

Morris, Sussex and Warren (MSW) HIV/AIDS Collaborative

Advisory Committee and Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative Meeting Minutes

1 MEETING INFORMATION

Date	April 17, 2018
Location	New Jersey AIDS Services, 3 Executive Drive, Morris Plains
Start Time	11:04am

2 ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM

Voting Members Present	Total Voting Members	Number Needed for Quorum	Number Needed for Two-thirds
7	9	5	6

Members Present: Jennifer Amaya, Ed Barron Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Cynthia Greene, Kelly Martins, Jennifer McGee-Avila, Cindy Mimmo, Johanna Moore, Ricardo Salcido, Lydia Sanchez, Caroline Schenkman, Geri Summers

Conference Call: Summer Brown, Aliya Onque

Other Attendees: Antonella Andrade, Christina Baluja, Keith Christian, Jeanne Marvel, Jaclyn Rodriguez, Samuel Williams

Members Absent: Becky Carlson, Shelia Carter, Danielle Nebesni, Ken O'Bryant, Ron Ritzie, David Saltzman, Michele Verones, James Webb

3 SUMMARY

Welcome	The committee recognized a moment of silence and made introductions.
Minutes	Delcalzo-Berens distributed the minutes from the February 20, 2018 meeting. Martins made a motion to approve the minutes. Barron seconded the motion. Salcido reported that although Moore made an announcement during the last meeting that she would be leaving Zufall, she later redacted this announcement. The February 20, 2018 minutes were approved as edited at 11:08am.
Presentation	Christina Baluja from St. Clare's Services provided a presentation on the HIV Housing Collaborative. She reported that people with HIV who are homeless can call the state HIV hotline to complete an intake with a housing coordinator. These individuals will be linked to shelter within two hours. If someone has used all their benefits within their county, the program can provide funding. For those who cannot be linked to a shelter, the program can provide funding to pay for motel/hotel stay. Once the individual is linked to housing, they are then linked to case managers, PATH providers, community health workers, housing ambassadors and other resources. The goal of the program is to retain or link individuals into care and treatment and to link them with housing case managers who will help find long term housing solutions. Salcido asked if the network is using linkage to care coordinators as well. Baluja answered that she has been gathering a list of clinics and navigators for each area but that most individuals have already been linked to care and are just looking for the housing. Baluja and Summers clarified that ambassadors are non-medical case managers who assist the client with implementing a housing plan. There are currently none in Morris, Sussex or Warren Counties. Hope House and NJ AIDS Services will link with Baluja to become ambassadors for this region. Summers reported that the time in shelter varies based on county. Salcido asked about the location of placements as he heard that placement may be made far away from the client's county. Baluja answered that the goal is to keep the client as close to their care and treatment provider as possible. She also noted



	<p>that lack of identification is an obstacle to motel placement but that the program is building its network. There is a FAQ sheet that Baluja will send for circulation to the committee members.</p> <p>Baluja reported that her supervisor, Luis Ulerio, reached out to the City of Newark HOPWA program on our behalf to inquire about current events. Baluja reported information as it was given to her: The City of Newark provides HOPWA for Morris and Sussex Counties only. The program is considering implementing a centralized waiting list in the future but there is no current list. Sub-grantees are encouraged to move clients into permanent housing as quickly as possible but there is no time limit for this. There are significant cuts scheduled for 2019. Mimmo reported that the state has said Warren County HOPWA is managed by the City of Newark. Delcalzo-Berens will do more research to find out who is actually managing Warren County HOPWA.</p> <p>Onque reported that HRSA has issued a letter stating that for Ryan White, Parts A, B and C are expected to see slight increases in funding and that Parts C and D will receive level funding, but that Part D will be absorbed by Part C. Furthermore, there are plans to defund the AETC. The committee agreed that this would be a great loss.</p>
<p>Subcommittees/ Work Groups/ Special Projects</p>	<p><u>Lunch and Learn Project</u>: Delcalzo-Berens reported that the next lunch and learn will take place immediately after today’s meeting. The next lunch and learn will be sponsored by the county after the June meeting on the topic of HIV Around the World.</p> <p><u>Consumer Advisory Board</u>: Moore reported that she and Webb met and prepared a calendar for the remainder of the year. The intention of the calendar is to provide a topic that can be discussed by the consumers in a roundtable style. The following topics are being prepared: April – sex; May – stress management; June – questions for the pharmacist; July – TBD; August – no meeting; September – World AIDS Day; October – older adults; November – planning for the holidays. Delcalzo-Berens updated that the United Way will be able to hold any money that the CAB fundraises. The CAB will need to elect a treasurer and write a process for fundraising and determining how funds will be utilized. Delcalzo-Berens asked if the CAB can consider changing its name to avoid confusion with the other entities at its next meeting.</p> <p><u>Needs Assessment Subcommittee</u>: Delcalzo-Berens provided an update on the Needs Assessment process. She reported that the committee has split into three teams who will be working throughout the month of May on creating a provider survey and a consumer survey and planning a focus group.</p> <p><u>Web Presence Workgroup</u>: No update.</p>
<p>Questions for the Candidates</p>	<p>Delcalzo-Berens distributed a draft of letter to send to the candidates with the questions that have been prepared. She asked for any suggestions to be given to her today.</p>
<p>Public Testimony</p>	<p>A community member, Keith Christian, asked to speak and stated that his fiancé recently passed away due to drug related complications. He stated that he feels that when people graduate from Eric Johnson House they become depressed and may turn to drugs. He stated that the Eric Johnson House hosts a relapse prevention group once a month, which is extremely valuable, but that he feels this is not enough support. Barron noted that once an individual moves out of a structured program such as the Eric Johnson House, they may feel isolated. Delcalzo-Berens asked what resources already exist to support people with addiction histories. Barron suggested AA/NA resources throughout the county. Schenkman reported two possible resources. The first is Mental Health Association which includes community workers who do groups in the community. The second is CARES which has a peer to peer program. Schenkman will reach out to both resources to invite them to present at the June meeting. The group moved into a conversation about support groups. Sanchez stated that the Gay Men’s Support Group at NJ AIDS Services is a good</p>

	<p>group but the time of day causes a barrier to some clients who are interested in attending. Barron remembered that Hope House used to have a group in the evening but the amount of interest fizzled out over time. Salcido reflected that he has both attended and facilitated support groups, some of which are a mixture of multiple components of the population and focus on many different issues, while others are divided into specific subpopulations and have more focused topics. Greene reported that she enjoys the Hope House support groups which provides support outside the group setting as well. She feels that group members can contact one another outside of the group to talk about personal issues they cannot talk about in front of their case managers. Christian said that there used to be an evening relapse prevention group but that this is not offered any longer. Barron noted that there are transportation barriers to these kinds of groups in general, but especially in the evening. Amaya stated that it is important to focus on the aftercare piece, which is a specific type of clinical need, not so much a support group. She also suggested the group look at how to integrate and network with services that already exist in the area. Delcalzo-Berens reiterated that we should have a presentation from the resources Schenkman introduced earlier in the conversation and look at how these resources can be integrated into current programs at NJ AIDS Services and Hope House. Martins stated that NJAS takes on a lot of responsibility and feels there needs to be more collaborating with Hope House. It is difficult to always be the one to act on the suggestions made by the Advisory Committee.</p>
Announcements	<p>Delcalzo-Berens announced that there is a consumer group meeting in Newark next Wednesday evening which will ask consumers what services are most important to them. NJ AIDS Services is providing transportation. Delcalzo-Berens will circulate the flyer via email.</p> <p>Mimmo reported that she or someone from the state will be present at the meetings going forward. She discussed several programs currently funded by the state at this time, including syringe access, ARCH nurses, trauma informed care, housing project, linkage to care, mental health consortium and PrEP. Mimmo stated that there will be a Prevention and Care Summit on June 20th and that any consumers who are interested should be able to request transportation through state funded programs. Summers reported that anyone can register for the event through the Rutgers website. Mimmo also reported that there will be a coordinators meeting for counseling and testing sites on May 10th and that it is time for prevention and testing funded sites to roll over their applications.</p> <p>Barron presented an idea of having a team called Housing Works do a training on advocacy with political candidates. The consumers generally appeared interested. Barron will work on planning a training through the county and inviting consumers.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for June 19 at Morris County Human Services and will be followed by a Lunch and Learn.</p>

4 LUNCH AND LEARN

Hope House sponsored a lunch and learn with speaker Scott H. Dranoff from Legal Services of Northwest Jersey who provided a presentation about criminal record expungement. Contact Mr. Dranoff for assistance with specific expungement questions or needs: 973-285-6911 ext. 5418/ sdranoff@lsnj.org

