. Five hundred and ninety-five (595) clients had a medical visit during this period.
 - Forty clients are receiving HOPP services, which includes rental subsidies of 100% for the first six months and 70% relief for months seven to twenty-four.

6. New Business

- Financial Foundation Workshop
 - In honor of Financial Literacy Month, State Farm agent, Michelle Josias, joined the meeting to help educate members on areas that are key to understanding the basics of personal finances. Josias is the owner of a State Farm in Maplewood and explained her mission is to protect and grow wealth in the community.
 - The workshop reviewed goal setting, finances, building a budget, saving money, managing debt, accountability and many other financial topics.
 - The committee held a Q&A at the end of the session.
 - Support Staff will be emailing the committee Josias' information.
- How to be an advocate – dual role as planner
 - Alexander read a document to members about advocacy:
 - Community Advocacy - is a strategic approach to influencing outcomes and driving change on behalf of your community. It involves representing your community's rights and needs to the level of government best able to respond.

1. Know Your Rights- one of the best forms of self-advocacy for people living with HIV is to know your rights and to speak out and act against those who discriminate.
 2. Reach out in your community- join a national or community-based advocacy group.
 3. Be a mentor - Showing the newly diagnosed how to access essential services, such as signing up for health insurance, joining clinical trials and securing housing or other supportive services that can help them live better with HIV.
 4. Speaking up about your status- Speaking out about HIV with your family, friends and other trusted people in your social circle is a good way to find support and educate your loved ones about what it's like to live with HIV today.
 5. Encourage others to get tested for HIV- One way we as advocates are going to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic is if everyone knows their status. The CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once, regardless of perceived risk.
- Support staff will be emailing this document to the committee.

7. Announcements

- Poole announced that the AIDS Walk will be on Sunday May 7, 2023 –Live event at Branch Brook Park by NJCRI. NJCRI will be sponsoring this year's walk in Newark at Branch Brook Park. Individuals can register at <https://www.njaidswalk.org/>
- Poole announced a luncheon on May 9th at 12PM.
- Alexander announced that this committee will be having an Eating Healthy for Cancer Prevention hosted by Rutgers during their next meeting on May 24th

8. Next Meeting

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 5 PM via Zoom.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.