

Nassau-Suffolk HIV Health Services Planning Council
STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND, DEER PARK, NY

November 7, 2018

Members Present

Victoria Osk, Esq Co-Chair
William Doepper
Arthur Brown
Marci Egel
Kevin McHugh
Felix Ruiz
Katelin Thomas

Members Absent

Angie Partap, Co-Chair
Wendy Abt
Lisa Benz-Scott, PhD
Arthur Brown
James Colson
Clara Crawford
Margret Henry
Barbara Martens
Maria Mezzatesta
Joseph Pirone
Louise Square
Chrissy Witzke
Ilvan Arroyo

Guests

Marjorie Lessen

Staff

Georgette Beal
JoAnn Henn
Myra Alston
Stephanie Moreau
Vicki White
Katie Ramirez

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Osk opened the meeting at 1:10 pm. She welcomed everyone for attending. After introductions, a moment of silence was requested to center ourselves and to remember why we are here and those we serve.

II. Approval of June 28, 2018 Minutes

The minutes of the June 28, 2018 SAP/PSRA meeting were reviewed. Felix Ruiz was added to the members present column. Mr. Marmo's name was correctly spelled. A motion was made by Ms. Egel and seconded by Mr. McHugh to accept the minutes as corrected.

0 abstentions 6 approved 0 opposed Motion carried

III. Integrated HIV Prevention & Care Plan-

The New York Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan 2017-2021 is reviewed annually, including timeframes, responsible parties, activities, and data indicators The SAP committee was updated on the progress of this plan.

There are 4 goals outlined in the Integrated Plan and within each of these goals are specific objectives:

- Goal #1-Reducing New HIV Infections:

By the end of 2020, to reduce the annual number of new infections to 750 (which aligns with Governor Cuomo's, Ending the Epidemic Blueprint) and by 2021, to increase the percentage of persons newly diagnosed with HIV who are linked to care to 85%.

- Goal #2-Increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people with HIV: By 2021, to increase the percentage of individuals living with HIV infection with continuous care to 90% and increase the percentage of individuals living with HIV infection with suppressed viral load to 80%.

Certain challenges and barriers exist since the state is not looking at this data. Continuous care has been removed from the Cascade of Care Continuum, but the federal grant still requires that information. It may appear (in the data) as if the individual is not in care if virally suppressed. It is difficult to measure.

There is also the connection of viral load suppression to mental health. Since mental health does not provide medical services and supportive services do not have access to records, it is necessary to ask the consumer.

Improvement has been shown in regards to the objective of 80% of individuals living with the HIV infection having a suppressed viral load. According to the cascade of HIV Care in the Nassau-Suffolk RW region, 4,110 persons are virally suppressed, representing 60% of PLWH, 71% of PLWDH9 (up from 69%), and 91% of cases with any care (and increase of 10% from the previous reporting).

Providers A providers for medical services have to provide their own cascades.

Mr. Ruiz, From HRHCare, informed the committee that the Spotfire program is able to delineate who is not virally suppressed, by providing real-time data and helps to focus on patients are who not virally suppressed.

- Goal#3 Reducing HIV-related disparities and health inequities:

The challenge of the 2021 objectives of reducing HIV-related disparities in communities and specific populations at high risk for HIV infections and reducing stigma and eliminate discrimination associated with HIV status is that there are not enough available resources

- Goal #4- Achieving a more coordinated response to the epidemic.

The objectives to strengthen ongoing HIV-related collaborations with appropriate public and private sector partners and update relevant New York State regulations and policies were reviewed and discussed.

IV. EIIHA (Early Identification of Individuals with HIV/AIDS) Strategy

The Early Identification of Individuals with HIV/AIDS strategy as outlined in the grant application process was shared with the committee. FY 2019 Planned EIIHA activities and how efforts to impact the EIIHA population were evaluated introduced this strategy. Current activities for FY 2018-2019 were reviewed. The three target populations are MSM, African American, and Latino and it was noted that there may be some overlap within the populations.

The challenge is how to reach out to these communities since we are not funded for prevention. Suggestions as to how to meet the objective of distributing specific educational material designed to improve health literacy and HIV knowledge among MSM to increase testing included utilizing expertise of staff and using social media. One committee member stated that an agency that already does testing is being allowed to promote PrEP on Grindr website.

It was noted and agreed that HIV testing should be part of routine testing during annual physical exams; that there should be a broad and inclusive approach to testing, including STI (which has risen drastically in the Nassau-Suffolk region) and HepC.

Increase partnerships between LGBTQ, academic and EIS Providers to target and refine outreach strategies to young MSM in a culturally appropriate manner by having a funded mix of providers, pairing up with programs that have a diverse staff who understands the needs of the individuals. This may take some out of the box thinking for effective outreach.

Ms. Egel informed the committee that her outreach efforts are not confined to health fairs and colleges. She speaks wherever asked, including a Head Start and even a roller derby.

It is important to remember that the Nassau-Suffolk region collaborated on the Integrated Plan. EIIHA works with the Integrated Plan and there is a formal way to make recommendations to the State.

V. Consumer Survey Update

Ms. Ramirez gave an update on the Consumer Survey. The Consumer Survey should be completed every two years. The previous survey was completed by an outside consultant.

There have been some changes to the previous survey:

- The number of questions has been pared down from 100 to 63.
- The survey will be available in Spanish and English.
- More options to complete the survey include: Survey Monkey, by phone, or on paper. Assistance to the consumers is available with all three methods, two days will be set aside from 9:00am-1:00 pm to call in to Ms. Ramirez (This option is only available in English).

Part A agencies have offered to assist clients complete the survey, in addition to a number of qualified peers who have expressed interest in helping to increase participation. A training is scheduled after the November Planning Council meeting.

A \$15 gift-card to Target or Walmart will be given to all participants. Those who complete survey on site will receive the cards then. Survey Monkey and phone participants will have the card mailed to them. Qualified peers will be given mileage reimbursement.

The goal is to have 500 participants.

VI. Announcements/Adjournments

- During the meeting, Ms. Egel received news that Cliff Teachout had passed away. As one member noted, we are grateful for his support and advocacy and we will continue and go on with the work No further details were available at this time.
- Dr. Santella will be conducting needs assessment training after the November 14, 2018 Planning Council meeting.

MOTION was made by Mr. McHugh and seconded by Mr. Doepper to adjourn the November 7, 2018 Strategic Assessment and Planning meeting. All in favor- Motion carried.