

# HIV Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

July 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 at 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

**Meeting Start Time: 11:05 AM**

## **Participants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency Affiliation</b>
Sarah Walker, Program Director	Zufall Medical Center
Tania Guaman, Project Manager	Newark EMA HIV Health Services Planning Council
Stephanie Otaegui, Senior Case Manager	Hope House
Ashlee D'Egidio, Case Manager	Hope House
Jose Avila, Linkage to Care Coordinator	Zufall Medical Center
Jaclyn Cruz, Case Manager	FHC, Morristown Medical Center
War Talley, Program Manager	Department of Health & Community Wellness Division of Health Planning/Ryan White
Summer Brown, PrEP Counselor	Morristown Medical Center
Lydia Sanchez, Social Worker, Case Manager	FHC, Morristown Medical Center
Jennifer Amaya, Director of Outreach and Prevention	Vision and Pathways
David Saltzman, Managing Attorney	Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
Edward Barron	Receiving services from EDGE New Jersey
Steve Westington	Receiving services from EDGE New Jersey
Kelly Martins, Social Services Manager	EDGE New Jersey

## **Moment of Silence**

### **Public Testimony:**

Ed Barron provided Information on Transgender Day of Learning Programming happening in the month of August Every Wednesday from August 5th to 26th.

### **Meeting Summary Approval- May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting minutes were approved by Edward Barron, Tania Guaman, Sarah Walker, Jose Avila and Steve Westington.

### **Needs Assessment Committee: Determine next steps**

Ms. Martins shared that the original needs assessment plan discussed in January 2020 was to research the ability of local long-term care providers to work with people living with HIV (PLWH) as they age. In order to do this, we had planned on doing a large-scale focus group/survey distribution to long-term care providers throughout the region and a consumer survey. However, with the current pandemic and long-term care providers being stretched too far as it is, we are rethinking this strategy for this year.

However due to the COVID pandemic our needs assessment has had very little movement. Ms. Martins asked for the committee's suggestions on what should be done regarding this matter. The options were:

- 1) Don't change the plan (continue with this assessment)
- 2) Push back this plan, and do a mini needs assessment this year

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- a. Adapt questions from the survey tool from Morris NJ Together:
  1. How is this moment impacting you, your family, or those you care about? Is there something you would change that would make life better or easier for you and your family during this time?
  2. Beyond this current pandemic & crisis, what is one thing you would change in Morris County or in your local community that would make life better for you and your family?
- 3) Skip any needs assessment work for 2020 and start fresh in 2021

Ashlee D'Egidio, Summer Brown, Lydia Sanchez all agreed that conducting a mini needs assessment would be ideal. However, the committee was interested in adding a third question regarding technology. Such as, "How has the pandemic impacted your ability to access and use technology? Have you experienced any barriers to accessing medical care and/or social networking settings?" Adding technology related questions, to determine, how can help them gain guidance.

Ed Barron, stated that he will reach out to Adam Thompson to send out a tutorial training for individuals to use technology via ZOOM.

Tania Guaman, stated that the NEMA needs assessment is focused on housing and restructuring how the housing program the plan is to begin in fiscal year 2021 from March 2021 to February 2022. Kelly Martins stated that she would like to get more information on how to get involved with the NEMA needs assessment. Kelly suggested to have a meeting to discuss how M/S/W HIV Advisory Committee can get more involved and assist with this needs assessment.

## **Provider Advisory Board:** Share Results from the Prevention Listening Session

On July 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 2:30PM the members of the Provider Advisory Board hosted a Prevention Listening Session discussing topics on COVID, HIV+ and engaging in healthy sexual practices during COVID. This was one of many future discussions lead by the Provider Advisory Board.

**Community Action Board:** Sarah Walker will determine if Zufall Health Center continues to receive Part C funding to oversee the CAB and get back to Kelly Martins. Once information is received Sarah and Kelly will work on getting the CAB relaunched with active consumers. In addition, during the committee meeting discussion was had on having each agency identify consumers that would be willing to be active members of the CAB.

**Lunch and Learns:** The committee discussed the Lunch and Learns and potentially putting them on hold due to pandemic. Ed Barron would like to propose possible topics to be added to the Lunch and Learns such as long term injectable for people living with HIV+ and information on cure research. In addition topics such as advocacy and supporting the governor's proposal to End the Epidemic by 2025. Ms. Martins took Ed's suggestions into consideration and stated that they are excellent topics. However due to the nature of our remote learning space lunch and learns will be postponed. In addition, to the

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reintroduction of the CAB. Martins, shared that this would be an excellent platform to showcase these listening sessions.

## **Announcements:**

David Saltzman, stated that the County of Morris has received an abundance of technology items such as computers and tablets for the 2020 Census. He encouraged the committee to reach out to the County to inquire if these technology items will be donated after the 2020 Census is completed. Kelly Martins will reach out to the County to follow up with this information.

War Talley shared that he is looking at Morris, Warren and Sussex county and seeing who is not undetectable how are the referrals being referred to. Talley, has been identifying rapid HIV testing sites at Non- RW locations such as (Morristown Medical Center and Zufall Medical Center). The deadline for this is August 15th. Kelly stated that she has an intern who can assist Talley on this project and would provide Talley the information by Friday August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ed Barron announced that Deloris Dockery will be having a memorial event on July 31st. Registration is open to the public by signing up via Eventbrite.com

Tania Guaman announced that NEMA is seeking public testimony for the service standards as well as community involvement. She also shared the scheduled meeting for August 2020.

Ashlee D'Egidio announced that Hope House will have a retreat on August 13th and 14th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM which will include outdoor park, yoga.

Kelly Martins announced an internet resource for low-income households that lack Wi-Fi capabilities: Internet Essentials from Comcast. Kelly will forward that information to everyone with the meeting summary.

**Meeting ended at 12:10 PM next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020.**