**NASSAU-SUFFOLK HIV HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL**

**UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND, DEER PARK, NY**

**May 11, 2022**

**10am – 12pm**

**MINUTES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MEMBERS PRESENT** | **MEMBERS ABSENT** | **GUESTS** |
| Traci Shelton, Chair  Felix Ruiz, Vice-Chair  Hector Alcala  Susan Baldridge  Eileen Bryant  Nancy Duncan  Juli Grey-Owens  Cathy Martens  Johnny Mora  Victoria Osk, Esq.  Angie Partap  Colin Pearsall  Scott Petersen  Gregson Pigott, MD  Jacqueline Ponce-Rivera  Erik Rios  Claire Simon  Edward Soto  Katelin Thomas  Kerry Thomas | Ilvan Arroyo  Arthur Brown  Tania Chiu  Nashon Clark  Clara Crawford  Lawrence Eisenstein, MD  Denise Ragsdale  June Tappan  John Van | Lisa Corso  Patricia Ross |
| **UWLI STAFF** | **COUNTY STAFF** |  |
| Georgette Beal | Nina Sculco |  |
| Nancy O’Keefe |  |  |
| Myra Alston |  |  |
| Katie Ramirez |  |  |
| JoAnn Henn |  |  |

1. **Welcome and Moment of Silence**

Mr. Ruiz, Co-Chair, began the meeting at 10:05am. He requested a moment of silence to remember those living with HIV/AIDS and those who are suffering with COVID as well as those in Ukraine.

1. **Public Comment on Agenda Items Only**  
   There was no public comment.
2. **Approval of March 9, 2022 Minutes**

Ms. Martens made a motion to accept the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ponce-Rivera

1. approved 1 abstention 0 Opposed -Motion Carried

**IV**. **Administrative Update**

Staff has been working on updating key policies and procedures, documents and guidelines based on changes in the region. A provider meeting was held on Wednesday, April 27 in order to review these recent changes/updates. Updates were made to the Standards of Care, which were presented to the Planning Council. Universal Standards were added in addition to priority specific information. Links were also added to the Standards of Care to facilitate navigation within the document and to reference documents.

Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) guidelines were also recently revised. The amount available for food cards were increased in response to rising food costs. Although the number of times this assistance can be requested has decreased, overall, more funds will be available. It should be noted this this assistance is for emergency use only.

There are new Ryan White eligibility guidelines based on changes made by HRSA. The N-S EMA has been working with NYC Part A and NYS Part B to streamline the process and be in alignment, adopting the 500% FPL. The frequency of eligibility submission has also been reduced. A consumer version of eligibility guidelines was created and will be shared and reviewed at the next CIC meeting. Consumers will be encouraged to share this information which will help in the implementation of the changes. The National Monitoring Standards (NMS) were recently updated and are currently going through HRSA approval channels and should be available for distribution soon. Although no major changes are expected, providers have been informed that any changes may necessitate some tweaking to the existing standards.

The SAP Committee which is responsible for assessing the needs of the community, prioritizing and allocating resources approved the region applying for a Core Services waiver. Previously, the process to apply for a waiver was a lengthy one. This year, the process has been simplified to a quick check-off list. The application for FY 22-23 was submitted and approved which will allow for more flexibility regarding the 75% Core/25% Support services requirement.

The HRSA virtual monitoring visit is scheduled for Monday, June 27 - Friday, July1. Meetings are scheduled with Executive committee and consumers who use RW Part A funds in the region. Any consumers who are interested are asked to send us their email information to forward to HRSA who will be sending the meeting invites. The fiscal closeout of the 21-22 grant has been successfully completed with less than $800 unexpended by contracted agencies. Ms. Beal acknowledged and thanked the providers as well the staff for their hard work to make this happen.

Ms. Sculco from the NCDOH informed the Council that Nassau is in the process of putting out the RFP in regards to the technical support agency contract. It is expected to be reviewed and awarded by the end of summer 2022. RFPs for agencies are expected to be out in early fall.

**V. Committee Reports:**

Ms. Shelton reported on the May 1, 2022 Executive Committee where the Planning Council agenda was approved. There was a discussion about the upcoming HRSA virtual monitoring site visit and the Executive Committee members were asked to set aside the afternoon of June 27 for a meeting with the HRSA consultants. Nassau County reported that the Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) is also being updated and the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the TSA contract is expected to be issued mid-May. The need to increase unaligned consumer membership was discussed at length.

Ms. Rivera reported on the May 4, 2022 **Strategic Assessment & Planning Committee** meeting. The PSRA timeline and process were discussed. The dates that were previously scheduled are in the process of being changed to allow for additional time to gather the needed data. The EMA is also waiting for further instructions on the timeframe for completing the PSRA. The committee reviewed and discussed the community forum questions and revised them for clarity and reference. Community input on emerging trends in HIV prevention and treatment that will inform the Integrated Plan is needed. Two community engagement sessions will be held on June 1st and 7th. Committee members were asked to register for one of the two sessions and to share the flyer,

Ms. Martens reported on the **Consumer Involvement Committee** which met on Friday, April 8, 2022.

This was the first in-person meeting since the pandemic began. A few members joined the meeting by phone. A short presentation was made on committee roles and responsibilities in relationship to the larger Council and the other subcommittees. The revised Planning Council brochure was also reviewed and approved during the meeting. Copies were made available to members to assist in consumer recruitment efforts. Members were informed about the scheduled HRSA site visit. This meeting will be held on June 27th and is for any consumer that uses Part A services. The Positive Views newsletter is being relaunched starting with the spring edition. Features include consumer/agency spotlight, Tips for Healthy Living, and Planning Council updates. Consumers are encouraged to submit stories, poems, artwork, and pet pictures.

Mr. Thomas reported on the April 28, 2022 **Clinical Quality Management Committee** meeting which included a PowerPoint on performance measures for 2020 and 2021 and a summary of sub-recipient CQI projects. United Way recently completed the development of a data dictionary to assist the providers in uniform collection of information. A small pilot project will be initiated with one of the priorities to examine changes in reporting and to identify additional CQI projects.

**Membership-** A Survey Monkey link will be sent to Planning Council members to vote on the three second term nominations which were approved at the membership sub-committee.

1. **Opioid Use and the Need for NARCAN Training**

Mr. Soto, Linkage to Care Specialist for the Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) program at Sun River Health gave a PowerPoint presentation on opioid use and the need for NARCAN training. Opioids are natural or synthetic chemicals which connect with opioid brain receptors to reduce pain. They are an umbrella of drugs including prescription pain relievers and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, methadone, tramadol and heroin. Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) is recognized by (DSM-5) Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders as a chronic lifelong disorder that may lead to disability, relapse, increased tolerance, and death. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is the use of FDA-approved medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” (patient-centered) approach to the treatment of substance use disorders.

Treatment is available for OUD. Medications such as Buprenorphine and Methadone are shown to be effective.  Medication treatment should be combined with behavioral counseling. MAT has been shown to decrease opioid use related deaths. A summary of opioid use in the United States was provided. Addiction has long since had a negative connotation; often viewed as a sin, unethical, a sign of weakness, a choice, or a condition of which to be ashamed. The issue of stigma can be addressed by changing the language of addiction; removing stigmatizing words like addict, dirty and meth-head. While some people are more likely to develop an addiction than others, this has to do with genetics and environmental factors. Addiction does not discriminate based on race, socioeconomic status, age, religious beliefs, education, gender identity or sexual orientation. Harm reduction saves lives. The philosophy aims to keep people safe and minimize death, disease, and injury from high-risk behavior.  It involves a range of support services and strategies to enhance the knowledge, skills, resources, and supports for individuals, families and communities to be safer and healthier.

Not all use is necessarily harmful and equals a substance use disorder. Moderate use does not necessarily lead to adverse health or other consequences. At-risk use or potentially harmful use that leads a medical provider to be concerned for health effects or medical psychosocial consequences should be addressed.

Education is key.

How to recognize an overdose, if a person:

* Is unarousable / nonresponsive
* Has shallow breathing or gurgling
* Has blue/gray/white lips and/or nails
* Is snoring or making gurgling sounds
* Has muscle stiffness or rigidity (fentanyl)

Someone may be high but not overdosing. Do not administer naloxone if someone is able to respond verbally. When in doubt call 911 for medical help.

What happens to the body during an overdose?

An overdose occurs over a course of 1-3 hours. The quantity or strength of the opioid gradually suppresses the involuntary drive to breathe, breathing slows down and the heart stops resulting in a fatal overdose. Naloxone reverses opioid overdose and prevents fatalities. It displaces opioids in the receptors, takes effect in 2-3 minutes. It is safe in children.

What to do in the event of an overdose?

* Shout from a distance, tell them you are calling 911
* Shake them, try to wake the person by rubbing, grinding knuckles and applying into the breastbone. Always perform a sternal rub before administering Naloxone. A kit contains: two doses of naloxone nasal spray, face shield, two non-latex gloves, educational material, Naloxone instruction sheet and blue certificate of completion.

How to administer Naloxone

Naloxone is a nasal spray. Do not remove Naloxone from the box before ready to use, no need to test the spray, when ready to use:

* Peel back tab with the circle to open the Narcan® Nasal Spray.
* Hold the Narcan® Nasal Spray with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and your first and middle fingers on either side of the nozzle.
* Tilt the person’s head back and provide support under the neck with your hand
* If the person does not respond in 2-mins, repeat the steps and give the second dose of Narcan® Nasal Spray in box.
* Roll the person on their side and place them in the ‘recovery position’**.**
* If the person is not breathing, do rescue breathing or CPR

Naloxone wears off in 30-90 minutes; stay with the person until they go to the hospital, or until the naloxone wears off, to make sure they do not overdose again. Explain to the person what has happened and that taking more drugs could result in another overdose. When the ambulance arrives, inform EMS that naloxone has been given and how many doses. You can contact Sun River Health MAT Program to obtain a replacement naloxone kit. This presentation will be made available to use a reference.

1. **PrEP Conference Summary**

Mr. Ruiz gave a brief overview of the Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit he attended in Chicago on April 20-21, 2022, The Summit focused on treatment as prevention. The summit which was sponsored by Gilead, ViiV Healthcare, and MISTR, is an annual event. This year is the first time it was held in person since COVID and certain conditions needed to be met. There was no on-site registration the day of the event, proof of vaccination and booster had to be submitted prior to being able to register. Although masks were not required, some attendees wore them. No Hugs, Fist Bump/Elbow and Hugs Ok buttons were made available to provide a safe and comfortable environment

The topics covered included:

* Role of biomedical prevention in ending the HIV epidemic
* Stigma
* Negotiating sex in the app’s world
* Can fantasies become realities? The Quest of multi-purpose prevention products.

There were a dozen or so breakout sessions during the two day summit. ESCALATE (Ending Stigma through Collaboration and Lifting All to Empowerment), a project to reduce stigma, was also featured. Mr. Ruiz shared the analogy that stigma is like a virus that invades the self-esteem of cells of a person. Stigma is still very much an issue.

The summit also provided an opportunity to participate in the 2022 Trans survey. This population is under-represented in a data study about PrEP; the survey would help to gather more information and data.

There were tabling events at the Summit. QR codes were part of most of the information provided, making it easier to access websites, surveys, and application. This information included treatment as Prevention, LGBT health, Trans survey, and the Sexuwell Program. The Sexuwell Program stressed that sexual wellness is part of your overall health. A business sized card described the program with a QR code on the flip side to take you to the website to begin the process of getting PrEP. Mr. Ruiz spoke of the Gilead documentary, Blind Angels-A Series on HIV/AIDS in the South, noting that the south leads the country in new infections. This documentary can also be seen on YouTube.

The last presentation of the Summit was given by Dr. Craig Hendrix, a Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology and Molecular Science at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, who spoke about the development of different tools and trials to prevent HIV using bio-medical processes. More choices such as pills, injectables, and implants would result in increased uptake and better the likelihood of an individual starting PrEP. A new term was introduced, MPT (Multi-Purpose Prevention Technologies) are designed to simultaneously prevent HIV, STIs, and unintended pregnancy. MPTs include vaginal rings which combines a contraceptive with PrEP, implants with are long lasting can combine PrEP and HSV prevention, basically attacking two viruses with one tool. Currently 42 products are being developed, with an estimated timeframe of three to five years for availability. Mr. Ruiz made his PowerPoint presentation available to whoever requested it.

1. **Announcements/Adjournment**

* Ms. Shelton informed the Council about Governor Kathy Hochul’s cooling assistance program through DSS for Nassau and Suffolk residents. If you qualify for HEAP, you may qualify to receive an air conditioner. Also, Options has two position available, Health Insurance Advocate and Care Navigator.
* National Black Leadership Commission on Health (NBLCH) is hosting a health fair, which includes HIV testing, on Saturday, June 25 10am-2pm at the Wyandanch train station.
* Thursday’s Child, Northwell Health, and other others are partnering with Angels of Long Island in Patchogue to host a food distribution event on May 22, 10am-2pm. Also, discreet testing is available on the first and third Thursday of the month at the same location.
* Thursday’s Child has tickets for Long Term Survivors to Gateway’s Head Over Heels production on Thursday, June 23. Contact Mr. Thomas if interested.
* Ms. Partap informed the Council that she participated in an AETC panel discussion about nutrition and housing before, during, and after COVID. She will also participate in a podcast that is scheduled for July 18 to discuss these issues. Details to follow.
* Ms. Simon reminded the Council about the opportunity to provide input for the Integrated Plan.

A Community flyer is included in the weekly mailing with a link to register either on June 1, 10am-11:30am or June 7, 5pm-6:30pm.

* Ms. Bryant informed the Council that there will be an HIV Stops with Me presentation on Friday, May 20th at Sun River Health. The presentation will include topics of prevention, linkage to care, and fighting stigma. Ms. Bryant is a spokesmodel of the campaign and will be sharing her story.
* In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, Mr. Ruiz stated that Sun River Health will be hosting a number of testing events, on June 1, 8, and 15 in Patchogue, Brentwood, and Wyandanch, respectively.

Much of the information as well as further details of the announcements listed are included in the weekly grant mailing.

Ms. Martens made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Baldridge to adjourn the May 11, 2022 Planning Council meeting. All in favor-motion carried.