

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

May 8, 2024

10am – 12pm

Meeting ID: 862 9844 2578

Passcode: 715604

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kerry Thomas, Chair
Nancy Duncan, Vice-Chair
Susan Baldrige
James Colson
Carmen Feliciano
Cathy Martens
Maria Mezzatesta
Victoria Osk, Esq.
Angie Partap
Gregson Pigott, MD
Joseph Pirone
Jacqueline Ponce-Rivera
Sofia Porres
Denise Ragsdale
Stephen Sebor
Claire Simon
June Tappan

MEMBERS ABSENT

Wendy Abt
Tyrone Banister
Eileen Bryant
Irina Gelman, DPM
Lance Marrow
Anuolu Oyadiran
Colin Pearsall
Scott Petersen
Edward Soto
John Van

GUESTS

Karen Timour
Shanelle Brooks
Arthur Brown
Ernest Burke
February D’Auria
Barbara Garrison
Blanca Nunez

UWLI STAFF

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

COUNTY STAFF

I. Welcome, Moment of Silence, & Welcome

Mr. Thomas, Chair, began the meeting at 10:15 am and welcomed everyone. The meeting was a hybrid model, with eight participating by Zoom. There were two proxy votes.

Introductions were made and a moment of silence was observed to remember those who are struggling and those whom we have lost. Mr. Thomas took the opportunity to remember Mr. George Marzen who passed away on April 22nd. Mr. Marzen worked at Thursday’s Child and served as one of the Co-Chairs for the SAP Committee. Council members spent a few minutes sharing memories of George. George was remembered for his commitment and kindness and will be sorely missed.

II. Approval of January 17, 2023 Minutes

Ms. Ragsdale made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as corrected. Ms. Feliciano seconded the motion.
14 Approved 3 Abstained 0 Opposed

III. Committee Reports

Ms. Duncan reported on the **Executive Committee** which met on Monday, March 6, 2024. The committee approved the Planning Council agenda which includes an ADAP update for 2024. The EMA is expected to be notified of its final award by the end of May. The deadline for closeout of the FY23-24 grant is May 29th. United Way staff is in the process of reviewing a final draft of the HIV Assessment. It will be shared with the SAP Committee and Planning Council and uploaded to the Council's website. Planning has begun for the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation process. The Consumer Survey is underway and community forums are being scheduled. The EMA's Part A grant application will be competitive this year and will cover a 3-year period starting in 2025.

Ms. Baldrige reported on the **Consumer Involvement Committee (CIC)** which met on Friday, April 12, 2024. There was an update on the Consumer Survey. The goal is to have 500 completed surveys by the May 31, 2024, deadline. The CIC workplan for FY24 was approved. A workplan activity is to host a consumer-sponsored event for approximately 50 attendees. The committee agreed to hold an event entitled *Eating Well while Living with HIV*. The conference will focus on nutrition, budget friendly meals, and exercise and will complement QI work that the Clinical Quality Management Committee is doing on access and utilization of medical nutrition therapy services. CIC plans to hold the conference sometime in October. Preliminary planning for World AIDS Day 2024 has also begun.

Ms. Ponce-Rivera reported on the **Strategic Assessment & Planning Committee (SAP)** meeting that was held on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. In preparation for PSRA, the committee discussed community logistics for hosting community forums and reviewed and approved forum questions. The plan is to host six forums. The forums will be held in English and Spanish and will be a mix of in person and virtual.

Ms. Partap reported on the **Clinical Quality Management (CQM) committee** which met Thursday, April 18, 2024. At this meeting, service standards revisions were reviewed and approved. There were minor edits that do not affect the integrity of the CQM plan. The updated CQM Work Plan was reviewed and approved. The five goals remain unchanged. The deadlines were changed to reflect the new grant year. Activities that are no longer relevant were removed and new activities added. For contract year 2023-2024, CQM audits were conducted during the annual site visits. Two hundred records were reviewed across thirteen agencies. The results and findings from these audits were shared with the committee. Lastly, the MNT Survey results were shared, and the next steps discussed.

The **Membership Sub-committee** approved four candidates, including a second term nomination and three first term nominations. The four candidates will be balloted at the May Planning Council. Upon approval by the Council, the required documentation will be sent to each county for appointment.

IV. ADAP Update 2024

Ms. Karin Timour, Director, Downstate Outreach and Technical Assistance, Uninsured Care Programs, presented an overview of the program components, services, and eligibility criteria for ADAP. Eligibility requirements are NYS residency and income below 500% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In 2024 the criteria is as follows: FPL-Annually, a household of one-\$75,300; household of two-\$102,200; household of three-\$129,100, and \$26,900 for each additional household member.

The four HIV Program components are **ADAP** (AIDS Drug Assistance Program); **ADAP Plus** (Outpatient Medical Care); **HIV Home Care Program**, which covers up to \$30,000 for home care in a client's lifetime; and **APIC** (ADAP Plus Insurance Continuation), this program pays premiums for comprehensive insurance for people with HIV/AIDS who do not have Medicaid or do not meet the eligibility criteria for the AHIP Program.

Services available for HIV-negative individuals include **PREP-AP** which provides access to primary care services and monitoring (not medication) to support the use of PrEP to prevent HIV. **HepCAP** provides primary care services (not medications) for people with Hepatitis C without health insurance. To be eligible. **N-CAP** which is available to all individuals regardless of status, covers health insurance co-payments so there are no out of pocket expenses when getting naloxone at an enrolled pharmacy. There are no enrollment requirements. Narcon training is available. Individuals are protected from being sued by those they are trying to help through the Good Samaritan Law, which protects civilians who help people they believe to be injured or otherwise in danger.

To be eligible for ADAP, ADAP Plus, and APIC, the individual must be living with HIV. Potential ADAP participants are people with:

- Limited or no health insurance
- Homeless
- Returning to the community from prison
- Pending Medicaid
- Medicaid spend-down
- Medicare Part D who need help with copays and premiums
- Employees with annual caps on their prescription coverage through their union (I.E NYC employees)
- Adolescents

ADAP coverage of Cabenuva- The prescribing practitioner must contact an enrolled pharmacy and arrange for Cabenuva to be shipped directly to their office. The pharmacy will bill the ADAP participant's insurance and/or ADAP. When Cabenuva is filled at an enrolled pharmacy, the participant will not have any out-of-pocket costs for the medication.

ADAP Plus (Outpatient Care) provides the following care, note service limits are based on treatment year:

- Primary care and specialty clinics visits (35)
- Viral load and CD-4 tests (6)
- Genotypic and phenotypic resistance tests (4)
- Dental and Oral Surgery (12); dentures may be covered with an ADAP Plus provider
- Mental Health visits (24)
- Nutritional Assessment and counseling (4)

In-patient care, emergency room visits, medications not listed on the ADAP formulary, MRIs, CT scans, Contrast X-rays, drug or alcohol treatment, HIV Pre-Post testing and counseling, Case management are excluded services.

ADAP gets a person in care quickly and is not comprehensive.

Policy types that are covered by APIC include:

- Employee's contribution for coverage provided by employer (payroll deductions)
- COBRA continuation coverage for keeping employee-related coverage after leaving the job
- Coverage the participant buys directly from insurance company or the NYS Marketplace
- Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage Plan premiums, unless the premium is deducted directly from Social Security payments,
- Medicare Supplemental plan premiums.

To determine the help that is available for assistance with out-of-pocket medications, the following questions need to be answered: Is the needed medication covered by ADAP? Does the client have a deductible and has it been met this year?

For help paying for medication in ADAP formulary, the client takes both their insurance card and ADAP card to the pharmacy. The pharmacist first bills the insurance company by computer, if there is a deductible, the electronic bill may help to meet it. The Pharmacist then bills any remaining costs to ADAP as secondary. The client has no copayment for medications on ADAP formulary.

ADAP Plus can help with copayments for primary care if a client goes to an ADAP Plus provider to receive ADAP Plus covered services and gives an ADAP Plus card for payment. The provider bills ADAP Plus only, not the insurance company.

Ms. Timour ended her presentation by sharing the UCP (Uninsured Care Programs) hotline and online portal information and her contact information if anyone had specific questions. Links referenced in her presentation were made available to the attendees. Ms. Timour was thanked for her time and informative presentation

V. Public Comment

An issue was raised regarding accompanied medical travel, specifically transportation home from a medical procedure. Some procedures such as a colonoscopy or eye surgery require the patient to get home with assistance to ensure safety and a sense of security as they recuperate. Not all consumers have a someone to help them. What are possible solutions to this growing concern among consumers? What resources are available? Questions about funding, liability, and insurance were also asked. This is a concern that will be further explored.

VI. Other Business/ Announcements

Congratulations to Mr. Kerry Thomas as the new Executive Director at Thursday's Child. Ms. Baldrige received her Peer Certification at the Peer Certification Graduation ceremony. Ms. Tappan received the Presidential Achievement Award for her 10 years of service.

Members were reminded that the deadline for the 2024 Consumer Survey is May 31, 2024. More responses are needed to reach the goal of 500 completed surveys.

Thursday's Child is hosting a Ducks Baseball and BBQ event for Long-Term Survivors on Thursday, June 20, 2024. A pre-game picnic starts at 5:05pm. RSVP is required.

There are two *Suffolk Knows* testing events during National HIV Testing Month-Wednesday, June 12 (11am-3pm) at Sun River Health, Wyandanch location and Wednesday, June 26 (11am-3pm) at Sun River Health, Brentwood location. Tabling is available.

In preparation for the PSRA process, six community forums are being scheduled, in English and Spanish. Two of which will be virtual. More details to follow.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Baldrige made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Tappan, to adjourn the May 8, 2024, Planning Council meeting. All in favor-Motion carried.