

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

**November 8, 2017**

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joseph Pirone, Vice-Chair  
Ilvan Arroyo  
Lisa Benz-Scott, PhD  
Arthur Brown  
James Colson  
Clara Crawford  
Lawrence Eisenstein, MD  
Marci Egel  
Juli Grey-Owens  
Martine Michel-Toure  
Johnny Mora  
Eric Rios  
Felix Ruiz  
Andrea Smith  
Louise Square  
Katelin Thomas  
Elizabeth Torres  
Jessica Totino

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Anthony Santella, PhD  
Wendy Abt  
Tania Chiu  
Nancy Duncan  
Margret Henry  
Anthony Marmo  
Rev. Loring Pasmore  
Katie Ramirez  
Traci Shelton  
James Tomarken, MD  
Barbara Martens

**GUESTS**

Gloria Allen  
Michael Collins  
Ernesto Hernandez  
Sandra Huertes  
Teresa Maestre  
Scott Petersen  
Margaret Sukhram  
Christina Wilk

**UWLI STAFF**

Georgette Beal  
JoAnn Henn  
Myra Alston  
Victoria White  
Stephanie Moreau

**COUNTY STAFF**

Carolyn McCummings

**I. Welcome and Remembrance**

Mr. Pirone, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10am and welcomed everyone. There was a moment of silence to center ourselves and remember why we are here.

**II. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

There was no public comment on agenda items.

**III. Approval of September 13, 2017 Minutes**

Corrections were made to the members present and members absent columns of the September 13, 2017 Planning Council minutes. Ms. Thomas made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, which was seconded by Ms. Grey-Owens.

14 Approved 2 Abstentions 0 Opposed - Motion Carried

**IV. Administrative Update**

Ms. Beal informed the committee that the FY2018-2019 grant was submitted on October 27<sup>th</sup>, three days before the deadline. It was an unwieldy and lengthy process as there have been many changes to the application each year.

The HRSA site visit has been postponed until the spring of next year and all requested documentation has been submitted.

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

Mr. Pirone reported on the Executive Committee which met on November 1, 2017. Since the November agenda is not as ambitious as the September meeting, it was suggested that an overview of the EIS services be presented, as requested in the member needs assessment. HIV and Aging was recommended as a presentation to be scheduled for next year.

Regarding Planning Council membership, one application was received and will be presented at the next QAM meeting. Three Planning Council applications which were voted and approved by the Council were forwarded to county.

There were no other committee meetings since the last Planning Council meetings.

Ms. Egel reminded the Council that the World AIDS Day event is Friday, December 1, 2017 at Carlyle on the Green. Registration is required and we are almost at capacity.

#### **VI. Outpatient Ambulatory Service Standards (vote)**

The vote on Outpatient Ambulatory Health Service Standards was tabled until this meeting to allow more time for review.

Recommendations, which were highlighted in the distributed copies, included Health Maintenance: Page 10 and 11:

- “needs list” changed to *profile*
- Standard- remove (who keeps an appointment every 4 months), replace *his/her* with *their*, To be written as- Each client shall have **their** CD4and lymphocyte counts evaluated at least **twice during the measurement year, in accordance with the HAB/HRSA guidelines.**
- USPHS Guidelines to be replaced with HAB/HRSA Guidelines through the document.
- Standard- last cell separated into two. First cell to be written as, **Clients will be assessed for opportunistic infections (OI) at each primary care visit in accordance with HAB/HRSA Guidelines.**
- Second cell to be written as:
- Standard-**OI prophylaxis will be offered if clinically medicated.**
- Outcome Measure- Documentation of OI prophylaxis in client chart
- Numerator- **# given of OI prophylaxis**
- Denominator-**# of clinically medicated clients**
- Data Sources- **client files/CareWare**
- Goal/Benchmark- **100% of clinically medicated clients will be offered OI prophylaxis.**
- Denominator- **# of eligible clients**

Page 12:

- Outcome measure-add *and or proof of prior treatment.*

- Goal/benchmark- add *eligible* before client.
- Standard- immunizations (1. Influenza annually and 2. HPV vaccine per ACIP guidelines or IDSA guidelines) removed and included in next cell.

**Page 13:**

- Standard-replace *infections* with *diseases* to be written as **sexually transmitted infections**.
- Goal/Benchmark-replace *infections* with *diseases* to be written as **sexually transmitted infections**.

**Page 14: Standard:**

- Replace *offer* with *deliver*
- Standard- Third cell to be rewritten as, Providers shall offer or refer clients **according to** health maintenance screenings **for transgender** (e.g mammograms, PAP tests, prostate exams, hormone replacement therapy, gender affirming surgery) **specific to their individual needs**.
- Denominator- replace *assessing* with *receiving*.
- Goal/Benchmark- replace *that* with *who*, add *are being offered*.

**Page 15:**

- Removal of top row regarding education of clients on ART and side effects
- Numerator- to be rewritten as ...ART monitored in accordance with **HAB/HRSA Guidelines**, adding **inclusive of resistance testing**.
- Removal of Support, Referrals, and Coordination section.

**Discharge/Case Closure**

- Standard- to be rewritten as, *Agency will complete a case closure summary form, including level of care previously provided, outreach efforts, reasons for case closure and referrals made.*
- Goals/Benchmarks increase to **100%** and rewritten as, **100%** of clients **who had their case closed will have a case closure form**.

Clarification was made regarding the wording, *within the reporting period year*, meaning the year in which they were diagnosed.

Ms. Grey-Owens made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Egel to accept the updated OAHS Service Standards.

16 approved                      2 Abstentions                      0 Opposed-Motion carried

**VII. Overview of Part A Early Intervention Services (EIS)**

The primary purpose of Early Intervention Services (EIS) is to identify those who are unaware of their HIV status and those who are aware and out of care, inform them of their status and services available to them, refer them to the appropriate medical supportive services and ensure they are linked to and retained in medical care.

LGBT Network, Thursday’s Child, and Circulo de la Hispanidad are three agencies that provide EIS services through Part A funding.

LGBT Network-Ms. Christina Wilk, HIV/STD Program Manager, gave an overview of the services that the agency provides. An important component of the program is education, not only for those diagnosed but for the community as well. Education is needed in order to explain, clarify, and answer questions. Testing and evaluation are provided by the agency. Once diagnosed, the goal is to link the individual to medical care as soon as is possible. LGBT Network schedules appointments, arranges transportation and assists individuals with applying for ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program).

The CAB (Consumer Advisory Board), which is open to all who are HIV identified, meets quarterly to discuss important issues such as intakes, policies and the grievance process. Valuable input is gathered at these meetings. The target populations are MSM and communities of color. The youngest client is 17 years of age, the oldest is 62.

Thursday's Child- Ms. Marci Egel, Outreach Specialist stated that Thursday's Child has provided Ryan White Early Intervention Services for five years. The purpose of the program is to find individuals who are HIV+ and unaware of their status, inform them, link them to care, and remove barriers to ensure that they maintain their care. The program is currently averaging 12 outreach events a month in order to target and provide key demographic groups with HIV health education and referrals to testing, Thursday's Child often partners with NYSDOH and various community based organizations that provide testing so that immediate referrals can be made. The program has a number of MOAs, (Memorandum of Agreement) with medical providers who offer testing and have made referrals to EIS. The agency aims to identify individuals earlier in the course of their infection in order that treatment is received before the virus progresses.

Key demographics targeted for outreach include gay and bisexual men, transgender people, partners of persons living with HIV, young adults, seniors, women, African Americans, and the Latino community including Spanish-speaking only and the undocumented. Hundreds of individual have learned their status and were given risk reduction counseling. Newly diagnosed clients are enrolled into the EIS program and provided linkage to care. The vast majority of the 48 clients have been linked and successfully maintained in care. The few cases in which there was not a successful result is attributed to ongoing substance abuse and an unwillingness to accept treatment resources. (Homelessness, mental health and substance abuse are the most difficult barriers to care). Some EIS clients are discharged and referred to Medical Case Management for ongoing support, other clients have become self-advocates and stay in touch, still others have accepted peer advocate roles.

Ms. Egel ended her presentation, by stating that Thursday's Child has seen many amazing stories of resiliency and are inspired by the ability of clients to meet and go beyond the challenges they have faced.

Circulo de la Hispanid- Ms. Sandra Huertas, Early Intervention Specialist, summarized the information written in the brochures (written in English and Spanish) that she distributed. The purpose of the Ryan White EIS program at Circulo de la Hispanidad is to do intensive outreach to at-risk individuals who do not know their HIV status. Early Intervention staff also assist HIV+ individuals who have fallen out of care by helping them access medical services. Outreach and intervention activities are focused on assisting individuals to access and sustain optimal HIV medical care. Although the agency works with all populations, it is specifically focused in the Hispanic community with day laborers, students, and the MSM community.

Intensive outreach includes education, prevention, and linkage to service providers to do HIV testing. This outreach has taken place at Home Depot stores, train and bus stations, malls, parks, beaches, food pantries, Department of Social Services as well as high schools, colleges and universities. Risk reduction packets that include information about EIS at Circulo de la Hispanidad, female and male condoms, lubricants, dams, finger cots and other latex barriers are distributed to the community.

In addition, there are partnerships with many organizations such as LIAAC, NUMC, Molloy College, Coalition for the Homeless, Pride for Youth and Planned Parenthood.

Ms. Huertas informed the Council that 261 individuals were tested with only 1 positive result. Referrals included 53 persons for STDs, 44 for PrEP 1 for PEP and 3 for birth control. Services are free and confidential.

**VIII. Other Business/Announcements.**

Dr. Eisenstein encouraged all present to get the influenza vaccine. Thousands die every year from the flu, including babies and young children whose deaths could have been prevented if they were vaccinated. He also stated that a person is fully contagious 24 hours before the symptoms appear and the severity of the flu would be lessened by the vaccine. This is a cautionary tale for all.

Ms. Grey-Owens announced that on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-9pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook, she will be giving a presentation on *Everything You Wanted to Know about Transgender, Non-Binary and Intersex People, But Were Afraid to Ask*.

Transgender Day of Remembrance is November 19<sup>th</sup> to remember those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia and to draw attention to the continued violence against the transgender community.

It was also acknowledged that Virginia voters elected the state's first transgender candidate to the Virginia House of Delegates.

**IX. Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Ms. Grey-Owens and seconded by Mr. Ruiz to adjourn the November 8, 2017 Planning Council meeting.

*18 Approved 0 Abstentions 0 Opposed - Motion carried.*