



**Continuum of Care Committee  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Thursday January 11, 2023, from 10:03AM to 11:10 AM**

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. Ann Bagchi, Ph.D. (Secretary) 3. Cezar Dumago 4. Dr. Wanda Figueroa 5. Sharon Postel 6. Lauro Rocha	7. Dr. Lucy Efobi 8. Nancy Scangarello	9. Denise Brown 10. Victoria Spencer 11. Janet Hemingway

**Guests:** Vereen Goulbourne, Ashley Bramble, Ashanti Simpson-Little, Boyd Wallace

**Support Staff:** Roberto Benoit, Lashon Gray

**1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**

Morales called the meeting to order at 10:03AM 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**

Bagchi conducted the roll call. Quorum was established.

**3. Public Testimony**

There was no public testimony at this meeting.

**4. Approval of Meeting Summaries from December 14th**

The December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was distributed electronically and was motioned to be approved by the committee. Morales called for a motion to accept the December 14th meeting summary as is, Bagchi made the motion, Dumago seconded the motion. The motion was advanced. All were in favor, no objections. No abstentions. The Meeting Summary was successfully passed.

## 5. Standing Committee Updates

*Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC)* – this committee last met on December 8<sup>th</sup>:

- The committee discussed and authored draft of FY' 2024 Committee Workplan.
- The committee continued Discussion on The Cluster Detection Response Team
- The next CPC meeting will be held on Friday, January 12, 2024, at 9:30AM via Zoom

*Research and Evaluation Committee (REC)* – this committee last met on Monday December 18, 2023:

- The committee Discussed and authored draft of FY'2024 Committee Workplan
- The committee Reviewed Action Plan (IHP) and added any tasks assigned to the REC to the work calendar.
- The committee Refined topic and discussed methodology for the 2024 Needs Assessment Update
- The next REC meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 10AM via Zoom

*Community Involvement Activities Committee (CIA)* - this committee last met on December 20, 2023.

- The committee celebrated the end of the year with a Holiday Party
- The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 5 PM via Zoom.

## 6. Old Business

- 2022-2026 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Monitoring
  - The committee reviewed performance on the goals/objectives of the 2022-2026 Integrated Prevention and Care Plan.
  - Postel gave a brief review of Progress Report Update #5 for the 22-26 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan
  - **Key Findings in RWHAP Part A Clients in EMA:**
    - Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) account for 1/4 (26%) of RWHAP clients in the EMA.
    - Black/African Americans are nearly 2/3 of clients - 36% men and 28% women.
    - Youth are 3% and most of those are aged 19-24.
    - Nearly 1 in 6 are aged 25-34.
    - Nearly half (47%) are very low income (receiving Medicaid with incomes <139% Federal Poverty Level).
    - Nearly 1 in 5 (19%) are uninsured, possibly low income, and need RWHAP-funded services, especially medical care.
  - **Trends in Percent of New HIV Diagnoses by Sub-Group within Priority Populations**
    - As of October 31, 2023, there was a decline in percent of newly diagnosed individuals who were Black/African American. Going from 50.5% in August 2023 to 48.6%.
    - MSM remained relatively unchanged, from 39.5% to 39.4%
    - Black Women also saw a slight decline of 18.1% to 14.8%.
    - Ages 25-34 also saw a slight decline from 39.0% to 36.6%

- Youth Ages 13-24 saw an increase from 16.7% To 19.4%
- Youth Ages 19-24 has risen from 15.7% to 19.0%.
- Transgender individuals saw a decline of 1%, from 2.9% to 1.9%
- Uninsured individuals remained unchanged at 48.1%
- Those whom have Medicaid saw a slight increase from 35.7% to 37.5%
- **Trends in Percent of Linkage to Care within 30 Days of Diagnosis and within 7 Days (Rapid Treat)**
  - Linkage to Care Within 30 Days has seen a slight decrease from 81.4% to 80.1% as of October 31, 2023
  - Linkage to Care within 7 Days saw an increase of about 1% from 53.8% to 54.6%.
- **Trends in VLS, DVLS 1 Year and DVLS 2 Year in Newark EMA thru 8/31/23**
  - All VLS measures have remained relatively unchanged.
    - VLS slightly decreased from 89.6% To 89.1%
    - DVLS 1 year slightly increased from 82.2% to 82.6%
    - DVLS 2 year slightly increased from 72.4% to 72.8%
  - **Trends in Percent of VIRAL LOAD SUPPRESSION by Sub-Group within Priority Populations**
    - MSM decreased from 90.0% to 89.5%
    - Black women slightly decreased from 89.0% to 88.2%
    - And Black/African American decreased slightly from 88.0% to 87.4%
    - Those ages 25-34 decreased from 85.8% to 85.1%
    - Youth ages 19-24 decreased from 79.4% to 74.8%
    - Youth Ages 13-24 decreased from 80.3% to 75.3%
    - Transgender Individuals say an increase of about 1%, from 86.2% to 87.2%
    - Those New to Care decreased from 64.2% to 62.6%
    - Individuals with Medicaid decreased from 87.9% to 87.0%
    - Uninsured individuals decreased from 88.5% to 88.1%
  - Trends in Percent of DURABLE VIRAL LOAD SUPPRESSION - 1 YEAR by Sub-Group within Priority Populations
    - MSM slightly decreased from 81.9% to 81.8%
    - Black women slightly decreased from 82.1% to 82.0%
    - Black/African American increased slightly from 80.7% to 81.3%
    - Individuals ages 25-34 slightly increased from 76.5% to 76.6%
    - Youth ages 19-24 decreased from 64.3% to 60.6%
    - Youth Ages 13-24 decreased from 64.0% to 61.2%
    - Transgender Individuals say an increase of about 2%, from 78.2% to 80.2%
    - Individuals with Medicaid slightly decreased from 79.5% to 79.1%
    - Uninsured individuals increased from 77.7% to 79.3%
  - Trends in Percent of DURABLE VIRAL LOAD SUPPRESSION - 2 YEAR by Sub-Group within Priority Populations
    - MSM remained the same at 72.4%
    - Black women slightly increased from 72.3% to 72.7%
    - Black/African American increased slightly from 70.4% to 70.8%
    - Those ages 25-34 increased from 63.6% to 64.0%

- Youth ages 19-24 decreased by 3% from 51.6% to 48.6%
  - Youth Ages 13-24 decreased from 50.7% to 48.0%
  - Transgender Individuals say a slight increase from 69.0% to 69.8%
  - Individuals with Medicaid increased from 68.6% to 68.1%
  - Uninsured individuals slightly decreased from 68.8% to 68.1%
- Draft/review the FY 2024 calendar of meetings and committee workplan.
  - Morales asked that the FY'2024 Committee Workplan be tabled for the next CPC committee meeting January 12, 2024.
- Review/Update Early Intervention Service Standard
  - The committee reviewed and updated the Early Intervention Service Standard. The standard was last reviewed and approved in 2021.
  - The committee revised Section VII: *Staff Qualification and Training*, bullet point # 3 in the EIS Service Standard. The RW Medical Case management Certification program by AETC is no longer being offered. In place of this is the EMA CQI Training. The text now reads, *“EIS provider must complete the EMA CQI training.”*
- Morales called for a motion to approve the EIS service standard, with corrections, Figueroa made the motion and Dumago seconded the motion. The motion was advanced. All were in favor, no objections. The Early Intervention Service Standard was successfully passed and will move forward for 30-day review process to the planning council.

## 7. New Business

- Discuss Membership Recruitment
  - Support Staff Benoit suggested the committee focus on ways to recruit new applicants and how to increase member involvement. Morales suggested creating a committee interest flyer, which describes each committee, along with dates and times the committees meet, along with contact information. Morales also suggested involving consumers in sharing their input on recruiting would also be helpful.
  - Support Staff Benoit reports, all new applicants have completed and returned applications.
  - Morales also mentioned there is a need for a Vice Chair for the COC committee and asked members to send in their candidate recommendations.
- Committee Member Orientation with Parliamentary Procedures
  - Morales asked that the Committee Member Orientation with Parliamentary Procedures be tabled for February 8th, 2024.
- Review Operating Policies and Procedures (OPPs)
  - Support Staff did an overview on the Continuum of Care Operating Policies and Procedures, Morales called for a motion to approve the OPPs. Figueroa made the motion and Dumago seconded the motion. The motion was advanced. All were in favor, no objections.
  - Support Staff will email copies of the Operating Policies and Procedures to all members, including applicants.
- Discuss expectations, roles, and responsibilities as members.
  - Morales and the support staff reviewed the Operating Policies and Procedures with the committee and discussed the expectations, roles, and responsibilities of all members.

## 8. Administrative Issues— PC Support Staff

Support staff noted that there is a need to reach out to and verify the interest of a few committee members who are no longer in their roles or no longer attending committee meetings. Support staff also mentioned

the committee will need to vote for the 2 new applicants, Vereen Goulbourne and Ashanti Simpson-Little, as committee members.

### **9. Announcements**

- Morales mentioned that she is working closely with Rochal to get a meeting space for February to host an in-person meeting for the committee. For those who can make it they are encouraged to attend, if not, a zoom link will also be provided. More details to follow.

The next COC meeting will be held on Friday, February 08, 2024, at 10AM via Zoom.

### **11. Adjournment**

Morales called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bagchi made the motion. Rochal seconded the motion. All were in favor. No objections. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM.