

## MORRIS SUSSEX WARREN HIV/AIDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE/EIRC

MEETING MINUTES for January, 28<sup>th</sup> 2014

Meeting Location: Zufall Health Center, Dover, NJ

Present: Joann McEniry, Ray Suttles, Allison Delcalzo, Lindsay Donald, Yohanna Abreu, Sra. Roberta Feil, Felicia

Joann McEniry called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM and welcomed all in attendance. A moment of silence was observed.

Minutes from the last meeting on November, 26 2013 were distributed. McEniry changed the words “only way” to “a way” and corrected the date. Sra. Roberta made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Delcalzo seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the minutes as distributed.

Joann McEniry provided a NEMA/Planning Council update sharing the following information:

- We will be experiencing a 3% cut to our area
- Reminder that Planning Council is not an advocacy body but a health planning body
- Waiting on an email from Hyacinth (expert in advocacy) as a follow up to the last planning council open meeting

LD suggested a possible negotiation of Medicaid rates comparable to what New York did in the past. She asked what the PC suggests we do as funding is shrinking, for example: Do we cap the programs?

JM reminded the group that the planning council does not have a suggestion at this time as they are a planning group. They suggest to stage an advocacy effort. The changing landscape is a hard reality.

SR suggested inviting Doherty to do advocacy training

AD suggested getting patients and consumers involved in the advocacy effort.

JM the NEMA office has been cut too, they are now doing things consultants used to do, like the needs assessments.

LD mentioned her concern with the Planning Council members stressing social services above primary medical services. Social services are of course important, holding the fact that we can provide primary care for the patients to adhere to. Without primary care we have no treatment to “support.” Medicaid will not cut it to cover the cost.

JM explained that making those statements should be telling, RW medical is going away, RW is covering what Medicaid will not.

SR suggested reaching out to partner with pharmaceutical companies asking them to fund ID services. The direct correlation between ID services and the prescription of meds makes them a high priority stakeholder.

JM Anything paid for by Medicaid is in jeopardy, anything not paid for by Medicaid is safe.

Updates for agency and community members:

**Hope House** – Allison Delcalzo reported that they are working hard to continue helping their clients navigate ACA and Medicaid enrollment. ACA Navigators from Zufall are scheduled to come to Hope House to help consumers navigate the ACA and Medicaid expansion. Men's group every other Wednesday 1:30-3:00.

**New Jersey AIDS Services** – Joann McEniry reported NJAS has a new bilingual case manager. They will be having a breakfast on 3/14. She also mentioned the AIDS walk on 5/4.

**Family Health Center**- Feeling more settled, have 2 full time medical case managers now.

**Zufall Health Center**- Status quo. Continuing to look for an additional bilingual medical case manager. Population continuing grow rapidly from hospital and hope house referrals.

Old Business – JM discussed nominations for LD and AD, but Sheila was not in attendance. Decided that Alison will begin acting as the Chair and LD will begin acting as the secretary in the interim.

New Business – No new business.

A reminder was given that the next meeting is scheduled for 2/18/2013 at Hope House at 11:00am.

Mr. Suttles made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms, Delcalzo seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lindsay Donald