

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

January 15, 2020

Members Present

Victoria Osk, Esq Co-Chair
Angie Partap, Co-Chair
Ilvan Arroyo
Arthuyr Brown
James Colson
Clara Crawford
William Doepper
Kevin McHugh
Joseph Pirone
Jacqueline Ponce-Rivera
Felix Ruiz
Katelin Thomas

Members Absent

Lisa Benz-Scott
Eileen Bryant
Margret Henry
Barbara Martens
June Tappan
Crissy Witzke

Guests

Denise Ragsdale
Claire Simon
Vanessa Okeke
Brett Wargo

Staff

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Partap opened the meeting at 10:15 am. Introductions were made, followed with a moment of silence to remember those whom we have lost and those that are still here

II. Overview of FY2020-2021 EIIHA Plan

EIIHA stands for Early Identification of Individuals with HIV/AIDS. The framework for the Nassau-Suffolk EMA EIIHA Plan to identify those who are unaware of their HIV status in the region is derived from the four guiding goals outlined in the 2017-2021 NYS Integrated Prevention and Care Plan. Those goals are: #1. Reducing new HIV infections, #2. Increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people with HIV, #3. Reducing HIV-related disparities and health inequities, and #4. Achieving a more coordinated response to the HIV epidemic.

Although our Ryan White Part A does not fund specific prevention agencies, testing is encouraged. Other funding initiatives do exist, but have stringent restrictions often dictating which populations can be tested.

The 2019 EIIHA plans are currently being implemented in the EMA and outcome data is continually being tabulated. The SAP committee is responsible for the review of the EIIHA plan to assess its effectiveness and examine trends and cost effective prevention strategies. Planning Council members are kept informed of efforts to continually improve linkage and retention for the three target populations of MSM, African Americans and Latinos.

EIIHA Plan-the strength and clarity of the EIIHA Plan include the following primary N-S EMA EIIHA Activities for FY 2020. These activities, Current and Proposed 2020-2021, are divided into **Identify, Inform, Refer, and Link** categories:

Identify-Current activities include:

- Promotion and testing at various locations
- Engage MSM through social networking
- Targeted outreach to Latinos
- Utilize peers to target people who identify as transgender and those at risk to test.

Proposed activities include strengthening relationships with funded healthcare centers for transgender individuals, increased LGBTQ-focused training, and increasing peer efforts in high-risk communities for IDU, Youth, MSM and Transgender populations. As well as, outreach to local pharmacies, build new relationships with CitiMD and other Urgent Care networks. (It is important that the latter know where to refer positive individuals). Also, to review and recommend updated NYS materials for distribution in the EMA.

Inform-Current activities include:

- Continue to stress the importance of early HIV care
- Use of trained and seasoned clinician/counselor to target audience, ideally to ensure trust using same race and/or gender
- Use of credentials peers to refer and link at-risk negative individuals to prevention services
- Coordinate efforts with anonymous counseling and testing sites and prevention providers

Proposed activities include the EIS program to build on relationships with CitiMD, ERs, etc., as the state initiative for mandatory testing continues to expand within the N-S EMA with continued amendments to health laws, use of client data to identify and assist patients who are not virally suppressed, improve public awareness of the current recommendations for routine, ongoing testing. CIC can be engaged to review social media messages and provide feedback. Community forums may also be instrumental in this endeavor.

Work with providers at planning council level to update education materials within the communities discussing enhances partner notification, health literacy, and prophylactic methodology. This can also be accomplished through committee.

Refer- Current activities include:

- Referrals of HIV positives to Partner Notification Assistance Programs,
- Referrals of HIV positives to dually diagnosed with HIV and other co-morbidities to medical care and treatment
- EIS programs refer newly identified to Part A MCM, MH and SA services
- Referrals are ongoing for HIV negatives to STI clinics, health center, SU and SA services
- Referral of HIV negative to community resources related to harm reduction and prevention

Proposed activities include continued referral for ACA health care plan, NYS Marketplace and ADAP enrollment, coordination and referral to PrEP programs, partnering with DSRIP/ETE/MAT programs, referral for people who identify as transgender to specialty health clinic for improved retention in care, and health home care coordination for HIV positive,

negative, and those who have co-morbidities. It was suggested to expand referrals to youth centers, PALs, and YMCA as well.

Link-Current activities include:

- If necessary, schedule and accompany newly identifies to first two medical appointments
- For those who decline or don't need accompaniment, EIS program to follow up with medical providers within 30 days to verify appointments
- Obtain two lab reports showing viral loads and CD4 counts
- Improve health literacy of clients through education or training to assist them in reading lab results, improve HIV knowledge regarding viral load suppression and available resources
- Link newly identified positives to HIV Medical care through EIS, MCM, PNAP, OAHS doctors/hospital, private doctors, OB/GYN community health clinics

Proposed activities include continue to ensure enrollment in healthcare coverage, linkage to people who identify as LGBTQ to new initiatives specific to the Transgender population, reduce provider-level barriers to access and retention in care, and a greater focus on cultural competency of health care providers to better serve divers populations.

An overview of the EIIHA Plan gave committee members a better understanding of the plan, current and proposed activities to meet its goals and the responsible parties involved.

III. Preparation for 2020 PSRA or FY 20-21

In preparation for the 2020 PSRA, the dates for the SAP PSRA and finance meetings were given. Data collection for community forums is a vital part of that process. A review of the 2019 Community Forum report informed the committee members that attendance and participation has been steadily declining. Although there were 6 community forums scheduled in 2019, only 64 people attended, of which 48 were consumers. Recommendations to increase participation included, linking the forums to existing CAB and CART meetings, suggesting that people's answers encourage others to think about the issues and can stimulate dialogue, attempt to have more Suffolk agencies host the forums, so there is approximately the same number of forums in both Nassau and Suffolk. Providing an incentive to encourage participation. Improved awareness and publicizing of the community forums will be accomplished through flyers, including a Save the Date flyer listing all of the forums, and inclusion on the grant emailing. Agencies will be contacted about hosting as part of their CABs or monthly meeting. The timeframe for the community forums is from the middle of March to the middle of May, to allow enough time to generate a report before the grant application is due.

The 2019 community forum questions were distributed for review. A final version will be approved at the next SAP meeting.

IV. Announcements/Adjournment

- SPARC is offering an 8 week Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) class for women and youth living in Suffolk County who are living with HIV as well as chronic physical and/or emotional pain. The first class begins on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11am-11:30am at HRHCare new location at 501 Ocean Avenue in Patchogue and will continue on consecutive Tuesdays.

- Nassau-Suffolk Law Service is planning to offer citizenship classes, comprised of 10-15 people. Volunteer lawyers and interpreters will be on hand to assist. More information to follow.

A motion was made by Ms. Crawford and seconded by Mr. Doepper to adjourn the January 15, 2020 Strategic Assessment and Planning meeting. All in favor-Motion carried.