

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

March 12, 2025

10am – 12pm

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kerry Thomas, Chair
Nancy Duncan, Vice-Chair
Susan Baldrige
Pam Biafora
Arthur Brown
Eileen Bryant
Jody Brinson
James Colson
Lisa Corso
Carmen Feliciano
Margret Henry
Lance Marrow
Cathy Martens
Maria Mezzatesta
Angie Partap
Scott Petersen
Joseph Pirone
Jacqueline Ponce-Rivera
Sofia Porres
Denise Ragsdale
Leah Richberg
Stephen Sebor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Wendy Abt
Tyrone Banister
Clara Crawford
Irina Gelman, DPM
Anuolo Oyadiran
Colin Pearsall
Gregson Pigott, MD
Edward Soto
June Tappan
John Van

GUESTS

Ana Abreu
Ernest Burke
Avis Giddiens

UWLI STAFF

Georgette Beal
Myra Alston
JoAnn Henn
Katie Ramirez
Marcela Van Tassel

COUNTY STAFF

Shauna Bednar
Nina Sculco

I. Welcome, Moment of Silence, & Acknowledgement

Mr. Thomas, Chair, began the meeting at 10:10 am. The meeting was held in person and by Zoom. He requested a moment of silence to set our intentions, and to remember those whom we have lost and those living with health challenges.

II. Approval of January 15, 2025 meeting minutes

Ms. Ragsdale made a motion to accept the September meeting minutes as read. Ms. Biafora seconded the motion.

13 Approved 8 Abstained 0 Opposed

III. Committee Reports

Ms. Duncan reported on the **Executive Committee** that met on Monday, March 3, 2025. The committee reviewed and approved the agenda for the March Planning Council meeting. The original agenda included cultural competency training. However, AETC was unable to present the training for the March meeting. The committee voted to have a Ryan White Data presentation replace it and decided to set aside the public comment portion of the meeting for any concerns Council members may have. Ms. Nina Sculco shared that her duties within the county shifted and that she will no longer be the Ryan White Project Director. She introduced Ms. Shauna Bednar as the new Project Director and stated that she will work closely with her during the transition.

Ms. Beal reported that the closeout process for FY24-25 is continuing. The FY24-25 grant ended on February 28, 2025. Final subrecipient vouchers are due on March 28th. The Planning Council's website is being updated to improve its layout and ease of finding documents and materials. A provider portal will be added to facilitate access to guidelines and other regional documents for subrecipients.

Ms. Jody Brinson was approved and added as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. The meeting closed out with a discussion on Council Membership. The Substance Abuse Provider membership category will be vacant at the end of March and needs to be refilled per legislative mandate.

Ms. Biafora reported on the **Consumer Involvement Committee (CIC)** that met on Friday, February 21, 2025. The meeting began with a discussion of emerging trends and regional issues. The CIC members expressed concern and anxiety about the impact of potential funding cuts and brainstormed ways to serve as support for each other during these uncertain times. The committee developed and approved its FY25 work plan. An update was provided about the upcoming Medical Nutrition Therapy Conference on March 28, 2025. Ms. Henn provided a quick recap of the 2024 World AIDS Day event and announced that the same location has been reserved for Friday, December 5, 2025, from 6pm-10pm for the 2025 World AIDS Day event.

Mr. Pirone reported on the **Strategic Assessment & Planning Committee (SAP)**. The SAP Committee was scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Unfortunately, due to an emergency affecting 1,800 electrical customers near and around our building, the meeting was interrupted and had to be cancelled. The SAP meeting is being rescheduled for a later date this month and will be held virtually.

Ms. Mezzatesta reported that the **Clinical Quality Management (CQM)** met on Thursday, February 27, 2025, to discuss, review, and update the region's FY 2025-2026 CQM Plan (including the 2025-2026 CQM Work Plan). A draft of the MNT brochure was shared with the committee for feedback and suggestions. Members were reminded that the MNT Conference is being held on Friday, March 28, 2025, at the Sons of Italy Hall in Deer Park and were asked to share this information with clients and other consumers. The event flyers (with QR code to register) were distributed.

The Membership Sub-committee met briefly after the CQM meeting to discuss membership and anticipated vacancies.

IV. Ryan White Part A Data Presentation

Ms. Alston presented Nassau Suffolk EMA Ryan White data by priority to the Planning Council. The presentation began with a three-year comparison (2021-2023) of ADAP data for the Long Island region. The ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) data showed total enrollment by number and percentage, with a breakdown of the *Uninsured*, *Medicaid Interim* and *Insured Partial*. In addition, the number and percentages for *ADAP Plus*, *APIC*, *Home Care*, *Pre-AP Rapid Testing* were also provided. There has been a steady increase in the total enrollment.

There was a chart of the total clients served by priority in 2023, from greatest to least:

- Medical Case Management served the most clients at (1323)
- Medical Transportation (363)
- Mental Health Services (253)
- Oral Health Care Services (249)
- Emergency Financial Services (EFA) (248)
- Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) (155)
- Other Professional Services-Legal (133)

Early Intervention Services, a priority no longer funded, served 16 individuals in 2023. ADAP served (8) clients and OAHS (Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services) served (4) clients. It should be noted that Ryan White part A is a payer of last resort. The 2023 Service Utilization by priority chart that was shared showed that Medical Case Management had the largest service utilization, followed by Medical Transportation Services, Other Professional Services-Legal, Mental Health Services, Oral Health Services, EFA, MNT, OA, HS, EIS and ADAP. Service utilization data closely mirrors that of the total clients served by priority.

Data from the 2023 Annual Surveillance Report from www.health.ny.gov was utilized as a source for the comparisons between EPI data (5638 clients) and Part A/MAI data (2788 clients). Comparison data was presented in numbers and percentages for **Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Age Group, and HIV Risk Factor.**

Gender included *Male, Female, Transgender: Male-to Female, Transgender: Female to Male, and Additional Gender Identity.*

- Males comprised the largest group for 70.4% (EPI) and 58.57% (Part A/MAI). Females was the second largest group at 29.6% (EPI) and 40.03% (Part A/MAI). There was no EPI data available for Transgender. Part A/MAI had 36 (1.29%) Transgender: M-to-F; 1(.04%) Transgender: F-to-M and 2 (.08%) for additional gender identity.

Race/Ethnicity included *White, Non-Hispanic, Black, Non-Hispanic, Hispanic. Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Multi-Race, and Unknown.*

- EPI Data showed the largest percentage for *White, Non-Hispanic* (35.9%), as compared to (19.87%) for Part A/MAI. More minority populations that White were served in the Part A/MAI.
- The highest percentage for Part A/MAI was *Hispanic* (40.57%).
- *Black, non-Hispanic*, had similar percentages 33% (EPI) and 36.69% (Part A/MAI)
- EPI and Part A/MAI for *Muli-Race* 1.2% and .90%, respectively

Age Group was divided into the following age bands: 13-24;25-44; 45-64' 65+.

- Comparisons between EPI and Part A/MAI data showed the age groups had similar percentages, the 45-64 age group had the highest percentages at 46.84% and 48.28% respectively, the 13-24 age group had the lowest percentages at 2.50% and 2.62%.
- Age group, 25-44 had 29.83% as compared to 28.52% for Part A/MAI
- The 65+ age group was at 20.82% and 50.59%.

These percentages are reflective of the aging population.

HIV Risk Factor include *Hemophilia, Heterosexual, IDU, MSM, MSM and IDU, Perinatal, Transfusion, and Unknown,*

- EPI data MSM (46%); heterosexual (31.2%); Unknown (9%)'; IDU (7.7%); MSM and IDU (3.6%); , Perinatal (2.1%) Hemophilia (.3%) and Transfusion (0%)
- Part A/MAI data: Heterosexual (56.49%); MSM (32.32%); IDU (6.38%); Perinatal (1.90%); Transfusion (1.29%); Unknown (46%) and hemophilia (.32%)

The final part of the presentation detailed the number of clients, units of service, allocated funds, and actual amount spent for the funded priorities of **OAHS, MCM, Medical Transportation, Other Professional Services-Legal, Oral Health Care Services, Mental Health Services, Medical Nutrition Therapy and EFA**. Colorful pie charts for each priority illustrated the breakdown by gender, race/ethnicity, HIV Risk factor, and age group within the priority. The number of clients remained consistent. For the most part, the planned/allocated funds were close to the amount that was spent. **OAHS** underspent the allocated amount by almost half, which suggests less funding may be needed for this priority. **EFA** spent \$13,042 more than was planned, not unexpected considering the rising cost of food, utilities and rent. The PowerPoint Presentation was made available to those attending in person and on Zoom.

V. Other Business/ Announcements

Mr. Ed Soto has resigned from the Planning Council after accepting a new job opportunity. As a result, the Substance Abuse Provider category is now vacant. Please send the names of potential candidates to Ms. Henn to fill the vacancy.

Support and help during these challenging times are needed and appreciated. Ms. Corso wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Thursday's Child for their compassion and assistance. A sentiment which many members echoed. Legal Services of Long Island was also commended for their assistance. Ms. Martens thanked United Way for the Project Warmth program which helped her with heating costs.

As more of our members are aging there is rising worry and concern about services available to seniors. It was suggested that the Nassau and Suffolk County Departments for the Aging be contacted to present at a CIC meeting to inform consumers about available resources and to answer questions.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Marrow made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Corso, to adjourn March 12, 2025 Planning Council meeting. All in favor-Motion carried.