

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

**March 27, 2018**

**Members Present**

Anthony Marmo, Co-Chair  
Wendy Abt, Co-Chair  
Marci Egel  
Joseph Pirone  
Barbara Martens  
Arthur Brown  
James Colson  
Katelin Thomas  
Victoria Osk, Esq.  
Felix Ruiz

**Members Absent**

Lisa Benz-Scott  
Angie Partap  
Corinne Kyriacou, PhD  
Lance Marrow  
Margret Henry  
Keith Anderson  
Keith Anderson  
Crissy Witzke  
Keith Anderson  
Susanne Smoller  
Maria Mezzatesta

**Guests**

William Doepper  
June Tappan  
Louise Square  
Ernesto Hernandez  
Nia Johnson  
Febuary D’Auria

**Staff**

Georgette Beal  
JoAnn Henn  
Myra Alston  
Stephanie Moreau  
Vicki White

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Marmo, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:10 am. He welcomed everyone and introductions were made. After introductions, a moment of silence was observed to remember those infected and affected by the disease.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 6, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Corrections to attendance and spelling of member’s name were made. The minutes were accepted as corrected. A motion was made by Mr. Pirone and seconded by Ms. Abt to accept the corrected minutes of the August 16, 2017 Strategic Assessment and Planning Committee meeting.

4 abstentions                      0 Opposed                      6 approved                      Motion carried

**III. Strategic and Assessment Co-Chairs-**

The time has come to elect new Strategic and Assessment committee co-chairs. Current chairs, Ms. Wendy Abt and Mr. Anthony Marmo were thanked for their service. Nominations were taken for the co-chair positions. A vote will be taken for the new co-chairs who will serve for two years in that capacity.

**IV. Preparation for 2018 PSRA for FY 2018-2019-**

Since the deadline for the FY2019-2020 grant has been moved up to the middle of September, PSRA meeting dates, and possibly the September 12<sup>th</sup> Planning Council meeting, may need to be scheduled earlier. After much discussion, checking of calendars and availability, it was decided that the PSRA meetings scheduled for August will be changed; the first PSRA SAP meeting will be

on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 (9:30am-4:30pm) and PSRA Finance is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2018 (9:30am-3:30pm). There will be a follow-up SAP meeting on Thursday, June 28, 2018 from 1pm-3pm. The Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> SAP meeting is cancelled. These changes do not necessitate changing the date of the September Planning Council meeting, as much of the preparation in priority setting and reallocating will be completed in time for a vote at the September Planning Council meeting.

The 2014 Consumer Survey needs to be updated. There are plans to conduct another consumer survey in the near future. The last time it was conducted, many methods were used in order to get the greatest consumer response. Providers assisted in this venture, utilizing group settings, face-to-face interaction, telephone calls, and computer response which was the least successful. Ms. Osk stated that agency assessment will bring in some numbers of consumers to complete the survey. Assistance was suggested for Stony Brook and Hofstra University MPH students to assist in gathering information for the consumer survey, which raised confidentiality concerns.

In order to remain current, the question was raised as to what needs assessment should be tackled next. There was a consensus that the results of the upcoming consumer survey and the identified trends will guide the subject of the next needs assessment.

Ms. Square asked about the results of the 2014 consumer survey. Ms. Beal replied that the surveys allows us to see certain trends and helps to determine if we are on track to serve the needs of the community and consumers. It also gives us an opportunity to see if the demographics match the Nassau-Suffolk region. Findings of the 2014 consumer survey supported the need for transportation as it was reported as the most important service used and necessary for consumers. The survey also highlighted the increased need for Oral Health Care (OHC), fears about changes in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and concerns of an aging population. Mr. Pirone agreed, adding that the consumer surveys gives us a snapshot of the Nassau-Suffolk EMA looks like as compared to other regions in the state.

Community forums- An important component of the data that is collected includes information gathered directly from the public during annual community forums which are held throughout Nassau and Suffolk County. Data collection is a vital part of the PSRA process as it helps to determine what priorities will be funded and how much funding will be requested.

The 2017 community forum questions were reviewed by the committee. The following recommendations were implemented:

- Removal of the word *outpatient* from Substance Abuse Services.
- *Food Bank Emergency* was replaced by *Financial Assistance (EFA)*, *food* added to *vouchers*, for clarity.
- Question #5- to be rewritten as, **Are you satisfied with the location and hours of operation and ability of accessing the services you currently use?**
- (New) Question #8 – Are you familiar with U=U? (Undetectable=Untransmittable)
- (Previous) Question #8 now is Question #9- **Since your HIV diagnosis, if there ever was a time when you were out of care, what brought you back into care?**
- (Previous) Question #9 is now #10. **If you were asked to say one thing you felt is the most important message to get across to people who do not know their status, what would it be?**
- Removal of (previous) question 10- **What did you find important today?**

Discussion of scheduling and locations, including the need for more Spanish speaking forums resulted in the following:

Northwell (Spanish Language), Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30pm

Northwell CART, Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

Nassau-Suffolk Law Services will host a community forum in April, date to be confirmed.

Ms. Henn will contact Ms. Vanessa Carolina to coordinate hosting two (one Spanish) community forums at HRHCare.

Also to be contacted are Mr. Matthew Grady from LGBT Network and Mr. Michael Collins from David E. Rogers Center.

A number of committee members volunteered to be facilitators for the community forums.

The 2017 community forums revealed an increased need for vision care services. Consequently, increased funds were to be allocated under the Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) and Request for Proposals were sent out. Unfortunately, during the recent HRSA site visit we were informed that it would not be possible to fund eyeglasses and vision services under that priority. (Some of the service categories are more broadly written, whereas EFA is more specific).

We are looking into alternative solutions in order to provide eyeglasses to consumers.

Ms. Johnson, informed the committee about *Gifts of Sight*, a Lenscrafters program that offers free eye exams and eyeglasses to eligible individuals. The appointments are only on Wednesdays. Ms. Alston reminded the committee that we are unable to fund non Ryan White providers and not-for profits.

The HRSA site visit also brought to light that the *payer of last resort* and how it is being utilized is being redefined. Program income needs to be shown, which may warrant a change or update in the medical computer programs which may be incompatible with recording that information. We are waiting further clarification.

Ms. Thomas informed the committee that SPARC has a system that shows program income which helps to fund other areas, such as salaries. It was suggested by Ms. Osk that perhaps this can be used as model. Ms. Thomas clarified that they have not had a site visit in a while and the requirements may have changed.

## **VII. Announcements/Adjournments**

- Northwell CART is hosting a Dine to Donate event at the Applebee's in new Hyde Park on April 12, 2018. 11am-9pm. Event flyer is to be presented in order to CART to receive 10% of proceeds.
- Northwell CART fundraiser on Sunday evening, May 20, 2018 at Governor's Comedy Club in Levittown. Tickets are \$15 (a two item minimum is required) See Mr. McHugh for tickets.
- Saturday, June 23, 2018 is the date of the CART picnic.
- World AIDS Day is December 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.. Our event will be on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> (6:30-10:30) at The Heritage, formerly Carlyle on the Green.
- SPARC is offering Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction classes beginning April 9<sup>th</sup> (6pm-8pm) at the Mott House in Coram. Registration is required.

**MOTION** was made by Ms. Egel and seconded by Mr. McHugh to adjourn the March 27, 2018 Strategic Assessment and Planning meeting. All in favor- Motion carried.