

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

Meeting ID: 871 4248 1460

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March 18, 2025

Members Present

Jacqueline Rivera, Co-Chair
Susan Baldrige
Eileen Bryant
Cathy Martens
Maria Mezzatesta
Victoria Osk
Colin Pearsall
Sofia Porres
Leah Richberg
Patricia Ross
Stephen Sebor
John Van
Crissy Witzke

Members Absent

Joseph Pirone, Co-Chair
Pam Biafora
Arthur Brown
Neika Chery
James Colson
Scott Petersen
Denise Ragsdale
June Tappan

Guest

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 whom we have lost and those who are suffering.

II. Approval of the January 8, 2025, meeting minutes

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

III. FY25-26 Workplan

The first task of the SAP work plan is to review and approve the FY25-26 committee work plan. Accomplishments/activities for FY24-25 included an updated consumer survey with the final report being uploaded to the website this week, the HIV Systems Assessments, a review of the Integrated Plan and its implementation, a review of the EIIHA Plan, and the completed PSRA process for the contract year that has begun.

Various community forums were conducted. Although there was a slight increase in participation, it was not to the extent we anticipated. There will be a discussion of community forums later in today's meeting,

Next task is to begin planning for the 2025 PSRA process by setting and determining timeframes for PSRA activities, conducting community feedback sessions, as well as discussing needs assessments and data needs, to be followed by an EIIHA Plan check-in. The PSRA process starts with an overview of the process and a discussion about additional data to be collected.

Previously, the data review session and priority setting were a combined meeting. Since this is not in a competitive review cycle, the decision was made to have separate meetings for the presentations. This will allow enough time to share information, answer questions, and not be overwhelming. The finalized PSRA results will be submitted at the September Planning Council meeting for a vote.

Integrated Plan (IP) progress and updates are shared, adjustments are made, and feedback is provided to the state. Once or twice a year the Integrated Plan is reviewed to determine where we are as an EMA in terms of implementation of the Plan. About the FY26-31 IP, there will be statewide group meetings, information and updates will be shared for the next iteration of the IP. A motion was made by Ms. Mezzatesta and seconded by Mr. Sebor to approve the Strategic Assessment and Planning Committee Work Plan for 2025-26.

All in favor-motion carried.

IV. 2025 Provider Survey

The changes to the first ten questions recommended at the previous SAP meeting were reviewed and approved. There was a suggestion to alphabetize the choice of services and add *all that apply* when needed. The remaining questions were reviewed for clarity and relevance. There were some formatting changes, one question was deleted, and questions combined with the resulting questions:

#11. *What are you doing to identify newly diagnosed individuals?*

#12. *New York State estimates that 10.8% of people living with HIV/AIDS on Long Island are not in care. What strategies should we adopt to improve getting people who are out of care, into care and keeping them in care?*

#13. *What can the Planning council do to help your agency/[program better coordinate services with other providers?*

#14, *What training, assistance, or support would be most helpful to your agency's capacity to serve PLWH?*

Ms. Mezzatesta made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Sebor to approve the revised 2025 Provider Survey. All in favor-Motion carried. The Provider Survey will be sent out with a deadline of April 30, 2025,

V. FY25-26 Needs Assessment and Forum Discussion

Needs Assessments-The committee was asked what needs assessments (which are part of the work plan) should be considered next, keeping in mind it would have to be on a smaller scale. Needs assessments on aging, youth, young MSM, and MSM of color were last conducted in 2011 by consultants. There is a continuing resolution, and we don't know what the full award will be. Consequently, there aren't funds that can be dedicated to a large regional assessment. Ms. Martens asked if there is any data on individuals living with HIV who have other co-morbidities such as diabetes. Unfortunately, there is no state or local data available.

Ms. Mezzatesta reminded the committee that Sun River Health has the Suffolk Pilot program for Aging with HIV and Northwell has the Nassau County pilot program. Ms. Mezzatesta has data available that she offered to share but stated it is limited to the poll of people enrolled in the plan. Ms. Bryant suggested a needs assessment on women's health, emphasizing that health issues, such as cardiac, present themselves differently than in men and often are not textbook symptoms. A data assessment of heterosexual men was also mentioned.

Community forums- as stated earlier, consumer forum participation increased slightly, although not at the anticipated levels. Community forums are held to gain consumer feedback about the services needed to assist in the PSRA process. Forums are conducted in English and Spanish, in Nassau and Suffolk County, in person and virtually, as well as during the day and evening to provide ample opportunities for people to participate. It was suggested to piggy-back on existing CABs, since people are already there, and transportation would not be an issue. Agencies will be contacted to determine those who have active CABs to work collaboratively and schedule the forums. Eastern Long Island poses a challenge; solutions will be sought. Participation in an ETE meeting is also a possibility. The SAP PSRA meeting is scheduled for July 16th. It would be advantageous to have the community forums completed and a summary report before then.

V. Announcements/Adjournment

Ms. Osk announced to the committee that Legal Services of Long Island will be seeing those affected by the closing of the domestic violence safe center in Nassau County, providing services to families and domestic abuse victims.

The Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) Conference is Friday, March 28, 2025, 10am-2pm at the Sons of Italy Hall on Deer Park Avenue in Deer Park. The conference is for consumers only and registration is required. Presently, there are 35 registrants with 15 spaces still available. We are working to provide limited transportation.

Ms. Martens made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Bryant to adjourn the March 18, 2025, Strategic Assessment & Planning (SAP) meeting. All in favor-meeting adjourned.