



# 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, July 26, 2023, from 5:00 PM to 6:01 PM**  
 Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/86241473770>  
 Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 862 4147 3770#

**Attendees:** There were 11 attendees at the meeting, and they took part in the Zoom call.

Attendees by County							
Essex	Union	Morris	Sussex	Warren	Unknown	Other	Total
8					3		11

**Support Staff:** Carla-Ann Alexander and Roberto Benoit

**Guests:** Chevonne Cato, Sharon Postel, Dr. Walter Okoroanyanwu

**1. Welcome and Moment of Silence**

Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 supplied 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 June 28, 2023**

The June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was sent electronically before the meeting. Poole asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary. Jones motioned to approve the meeting summary; Lawrence seconded. The motion passed, No abstentions or oppositions.

**4. Ryan White Part A Updates— There were no updates given.**

**5. Old Business**

- Elections for Co-Chair
  - There were no nominations made on the floor.

**6. New Business**

- Overview of needs assessment findings

- Postel stated that linkage to care within 30 days of HIV diagnosis has been a top priority for the national HIV/AIDS strategy since 2016, it's been a Performance Measure for the HIV Bureau since 2017.
- The reason the committee wants to get people who are newly diagnosed into HIV Medical Care, as soon as possible, is so they can start taking Antiretroviral Medications and become healthy and live a quality life.
- Getting newly diagnosed people is one of the committee goals for the integrated HIV prevention and care plan for 2022-2026 for the Newark EMA.
- The committee sent out the survey tool asking the agencies: When were the patients diagnosed and where they were diagnosed; What were some of the barriers; What were the steps that were involved in linking individuals to care; and any recommendations that the agencies had?
- The committee identified the client's IDs. CHAMP sent the survey out to the agencies, and they asked for their response.
- The most important thing that the CIA committee was looking at, was the patients who are newly diagnosed with HIV, where did they receive their diagnosis, and what were the issues regarding linkage to care? The issues were that they weren't linked to care timely and some clients refused to go to medical care.
- The results were categorized into conclusions by what can be controlled within the agency.
- More than half, 56% of the cases were controllable. Some changes could have been made within the agencies to improve the link to care. This includes more timely follow-up by the agencies so clients can be reminded to show up to or rescheduled appointments, etc.
- Within the health care system, some clients were diagnosed in another part of the health care sector and aren't linked to the HIV medical care provider.
- The REC committee found that the clients had communication issues within the patient's own healthcare system. The CIA committee recommends that agencies work on internally communicating within their healthcare system, and within the EMA, to discuss resources that are available for PLWHA.
- Pole asked if there is any possible way that the committee can figure out a program to track the benefits/resources.
- The committee agrees that there can be a better job letting the community know what services are available through Ryan White, not only the medical care but the supportive services.

## 7. Announcements

- Support Staff received notice of the Ryan White Conference taking place next year on August 20<sup>th</sup>– 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. If people want to go in person, the conference will be hosted in DC. There is not a lot of information on the website yet, but support staff will keep the committee posted as the information comes.
- Pole gave notices to those who have Aetna Insurance that they have a new plan that they're rolling out for consumers. It will start on January 1, 2024.
- Dr. Walter mentions opportunities for the CIA committee– new trainings and conferences. It's important that the committee remains updated and educated on these trainings and conferences, in addition to the National RW Conference.

**8. Next Meeting**

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 5 PM via Zoom.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.