



**Continuum of Care Committee
MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday November 09, 2023, from 10:00AM to 10:05AM

Videoconference via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82086702402>

Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 820 8670 2402

Present	Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
1. Viesha Morales (Chair) 2. Lauro Rocha 3. Janet Hemingway 4. Dr. Lucy Efobi 5. Nancy Scangarello 6. Dr. Wanda Figueroa	7. Cezar Dumago	7. Denise Brown 8. Ann Bagchi, Ph.D. (Secretary) 8. Victoria Spencer

Guests: Ed Jankowski, Victoria Goulbourne, Debbie Morgan, Ashley Bramble,

Support Staff: Roberto Benoit, Lashon Gray

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Morales called the meeting to order at 10:05AM 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

Support Staff Roberto Benoit conducted the roll call. Quorum was established.

3. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony at this meeting.

4. Approval of Meeting Summaries from October 12th

The October 12th meeting summary was distributed electronically and was motioned to be approved by the committee. Morales made a motion to accept the October 12th meeting summary as is, Lauro Rocha seconded the motion. The motion was advanced. All were in favor, no objections, Janet Hemingway, and Victoria Spencer abstained. The Meeting Summary was successfully passed.

5. Standing Committee Updates

Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) – this committee last met on October 13th:

- Review of Progress Report Performance on The Goals/objects of the 2022-2026 Integrated Prevention and Care Plan.
- Postel briefly updated the committee on her attendance of the HRSA & CDC meeting regarding the evaluation of the 2022-2026 Integrated Plan, held on October 3.
 - Postel mentioned that during this meeting the PC received very good marks regarding the plan. Postel presented results and updates on the progress reports. HRSA and CDC officials were very pleased with the results but still mentioned that there were a couple of things that must be done.
 - There needs to be more inclusion of the committee in the IHAP and annual updates for IHP.
- The next CPC meeting will be held on Friday November 17, 2023, at 9:30am via Zoom

Research and Evaluation Committee (*REC*) – this committee last met on Monday October 20, 2023:

- Review/Update on FY 23 Administrative Mechanism
- Review/Update on FY 23 Needs Assessment
- Reviewed/Update on FY 23 Epi Profile
- Complete Review/Update of Calendar/Work Plan for FY 2023-2024
- The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 10AM via Zoom.

Community Involvement Activities Committee (CIA) - this committee last met on October 25, 2023.

- Prostate cancer presentation by Ryan Moulton from Rutgers cancer institute
- The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2023, at 5PM via Zoom.

6. Old Business

- Review/ Update Other Professional Services – *Debbie Morgan, Legal Services of NJ*
 - The committee was joined by Debbie Morgan, a lawyer from legal services of NJ, who provided guidance and expertise as the committee reviewed the service standard.
 - During the meeting it was decided that a revision to remove tax preparation is an option. Morgan explained that Legal Services of NJ provides robust legal services for Ryan White clients living in underserved communities.
 - Morgan asked that a second revision on page #2 under Assessment of Service Plan include expungement of criminal records for Ryan White clients.
 - Morgan mentioned to qualify for legal services, a family financially can range as high as 500% of poverty. Morgan explained that the higher percentage allows the Ryan White family the opportunity to receive legal services.
 - Legal Services provided to Ryan White families include housing cases, Social Security benefits appeals, living wills, eviction defense, Medicaid payment disputes, guardianship and adoption.
 - After completing the review, Morales made a motion for the Service Standard to be approved as is by the committee. Scangarello made a motion and Dr. Efobi seconded the motion. All were in favor, no objections, and no abstentions.
- Monitoring for the 2022-2026 HIV Prevention and Care Plan

7. New Business

- Review/ Update Psychosocial Support Services – *Ed Jankowski, Broadway House*
 - The committee was joined by Ed Jankowski, a Mental Health Professional from Broadway House, who provided guidance and expertise as the committee reviewed the Psychosocial Support Service Standards.
 - During the meeting Morales outlined the Service Standards goals for the psychosocial support services and defined categories of service eligible for funding, accordance to HRSA's guidelines.
 - Morales mentioned that HRSA allows funding for pastoral counseling, Nutritional counseling, and caregiver emotional support groups sessions under the Ryan White program.
 - Morales cited that the Assessment and Service plans are created according to the goals and objectives agreed upon by the client and agency.
 - Morales clarified for Jankowski that the correct category that qualifies for billable hours for bereavement and Nutrition group counseling are only permissible under psychosocial.
 - After completing the review, Morales made a motion for the Service Standard to be approved as is by the committee. Scangarello made a motion and Dr. Efobi seconded the motion. All were in favor, no objections, and no abstentions.

- Review / Update COC Calendar Workplan
 - The Committee reviewed the FY 23-24 Workplan/Calendar. The committee is on track to complete all scheduled business items by the end of the year.

8. Administrative Issues— PC Support Staff

There were no issues reported.

9. Announcements

- Morales announced NJCRI will be hosting a Breakfast, brunch, and Thanksgiving dinner on November 16, 2023, and on December 1, 2023, Nation World AIDS days at the NJCRI Parking lot, 393 Central Ave Newark, NJ. NJCRI. The committee was reminded to join. Flyers and reminders will be sent out to the committee after the meeting.
- Rochal announced his agency's ability to help fill out immigration; form 693 for any Ryan White clients needing assistance.

The next COC meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 10AM via Zoom.

11. Adjournment

Morales made a motion to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 AM.