



**Research & Evaluation Committee  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Monday, November 20, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM.**  
 Videoconference via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89756434893>  
 Teleconference: (929) 205 6099 / Meeting ID: 897 5643 4893

PRESENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
1. Kasny Damas (Secretary) 2. Ann Bagchi, PhD/DNP (Chair) 3. Sharon Postel (Non-Voting) *	4. Debbie Mohammed 5. Corey Destefano (Vice-Chair)	6. Warren Poole 7. Natalie Muhammad

**Guests:** Ashley Bramble, Liselle Lewis, Lynette Abduwaliyy  
**PC Support Staff:** Roberto Benoit, Lashon Gray

- 1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**
  - Bagchi called this meeting to order at 10:00 AM. 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 conducted roll call. Quorum was established.
- 3. Public Testimony**
  - **CIA Discussion on FY 23 NA**
    - Postel updated the committee on the last CIA meeting where she reviewed the FY 23 NA and discussed possible Needs Assessment topics for FY 24.
    - The committee’s discussion during the meeting focused on mental health and the need for these services at time of diagnosis. Many committee members discussed needing this resource when they were first diagnosed.
    - Bagchi reaffirmed these sentiments and reminded the committee of last month’s discussion surrounding the investigation of newly diagnosed individuals: what are the things that they need-- that they aren't getting that might have led to or contributed to their infection as well as what were the early support services they needed? This all ties into the CIA committee’s discussion surrounding newly diagnosed individuals.
- 4. Approval of the Meeting Summaries from October 16<sup>th</sup>**
  - The approval of meeting summary from October 16<sup>th</sup> was tabled until next month, the committee did not have quorum.
- 5. Standing Committee Updates**

**Continuum of Care (COC) – Support Staff provided the update.**

- The COC committee last met on November 9,2023.
- The committee Reviewed/ Updated the Other Professional Services

- The committee Reviewed/Updated the Psychosocial Support Services
- The committee Reviewed/Updated the FY 23-24 Calendar and Workplan
- The next COC meeting will be held on Friday, December 14, 2023, at 10AM via Zoom.

**Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) – Support Staff provided the update.**

- The CPC last met on November 17, 2023.
- The committee Reviewed Progress Report #4 on the goals/objectives of the 2022-2026 Integrated Prevention and Care Plan
- The committee started discussions surrounding the Cluster Detection Response team.
- The next CPC meeting will be held on Friday December 8, 2023, at 9:30am via Zoom.

**Community Involvement Activities Committee (CIA) – Support Staff provided the update.**

- The CIA last met on November 15, 2023.
- The committee Reviewed the FY 23 Needs Assessment.
- The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 5PM via Zoom.

**Nominations Committee (NC) – Support Staff provided the update.**

- The NC last met on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 6 PM via Zoom.
- The September, October, and November NC meetings were canceled due to the completion of all urgent tasks and awaiting Oath Ceremony from City of Newark.
- The next NC meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 6 PM via Zoom.

**6. Old Business**

**7. New Business**

● **2022-2026 HIV Prevention and Care Plan**

- Postel gave a brief review of Progress Report Update #4 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 2.9% and most of those are aged 19-24.
  - Nearly 1 in 6 are aged 25-34.
  - Nearly half are very low income (receiving Medicaid with incomes <139% Federal Poverty Level).
  - Nearly 1 in 5 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 August 31, 2023, there was a decline in percent of newly diagnosed individuals who were Black/African American. Going from 54.5% in December of last year to 50.5%.
  - MSM remained relatively unchanged, from 38.8% to 38.6%
  - Black Women also saw a slight decline of 19.3% to 18.1%.

- Ages 25-34 also saw a slight decline from 40.6% to 39.0%
- Youth Ages 13-24 saw an increase from 12.3% To 16.7%
- Youth Ages 19-24 has risen from 11.2% to 15.7%.
- Transgender individuals remained relatively unchanged, from 2.7% to 2.9%
- Uninsured individuals saw a slight increase from 47.1% to 48.1%
- Those who have Medicaid saw a slight decrease from 36.9% to 35.7%
- **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 an increase of approximately 7%: going from 74.3% this time last year to 81.4% as of August 31, 2023
  - Linkage to Care within 7 Days saw a 10% increase from 43.3% to 53.8%.
- **Trends in VLS, DVLS 1 Year and DVLS 2 Year in Newark EMA thru 8/31/23**
  - All VLS measures have improved over 8 months.
    - VLS increased from 88.6% To 89.6%
    - DVLS 1 year increased from 81.0% to 82.2%
    - DVLS 2 year increased from 71.0% to 72.4%
  - **Trends in Percent of VIRAL LOAD SUPPRESSION by Sub-Group within Priority Populations**
    - MSM increased from 88.3% to 90.0%
    - Black women remained unchanged at 89.0%
    - And Black/African American increased slightly from 87.3% to 88.0%
    - Those ages 25-34 increased from 83.2% to 85.8%
    - Youth ages 19-24 increased from 77.0% to 79.4%
    - Youth Ages 13-24 increased from 76.6% to 80.3%
    - Transgender Individuals say an increase of about 2%, from 84.3% to 86.2%
    - Those New to Care increased from 62.8% to 64.2%
    - Individuals with Medicaid increased from 87.0% to 87.9%
    - Uninsured individuals increased from 87.8% to 88.5%
  - Trends in Percent of DURABLE VIRAL LOAD SUPPRESSION - 1 YEAR by Sub-Group within Priority Populations
    - MSM increased from 81.6% to 81.9%
    - Black women increased from 80.6% to 82.1%
    - Black/African American increased slightly from 78.9% to 80.7%
    - Individuals ages 25-34 increased from 74.7% to 76.5%
    - Youth ages 19-24 increased from 68.0% to 64.3%
    - Youth Ages 13-24 increased from 65.5% to 64.0%
    - Transgender Individuals say an increase of about 3%, from 75.7% to 86.2%
    - Individuals with Medicaid increased from 77.9% to 79.5%
    - Uninsured individuals increased from 77.8% to 77.7%
  - Trends in Percent of DURABLE VIRAL LOAD SUPPRESSION - 2 YEAR by Sub-Group within Priority Populations
    - MSM increased from 70.9% to 72.4%
    - Black women increased from 70.3% to 72.3%
    - Black/African American increased slightly from 68.7% to 70.4%
    - Those ages 25-34 increased from 61.6% to 63.6%

- Youth ages 19-24 increased from 49.0% to 51.6%
  - Youth Ages 13-24 increased from 48.2% to 50.7%
  - Transgender Individuals say an increase of about 8%, from 61.4% to 69.0%
  - Individuals with Medicaid increased from 67.7% to 68.3%
  - Uninsured individuals increased from 66.8% to 68.6%
- Overall, data trends regarding the 22-26 IHAP have seen upward improvement. The recipient's office mentioned the reason behind this is due to constant monitoring from QM and collaboration from the agencies and recipient's office through EIRCs meetings. These meetings have allowed agencies to present data and the recipient's office to suggest feedback and provide guidance on how to address any issues.
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- **Refine topic and discuss methodology for the 2024 Needs Assessment Update**
  - The committee continued discussions surrounding the 2024 Needs Assessment. In last month's meeting the topic was raised to discuss newly diagnosed individuals.
  - Due to an increase in newly diagnosed, undocumented individuals, the committee proposes studying this population; their characteristics; and needs of undocumented individuals living with HIV.
  - Postel also proposes creating CHAMP Profiles based on service needs and trends. Additionally, Postel would like to conduct brief agency surveys on what their experience has been, what are their barriers, what services they're providing, and what services they need that aren't available to RW.
- **Discuss committee training needs for FY 2024**
  - The committee discussed the need for more trainings surrounding research methodologies.

## 8. Administrative Issues

- No Administrative issues to report.

## 9. Announcements

- There were no announcements.

## 10. Next Meeting

- The next REC meeting will be held on December 18, 2023, at 10AM via Zoom.

## 11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.