

**Nassau-Suffolk HIV Health Services Planning Council
STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND, DEER PARK, NY
January 8, 2025**

Members Present

Jacqueline Rivera, Co-Chair
Joseph Pirone, Co-Chair
Susan Baldrige
Arthur Brown
Neika Cherry
James Colson
Cathy Martens
Maria Mezzatesta
Victoria Osk
Sofia Porres
Denise Ragsdale
Leah Richberg
Patricia Ross
June Tappan
Crissy Witzke

Members Absent

Pam Biafora
Eileen Bryant
Angie Partap
Colin Pearsall
Scott Petersen
Stephen Sebor
John Van

Guest

Jennifer Hovestadt-Molloy

Staff

Georgette Beal
JoAnn Henn
Myra Alston
Nancy O’Keefe
Katie Ramirez

Absent

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Rivera, Co-Chair, began the meeting at 10:10am. Introductions were made. She then requested a moment of silence to remember those still in this epidemic, as well as our allies and community members across the region and expressed the hope for new positive beginnings.

II. Approval of the November 6, 2024, meeting minutes

Ms. Ragsdale made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Ms. Porres seconded the motion.
8 approved 0 Opposed 5 Abstained

III. 2025 Provider Survey

Every two years the region conducts a survey of funded Ryan White Programs. The information gathered from this survey assists the Planning Council in setting priorities and allocating resources for HIV/AIDS services on Long Island. The questions from the previous survey were reviewed for clarity and relevance and were updated to reflect new needs and data needed for planning in the EMA.

The following suggestions for the Provider Survey are as follows:

- The addition of a question (#3)- *What are the other HIV Prevention-related services your agency provides, regardless of funding?* Choices include HIV testing, STI testing and treatment, LGBT services, health education, social support (groups), and mental health, including the option of *Other* for services not listed.
- Original Question #4-*Does your agency make referrals to individual or group medical practices for HIV/AIDS primary care?* was removed.
- Current question #4- asks *other than what your agency provides, what HIV-related services are needed by clients in the Nassau-Suffolk region?* The following sentence, *think about which services your agency makes the most referrals,* is grammatically incorrect and awkward. One suggestion was to reword it to *what are the most common referrals your agency makes?*
- Question #5- was expanded to include *stay in care*, to be rewritten as *What are the main barriers that make it difficult for your clients to access services and stay in care?* In addition, *Difficulty accessing patient portals* was added as one of the barriers. The third answer choice, *insufficient communication between our organization and others who serve our clients,* was replaced with *lack of communication among agencies.* Redundant language and typos were corrected
- Question #6- *What are the ~~main~~ barriers/limitations that make it difficult for you as a ~~provider~~ to deliver services (check all that apply) to be rewritten as What are the barriers that make it difficult for your agency to deliver services?* Remove the “a” from *PLWHA*, ~~appropriate~~ language to client’s preferred language, removing *patient portals* from the sentence. *limited client proficiency with Telehealth* and adding *difficulty utilizing provider technology* as another barrier. For the sake of clarity, reword *limitations on insurances that are accepted by other providers* to *limitations on insurance that prevent referrals.*
- Question #8- *How do you serve clients who are not English speaking? Use bilingual staff ~~hired by agency~~* to avoid redundancy. The last two choices of *do not serve non-English speakers* and *No plan in place* were removed.
- Question #9 remove wording ~~all fundable Services~~ and ~~Early Intervention Services (EIS)~~, add *Medical Nutrition Therapy* to the list of Part A fundable services.

The first ten questions were reviewed and revised. In the interest of time, the review will continue at the March SAP meeting. A vote to approve the updated 2025 Provider Survey will follow with the survey sent to funded providers to complete by a determined deadline.

IV. FY 25-26 SAP Workplan

The FY 25-26 SAP Workplan will be tabled until the March SAP meeting.

V. Announcements/Adjournment

Mr. Brown thanked everyone for their support during his absence, adding “It’s good to be back.”

Ms. Porres made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Brown to adjourn the January 8, 2025 Strategic Assessment & Planning (SAP) meeting. All in favor-meeting adjourned.

