

**NASSAU-SUFFOLK HIV HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL  
BOARD ROOM, UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND, DEER PARK, NY**

**May 11, 2017**

**9:30 – 11:30 am**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Andrea Smith  
Anthony Marmo  
Anthony Santella, PhD, Vice-Chair  
Arthur Brown  
Elizabeth Torres  
Ilvan Arroyo  
James Colson  
James Tomarken, MD  
Jessica Tottino  
Joseph Pirone, Chair  
Juli Grey-Owens  
Katelin Thomas  
Katie Ramirez  
Lawrence Eisenstein, MD  
Lisa Benz-Scott, PhD  
Louise Square  
Marci Egel  
Margret Henry  
Martine Michel-Toure  
Nancy Duncan  
Rev. Loring Pasmore  
Susanne Smoller  
Tania Chiu  
Teresa Maestre  
Vivian Smalls  
Wendy Abt

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Barbara Martens  
Clara Crawford  
Darlene Rosch, Esq.  
Felix Ruiz  
Steven Chassman

**GUESTS**

James Hollingsworth  
Michael Collins

**UWLI STAFF**

Georgette Beal  
JoAnn Henn  
Myra Alston  
Stephanie Moreau  
Victoria White

**COUNTY STAFF**

Carolyn McCummings

**I. Welcome and Remembrance**

Mr. Pirone, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:45am. He welcomed everyone and introductions were made. New members were introduced to the Planning Council. There was a moment of silence to center ourselves and remember why we are here.

**II. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments for today's meeting.

### **III. Approval of March 8, 2017**

The minutes were corrected to show that Louise Square was in attendance at the January 11, 2017 meeting. Julie Grey-Owens name was corrected to Juli. Page 5: *Medical* was added to the David E. Rogers Center. Ms. Regine Dorismond title was correctly recorded as *Mental Health Social Worker*. On page 3 the sentence that begins with According to...was removed from the paragraph.

Ms. Ramirez made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, which was seconded by Ms. Duncan

7 Abstentions            O Opposed            14 Approved    Motion Carried

### **IV. Administrative Update-**

Due to the continuing resolution, a full award has not been released as of yet. The full award is expected by the end of June 2017. Closeout is due the end of May. Providers have been notified. The Intergovernmental Agreement process between Nassau and Suffolk has begun early. The timeframe for the HRSA Site visit is the end of 2017 to early 2018.

### **V. Committee Reports-**

**Executive Committee-** Dr. Santella reported on the Executive Committee which met on May 2, 2017. The Planning Council agenda, including Ms. Houston's Metal Health Assessment Project presentation, approval of revised EIS standards, and a vote on new Planning Council members, was reviewed and approved.

United Way is working diligently with the county to closeout by the earlier deadline. It's time for a new Consumer Survey to be conducted. United Way will be seeking ways to collaborate with Stony Brook and/or Hofstra students to complete this project.

The next Executive Committee conference call is scheduled for Thursday, July 6, 2017 at 3pm.

### **Strategic Assessment and Planning Committee**

Mr. Marmo reported on Strategic Assessment and Planning Committee which met on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. Ms. Sandra Houston, of *Pivot Principles*, provided an overview and summary of the Mental Health Assessment Project via conference call. She presented her findings, made recommendations, and answered questions.

Her PowerPoint included an update on the assessment process, challenges, and opportunities, possible solutions, and next steps. In the interest of time, the March SAP minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

### **Consumer Involvement Committee**

Ms. Duncan reported on the CIC meeting that was held on Friday, April 14, 2017. There was a presentation by representatives of United Veteran's Beacon House about available Long Island Housing opportunities, as well as the other services provided by the agency. Future topics for presentations and presenters were discussed, as well as the concept of a Consumer Appreciation Day. Planning for the World AIDS Day event on December 1, 2017 has begun. Details to follow.

### **Quality Assurance and Membership Committee –**

Ms. Ramirez reported on the Quality Assurance & Membership meeting which met Thursday, April 27, 2017. The final review of The Early Intervention Services (EIS) Service Standards was completed and will be presented at today's Planning Council meeting. There will be a vote for a new QAM Co-Chair at the next meeting. Two Planning Council applications were presented to the committee to be voted on at today's

Planning Council meeting. Current demographics as of May 10, 2017 were provided, including both consumers and unaligned consumers.

## **VI. Mental Health Assessment Project-**

Ms. Houston, *Pivot Principles*, consulted with Mental Health providers, consumers and other Ryan White-funded recipients in preparation for this assessment which includes the organization and financing of mental health services for people living with HIV. Ms. Houston provided an update on this assessment, challenges and opportunities, possible solutions, and the next steps to be taken.

All Part A/MAI funded Mental Health programs have social workers as part of their staffing as well as consultations with psychiatrists. Three of the funded providers have medical case management and mental health counselors; which in some cases can be the same individual. Mental health services are needed by PLWHA and play a role in achieving key outcomes such as retention and viral suppression.

Location of services and limited transportation are barriers to care for some clients. The services are not available in every community. There are four agencies providing mental health services, most of whom have the capacity to bill for mental health services. One Suffolk County provider is located on the eastern part of Long Island, which leaves a significant gap in mid-Suffolk. While transportation may have been an issue for some, Ms. Beal reminded the Council that much work has done in this area, and services have improved dramatically. It is not uncommon for Suffolk residents to visit Nassau County locations because it is closer and more convenient. Some non- Ryan White MH programs have wait lists.

Many clients expressed concerns about confidentiality and were reticent to share their (mental health) information with their primary care giver. This is not an automatic, mandatory requirement. Both Drs. Tomarken and Eisenstein shared the importance of educating patients on the importance of physicians being aware of all aspects of their health. Dr. Tomarken added that he recognizes that it's a matter of trust and the process of gaining trust can be slow and gradual.

Consumers stated that mental health-related services are widely needed, sought, and received. More talk therapy, (including support groups) and less medication were requested. RW clients expressed need for assistance with practical coping and support. The eligibility requirements are the same throughout the priorities. Mr. Pirone made the point that the problem is not that the services are not available, but rather that the system is hard to navigate and negotiate. The majority of those consumers who participated in the listening forums, preferred not to have mental health services at the same location where they received their medical care, citing confidentiality concerns. This opinion differed from that of the agencies that felt that having all services at one location was convenient and beneficial.

Ms. Houston said there were some issues with how the services are documented and billed, delivery of mental health services via outdated, inflexible models. There are certain requirements. The process is more difficult in Suffolk County than in Nassau County. The uncertainty of the future of ACA and how New York State moves forward, Medicaid Expansion, all are of significant concern.

The desired outcome is that PLWHA are offered integrated and community-based mental health services which:

- Are clinically proven methods
- Assure early screening to detect mental disorders
- Flexible, patient-centered treatment, options, interventions
- Promote patient engagement and retention in care
- Access to specialist consultation at primary care sites.

Possible Solutions, include shifting Ryan White allocation from Mental Health Services to Psycho-social Support Services or Medical Case Management, and refining Mental Health Services to include non-billable, evidence-based treatment approaches. Deciding not to change anything is not a solution.

### **Approval of Early Intervention Services (EIS) Service Standards –**

The Consumers Workgroup for Quality (CWQ), the Quality Assurance & Membership (QAM) committee, together with experts in the field reviewed and updated the EIS Standards which were presented to the Planning Council for approval. After Council review, the following corrections were made:

- Page 5, Assessments Numerator written as *Number of client charts with assessment completed within 2 weeks of intake.*
- Page 6, Referrals, Linkage and Retention in Care Numerator written as *Number of clients receiving a referral to HIV Primary medical care /Outpatient Ambulatory Health services **within 1 week.***
- Page 7, Discharge/Case Closure Numerator written as *Number of clients with **cases closed with comprehensive discharge plan on file.***

A motion was made by Ms. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Arroyo to approve the revised Early Intervention Service Standards.

3 Abstentions            O Opposed            22 Approved    Motion Carried

### **VII. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **VIII. Other Business/Announcement**

- Ms. Smoller reminded the committee that there is a Care Coordination meeting the first Wednesday of every month 12:30-2:30 at United Way. The next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2017. There will not be a meeting in July. If anyone is interested in presenting at the October, November, or December meetings, please contact Ms. Smoller.
- Ms. Smoller informed the Council that Suffolk County Community College offers a Chemical Dependency Counseling (CDC) program as well as an A.A.S degree (Associate of Applied Science)
- Dr. Santella told the Council about the HIV Providers Breakfast scheduled for June 9, 2017 from 8am-11am, Hofstra University North Campus-Greenhouse Room.
- He also informed the Council that the Center for Health, Identity, Behavior & Prevention Studies at New York University is seeking older HIV+ men for a paid research study.
- SPARC Steering Council meeting is Tuesday, May 23, 10am-12pm at LIAAC in Hauppauge. The topic is NYSDOH Peer Worker Certification Program.
- The Peer Worker Certification graduation ceremony will be on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the LGBT Center in Manhattan.
- Dr. Eisenstein will be inducted into the Delta Omega chapter of Hofstra University's Public Health Hall of Fame.
- Ms. Juli Grey-Owens announced that there is a March & Rally for Transgender Civil Rights on Sunday, June 4, 2017, meeting at 12:30 Garden City parking lot #11.
- Ms. Ramirez announced a job opening at the Center for Young Adult, Adolescent and Pediatric HIV (CYAAPH) for an Outreach Worker with HIV experience, Bachelor's required. Resumes can be sent to her attention.
- Suffolk County ETE Steering committee is hosting Suffolk Knows: Know Your Status, a series of health screening events during the month of June at various HRH Care locations. A flyer, once available will be sent to Planning Council members.

**IX. Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Ms. Ramirez and seconded by Ms. Grey-Owens to adjourn the May 11, 2017 Planning Council meeting.

*0 Abstentions*

*0 Opposed*

*All in Favor-Motion carried.*