



Community Involvement Activities Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

The Planning Council believes that the voice of the community is paramount. The purpose of the CIAs 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 the Ryan White and related health/social services.

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 5PM

Video-Conference via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92623628718>
Teleconference: (929) 205-6099 / Meeting ID: 926 2362 8718#

Attendees: 12 attendees including Poole. 2 attendees from Union County and 10 from Essex County.

Guest Speaker: Alison Modica.

Support Staff: Tania Guaman and Vicky Saguy

The date on the agenda was changed from Thursday to Wednesday.

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Warren Poole, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order 5:07 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.

2. Mission statement & Ground rules

Poole stated the committee's mission statement.

3. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

4. Approval of the Meeting Summary from January 13, 2021

The January 13th meeting summary was sent electronically for review prior to the meeting. Poole asked for a motion to approve the January meeting summary. One consumer motioned and another consumer seconded. There were no abstentions or oppositions.

5. Ryan White Part A Updates

This was discussed below.

6. Old Business

- 2021 Needs Assessment – Support Staff
 - The Planning Council is working on the Needs Assessment Update and is gathering community input.
 - The Research and Evaluation Committee developed an agency and a consumer survey for the Needs Assessment Update.

- The goal of the surveys is to understand how telehealth helped the community to continue with their medical visits the last few months.
- The Planning Council would like to know whether you had challenges with accessing your medical appointments, your social services or if you were using a phone, a laptop, or any other electronic device.
- The input will help to address the continuation of telehealth services in the future and how to improve the telehealth services.
- Support Staff encouraged everyone to complete the consumer survey and emphasized that the surveys are anonymous.
- The link to the surveys was sent in the chat room. The surveys can be also mailed out if preferred. If any issues arise while completing the survey, please contact Support Staff or Poole for help.

7. New Business

- Learn about PrEP by Gilead Sciences – Alison Modica.
 - Descovy for PrEP is a once-a-day pill medication for people, including adults and adolescents, who are not diagnosed with HIV. This medication lowers the risk of getting HIV through sex when taken as prescribed.
 - The person must be HIV negative before taking PrEP and more tests may be required if they think they have been exposed.
 - Pre means before and Prophylaxis means prevention. PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV.
 - There are 40,000 new cases of HIV every year in US, before it was 50,000. The number of new cases has decreased in the last couple of years.
 - In NJ, 38,000 people living with HIV about 10,000 in Essex county. Essex is the most populated county in the state. The higher the amount of people with a disease, the higher the risk of getting it.
 - PrEP is not used in emergencies, not a onetime only strategy, or a prevention method for other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), such as gonorrhea, syphilis, etc., or prevents pregnancy or for people with HIV.
 - PrEP is for those who may be at risk including those who do not always use condoms, had or currently have an STI, had or have sexual partners who don't know their HIV status, have sex in a geographic area or sexual network where HIV is present. A Sexual Network is the current and past partners plus all their partners.
 - People who have Hepatitis B may worsen their Hep B if they stop getting PrEP.
 - It was recommended to have open and honest conversations with health care providers about sexual activities including not using condoms, having STIs and other habits.
 - Descovy for PrEP is not for female assigned at birth because they were not included on clinical trials. However, cisgender women are taking the PrEP.
 - The Descovy trial had over 5,00 adults including gay bisexual man and transgender woman in 11 countries. Most people who take Descovy are man.
 - Truvada was first indicated as treatment with other medication for a very long time. Truvada was replaced by other medicines for treatment.
 - Descovy trial worked as well as Truvada (standard). With Descovy, 7 out of 2670 tested positive during the clinical trial, and 15 out of 2665 positive during clinical study with Truvada (99.4%). Therefore, people switched from Truvada to Descovy for PrEP.

- Descovy is not for complete treatment of HIV. Descovy on its own it used for PrEP. However, Descovy is also used for treatment in combination with other medications in Biktarvy.
 - Descovy has less impact on bone mineral density (BMD), kidney function lab test with a filtration rate improvement of 1.8.
 - Less than 1% stopped taking the Descovy drug due to side effect vs 2% with Truvada.
 - Report any side effect to your health care provider.
 - There is a Prep locator for anyone who would want where to get the PrEP.
 - A Descovy Day tracker video was shown and the Step-up PrEP up commercial was mentioned.
 - The Healthy Sexual website provides information on testing, lowering the risk of getting HIV, PrEP, and Prevention medicines, where to get tested, and healthier sex options.
 - Talking to people about prevention and normalizing these conversations in the community in honor of Black History Month.
- An attendee provided information on Dr. Kimberly Smith in commemoration of Black History Month.
 - Dr. Kimberly Smith advocates for people who are traditionally under-represented in clinical studies to voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.
 - Dr smith's invaluable contribution to the world of infectious diseases to research and addressing gender and racial disparities among people living with HIV is evident by countless published papers on the topic.
 - She has demonstrated a dedication to the Community Partner units of engagement and Chicago as a clinician.
 - Dr Smith was awarded the Black Aids Institute Award for “Heroes in the Struggle” in 2008, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Award of Excellence in Medicine in 2011, and then that same year, the HIV Medical Association Clinical Educator Award.
 - Dr. Smith is the head of Global Research and Medical Strategy at ViiV Healthcare, the only pharmaceutical company dedicated to providing treatment options for people living with HIV.
 - Dr Smith have committed to include in more women in clinical trials to improve the treatment of women living with HIV.

8. Announcements

- Poole mentioned next week the Peter Ho Clinic will have a program to honor the work of Deloris Dockrey in different programs across the country, who unfortunately passed away last year. The Peter Ho will be honoring someone who have made an impact on Black lives as a whole and not only on HIV for the next two weeks. Poole will send the link for next week’s meeting by Friday. Raffle winners at the last meeting did not pick up their gifts, please reach out to warren

9. Next meeting

The next CIA meeting will be held on Friday, March 24, 2021 at 5PM via Zoom.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 5:51 pm.