



# 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, November 15, from 5:00 PM to 6:01 PM**  
 Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82682207669>  
 Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 826 8220 7669

**Attendees:** There were 8 attendees at the meeting, and they took part in the Zoom call.

Attendees by County							
Essex	Union	Morris	Sussex	Warren	Unknown	Other	Total
7	1						8

**Support Staff:** Roberto Benoit

**Guests:** Sharon Postel

**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 October 25, 2023**

The October 25th 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; Copeland seconded. The motion passed, No abstentions or oppositions. The October Meeting Summary was approved.

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

**5. Old Business**

## 6. New Business

- Decision for a Needs Assessment topic
  - The committee decided to brainstorm but to table a final decision on a needs assessment topic until Ann Bagchi's able to be in attendance at the next CIA meeting.
  - Suggested topics included, using data collected on newly diagnosed individuals who are not linked to care in the first month of being diagnosed and the mental health of those individuals living with HIV/AIDS, as two possible topics for the FY24 needs assessment topic.
- Overview of the needs assessment findings- led by **Sharon Postel**
  - Postel shared that the 2023 updates included research of newly diagnosed individuals who are not linked to care in the first month of being diagnosed.
  - Postel stated that linkage to care within 30 days of HIV diagnosis has been a top priority for the national HIV/AIDS strategy, it's been a Performance Measure for the HIV Bureau since 2017.
  - Postel also mentioned that individuals who are newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS should receive medical care immediately and begin taking Antiretroviral Medications after the discovery of the new status.
  - Postel states that linkage to care for individuals with HIV/AIDS is a federal priority, and that the federal government has established 3 requirements for all Ryan White agencies:
    - 1) **Clinical Quality Management:** All EMA, TGA along with Part A and Part B agencies must track the number of clients that are newly diagnosed within a year and have received medical treatment.
    - 2) **Adhering to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy:** reaching the goal of 95% of newly diagnosed individuals will be linked to medical care within 30 days.
    - 3) **Yearly Reports:** Agencies must provide yearly reports of the date diagnosed and the date of the first medical visit of all newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.
  - Postel cited that the Ryan White unit and Quality Management committee reported that only 75% of newly diagnosed individuals were linked to medical care within one month. Postel explained 75% is far below the federal government's goal of 95%.
  - Postel also discussed systemic barriers and client issues related to hospital and patient data, including cases where patients were not connected within the system. Postel explained that individuals with other health issues, family issues, or incarcerated, also influenced the percentage of linkage to care. Postel acknowledges that changes are necessary to ensure clients receive medical care promptly.
  - Suggested recommendations for improving linkage to care, would include agency follow up, following agency specific protocols, using a community health worker to ensure clients' needs or concerns are addressed, training opportunities within the health system, improving EMA marketing campaigns, and linking clients to care as soon as possible.
  - Postel added that now that the needs have been Identified, any funding needed can be used from the priorities setting and resource allocation under

the service category. Next year's needs assessments awards for FY24 will start on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **7. Announcements**

- Poole announced that Thanksgiving dinner baskets will be available for those who are interested. Please call Warren Pole at (856) 745- 6902 for more information.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

The next CIA meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 5 PM via Zoom.

#### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.