

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

**May 10, 2018  
9:30 am – 11:30 am**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Anthony Santella, PhD, Chair  
Joseph Pirone, Vice-Chair  
Wendy Abt  
Gloria Allen  
Ilvan Arroyo  
Lisa Benz-Scott, PhD  
Tania Chiu  
James Colson  
Nancy Duncan  
Marci Egel  
Lawrence Eisenstein, MD  
Juli Grey-Owens  
Margret Henry  
Kevin McHugh  
Barbara Martens  
Martine Michel-Toure  
Victoria Osk, Esq.  
Erik Rios  
Felix Ruiz  
Traci Shelton  
Louise Square  
Katelin Thomas  
James Tomarken, MD  
Johnny Mora

**UWLI STAFF**

Georgette Beal  
JoAnn Henn  
Myra Alston  
Victoria White  
Stephanie Moreau  
Katie Ramirez

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Arthur Brown  
Clara Crawford  
Anthony Marmo  
Katie Ramirez  
Elizabeth Torres  
Rev. Loring Pasmore  
Andrea Smith  
Jessica Totino

**GUESTS**

William Doepper  
Clement Wigfall  
June Tappan  
Evelyn Ruiz  
Teresa Maestre  
John Galletta  
Jessica Reinhart

**COUNTY STAFF**

Nina Sculco  
Tavora Buchman, PhD

**I. Welcome and Remembrance**

Anthony Santella, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:40. He welcomed everyone and introductions were made. He asked for a moment of silence to remember why we are here and the people that we serve.

**II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Approval of January 10, 2018 Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed and there was one correction: Under Other Business/Announcements: The AIDS Institute is contracting with SUNY Stony Brook and Hofstra University in April 2018, not March.

Ms. Grey-Owens made a motion to accept the minutes, with this correction which was seconded by Mr. McHugh.

19 Approved 4 Abstentions 0 Opposed - Motion Carried

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

Ms. Beal informed the Council of some staffing changes. Dr. Carolyn McCummings has accepted the position of Commissioner at the Department of Human Services. Ms. Tavora Buchman, PhD and Ms. Nina Sculco will be overseeing the Ryan White Grant.

Ms. Katie Ramirez has returned to United Way of Long Island as program administrator.

We are waiting for the HRSA site visit letter to outline a plan and respond to some of their recommendations. Closeout of RW grant for the FY17 should be completed by the end of the month. The progress report will also be completed by the end of May. Since the grant is due the middle of September the PSRA process and SAP and Finance meetings have been moved up to June.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

##### Executive Committee

Mr. Pirone reported on the Executive Committee which met on Tuesday, May 1, 2018. In discussing the Planning Council agenda which includes a review of the PSRA process and Administrative Mechanism survey, it was suggested that a presentation of 340B be arranged.

The closeout process between United Way of Long Island and Nassau County is in progress. Vouchers are being processed for review by the fiscal staff at the health department and for review and approval at the Comptroller's office. Until a new Project Director is assigned, Ms. Deneen Jenkins, Dr. Tavora Buchan and Ms. Nina Sculco will be overseeing the project. NCDOH staff are in the process of clarifying specific roles and responsibilities.

##### Strategic Assessment & Planning Committee

Ms. Egel reported on the two SAP Committee meetings that took place after the March 20, 2018 Planning Council meeting. On Tuesday, March 27, 2018, the SAP committee met to review and discuss the 2018 PSRA timeline. The grant deadline has been pushed up to the middle of September. Community forums will be completed by the end of May and PSRA meetings have been rescheduled for the beginning of June in order to accommodate the grant deadline change. The 2017 community forum questions were reviewed in preparation of the 2018 community forums. Plans are to schedule two Spanish and one Creole language community forum. Committee members volunteered to serve as facilitators at the forums.

The second SAP meeting was held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018. Since the current Co-chairs of this committee have served their terms, two new co-chairs were elected. Congratulations to Ms. Angie Partap and Ms. Victoria Osk, Esq. as they begin their 2 year terms. A training on priority setting and resource allocation was given for new members. This training also served as a refresher for old members. The PSRA timeline was reviewed and an update was provided on the 2018 community forums that had already taken place.

##### Consumer Involvement Committee

Ms. Duncan reported on the Friday, April 13, 2018 CIC meeting. Mr. Dominick Lettieri and Jaelan Parris from STAT Pharmacy presented on the many services that the pharmacy offers. Questions were asked and answered. CAB updates were given, which included the information that as of April 1, 2018, EOC's transportation program had expanded the list of allowable destinations that people can be to under Ryan White Part B funding.

The committee was informed that eyeglasses cannot be covered under Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA). It was learned at the recent HRSA site visit that this service does not fall under HRSA guidelines as eyeglasses are not considered to be an emergency item. Other resources were provided to consumers for vision services. The need for recruitment of unaligned consumers on the Planning Council was discussed.

#### Quality Assurance and Membership Committee

Ms. Shelton reported on the QAM committee which met on Thursday, April 26, 2018. An update on the HRSA site visit, quality management plan and quality improvement were given. The committee completed its review of the Oral Health Care Service Standards. This draft will not be presented to the Planning Council since compliance and quality improvement need to be separated as per HRSA recommendations. Administrative Mechanism questions were reviewed and update. The questionnaire will be distributed to Planning Council members for completion at the May 10, 2018 Planning Council meeting. There will also be a vote on Planning Council membership, which includes one new member and four second term members. Current demographics as of May 8, 2018 were also provided.

#### **VI. Priority Setting and Resource Allocation-**

A review of the PSRA process addressed the need for a process as a result of limited resources, the changing healthcare landscape, the fact that PLWHA are living longer and dealing with other co-morbidities and issues of aging, the increasing number of newly diagnosed entering care and the need to serve the out of care. The role of the Planning Council and an explanation of the two-committee process was outlined. SAP ranks the priorities and sends recommendations and directives to the Finance sub-committee which in turn reviews the SAP report and allocates the funding of the priorities, this information is then sent back to the SAP committee for approval. Final recommendation are presented to the Planning Council.

Councils are required to establish priorities for the allocation of funds within the eligible metropolitan area (EMA), including how best to meet each priority and the additional factors a recipient (Grantee) should consider in allocating funds under a grant. Size and demographics, demonstrated cost and outcome effectiveness, disparities in underserved populations, and coordination with and funds from other funding sources are to be considered.

The PSRA process is a system of checks and balances. It is important to have all the steps in place in order to ensure that the funding decisions are correctly made to benefit the entire Long Island region. Regional service needs are prioritized and funded based on evidence based data that is as current as possible. It involves lengthy discussions and feedback from both committee members and the public. PSRA is an annual process, conducted prior to grant submission. This year the grant is due the middle of September.

Providers, consumers and the public are encouraged to get involved and actively participate in the process. Individuals who are not funded by RW Part A or consumers who do not work for agencies who receive these funds are needed to join the finance sub-committee. PSRA meeting dates were the given.

#### **VII. Administrative Mechanism-**

The Quality Assurance and Membership Committee is responsible for conducting an evaluation of the Nassau-Suffolk EMA's Administrative Mechanism, which assesses the efficiency of the process used by the recipient (Nassau County) and the Technical Support Agency (United Way of Long Island) to rapidly allocate funds to areas of greatest need in terms of timeliness and efficiency. Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA) is an important component of the Administrative Mechanism. The PSRA process involves the ranking the priorities and allocating funds. This questions in this survey has been reviewed by the QAM committee for clarity and formatting. The survey was distributed and completed by Planning Council members to aid in PSRA process.

### **VIII. 340B Presentation-**

Ms. Jessica Reinhart from AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) Pharmacy gave a presentation on 340B. The 340B program which was established as part of the Veteran's Health Care Act of 1992, and allows certain classes of safety net providers to purchase covered outpatient prescription drugs from manufacturers at discounted prices. It is a discount that drug manufacturers agree to provide as a condition of Medicaid covering their drugs. It is administered by the Office of Pharmacy Affairs (OPA) within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The program is not funded by taxpayers.

RWC-340B is a coalition of HIV/AIDS medical providers receiving support under the Ryan White Care Act. The Care Act provides funding for services primarily to poor and/or uninsured people with HIV/AIDS. RW providers are eligible to participate in the federal 340B discount program, which enables them to expand and support care. In an effort to preserve access to this critically important program. Members of RWC-340B have pledged to work together to advocate for the interests of other 340B Ryan White providers. The reasoning is that 340B helps to stretch resources. Money saved from the discounted prescriptions are put back into the programs and services that better serve the consumers. Misuse of discount revenue is not an issue due to regulation and regular audits.

Congress is considering eliminating this program, which would result in higher cost of prescriptions, possibly making certain medications prohibitive for most consumers. Let340B.org is a website dedicated to garnering support for this program. A Q& A followed the presentation.

### **IX. Other Business/Announcements.**

- World AIDS Day is December 1, 2018. Our event is Friday evening, November 30<sup>th</sup> at The Heritage, formerly Carlyle on the Green. Details to follow.
- CART picnic is June 23, 2018 from noon-4pm at Eisenhower Park in the Maple Section.
- There will also be CAB fundraiser on May 20, 2018 at Governor's Comedy Club. Tickets are \$15. See Mr. McHugh for tickets and more information.
- Ms. Martine Michel-Toure is being honored at the Circulo Annual Gala at The Garden City hotel on Friday, May 18, 2018 at 8pm. Congratulations Martine!
- Suffolk ETE is hosting 4 National Testing Day events at HRHCare centers from 11am-3pm:  
Riverhead, Wednesday, June 6  
Brentwood, Wednesday, June 14  
Patchogue, Wednesday, June 20  
Wyandanch, Wednesday, June 27 (National HIV Testing Day)
- Founder's Day event at Belmont Lake at 10am.
- A series of HIV Prevention Needs Assessments are being planned for Nassau and Suffolk County, food will be provided and a \$45 gift card will be given to participants. At Hofstra University the dates are;  
June 5, 2018 6pm-8pm sexually active transgender women 18 years and older  
June 6, 2018 6pm-8pm sexually active bisexual/gay man 18 years and older  
June 12, 2018 6pm-8pm Sexually active straight woman 18 years and older  
A community forum will also be hosted by Hofstra University on July 13. Medical & Social Service Providers from 9am-10:30am; Community members 11:30-1pm.  
Participants will receive \$40 gift card. Food will be served for both groups. This information will be included in the grant emailing as well

### **IX. Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Ms. Egel and seconded by Ms. Shelton to adjourn the May 10, 2018 Planning Council meeting. *23 Approved 0 Abstentions 0 Opposed - Motion carried.*

