

**Nassau-Suffolk HIV Health Services Planning Council  
STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE  
UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND, DEER PARK, NY  
November 2, 2022**

**Members Present**

Ilvan Arroyo, Co-Chair  
Eileen Bryant  
George Marzen  
Colin Pearsall  
Sofia Porres  
Denise Ragsdale  
Claire Simon  
June Tappan

**Members Absent**

Wendy Abt  
Hector Alcala  
Susan Baldrige  
Arthur Brown  
James Colson  
Vanessa Okeke  
Victoria Osk  
Scott Petersen  
Joseph Pirone  
Erik Rios  
Jacqueline Ponce-Rivera, co-chair  
Patricia Ross  
John Van  
Crissy Witzke

**Guests**

Summer Williams

**Staff**

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

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Arroyo, Co-Chair, welcomed everyone in this his last meeting before retiring at the end of November. A moment of silence was requested to remember those who have passed, those living with HIV and everyone else who is in our hearts at this time. In response to Mr. Arroyo’s announcement that he will be retiring at the end of November, congratulations and many well wishes were expressed.

**II. HIV Needs Assessment-SWOT Analysis**

Ms. Summer Williams, a student of the Hofstra University MPH program was given the task of working with staff to update and modify the N-S EMA’s 2010 HIV Systems Assessment to incorporate the most recent data on the following:

- HIV/AIDS-specific demographics and specifics
- Programs/services offered; funding sources
- Local and state agency protocols or guidelines; additional HIV/AIDS-related information

As part of this update, Ms. Summer conducted a SWOT analysis of the Ryan White Program (Part A). She provided an overview of what a SWOT analysis is, what is it used for and explained the goal of today’s meeting. SWOT analysis is a strategic planning technique

developed at Stanford in the 1970s. This structured method identifies and evaluates four elements of an organization, project, or business venture. SWOT is an acronym for Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats. The information and feedback obtained at this meeting will be utilized to generate a SWOT analysis, which will serve as a framework to effectively leverage Nassau-Suffolk EMA's service strengths, improve identified weaknesses, mitigate potential threats and capitalize on current/future opportunities.

Ms. Williams shared her overall summary of the region based on the data she has updated in the System Assessment so far:

- **Strength**- The region has a high level of involvement with consumers in the planning process, as evidenced by the participants in attendance.
- **Weaknesses**-The Consumer Needs Assessment summary report indicates consumer perceptions of the accessibility and quality of healthcare and non-healthcare-related programs and services as being low or containing measurable gaps.
- **Opportunities**- Due to Long Island's culturally diverse population of people living with HIV/AIDS, it is critical and essential to provide services that are linguistically and culturally competent in all services provided and within program settings,
- **Threats**- In relation to care status, there has been a minimal decrease (3.8%) of the "out of care" disparities and/or unmet needs from 2014-2019.

Ms. Williams then requested feedback from committee members in the areas of clients, the planning process, services, funding, and quality management/evaluation to assist in creating a SWOT analysis. A brief summary of the discussion on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in these areas is listed below. A final SWOT analysis report will be presented to the SAP Committee at the January 23 meeting.

#### **Strengths:**

- Consumers are very active in the EMA.
- EPI and client services data that shows target populations, minorities, are all well represented and engaged in care in our region.
- The Planning Council is well run, with members who have wisdom, experience, and years of participation in the process. This all trickles down to services.
- The EMA serves a good amount of unduplicated individuals who are served in the region.
- The Council is able to address needs that may arise and redirect funds, as in the example of increasing EFA funds
- The viral load suppression rate in our region is high.

#### **Weaknesses:**

- There is a lack of participation and input by younger consumers.
- Spanish language needs are not being met throughout the meetings and/or all services
- People sometimes don't know what the Planning Council is and what it does for the region.

#### **Threats:**

- Meeting times that can be a barrier to those who work or in school.
- Long Island gets lost in the funding decision when compared with our neighbor, the better funded NYC metro area.
- multiple different required data entry systems asking for the same information.

- One of which was that if funds were increased and allowed. other priorities could be funded, such as housing
- geography of the region; providers are very spread out, some overlaps with other areas
- Flat funding limits innovation and new initiatives

**Opportunities for Improvement:**

- The EMA can use technology to better reach and communicate with the younger population
- The EMA should continue to strengthen relationships and collaboration with different statewide collaborations, groups, and committees to maximize funding.
- Revisit meeting times, formats and locations to improve participation on the planning process.

Based on findings and committee feedback, a final SWOT analysis report will be presented at the January 23 SAP committee meeting.

**III. Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan Update**

Ms. Simon informed the committee that the Integrated Plan was sent out to planning bodies and the public for review and feedback. Feedback was received in regards to editing, acronyms and adding ETE metrics, particularly around individuals and drug use. The plan will be presented at the November Planning Council meeting for a vote of concurrence. This 100 page document will be submitted to HRSA and the CDC in December 2022.

**IV. SAP Co-Chair Nominations**

As noted at the beginning this meeting, Co-Chair, Mr. Arroyo will be retiring at the end of November. Consequently, that co-chair vacancy will need to be filled. Council member Ms. Jacqueline Rivera, is the other co-chair. The bylaws state that one of the committee co-chairs needs to be a Planning Council member. Committee members were asked to consider being a co-chair. An email will be sent to SAP committee members to determine who is interested in filling this vacancy.

**V. Announcements/Adjournment**

Ms. Simon announced the AIDS Institute’s World AIDS Day Summit is November 30-December 1<sup>st</sup>. Registration is required.

A motion was made by Mr. Pearsall and seconded by Ms. Porres to adjourn the November 2, 2022 SAP committee meeting. All in favor-motion carried.