

ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

UPDATES – APRIL 19, 2016

MORRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

- In preparation for submission of an application for funding to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Morris County Continuum of Care Executive Committee is now accepting Notices of Intent from all agencies interested in applying for funding to support NEW projects through the Morris County Continuum of Care process aimed at reducing homelessness. The Notice of Intent for renewal projects will be announced at a later date.

All agencies interested in applying for funding for NEW projects, must tender a Notice of Intent form. The Notice of Intent letter and Notice of Intent Application and additional information are available online on the Department of Human Services website, <http://morriscountynj.gov/hs>

The notice of intent must be submitted by mail or in person by **4:30 pm, May 31, 2016** to the Morris County Department of Human Services, 30 Schuyler Place, 3rd Floor, P.O. Box 900 Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0900, Attention: Shelia Carter. Applications may be submitted **Monday – Friday (excluding holidays)**. For further information, please contact Shelia Carter at (973) 285-6851.

- The Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)-- Ms. Jacobson attended the Division of Mental Health & Addictions Services (DMHAS) Quarterly Provider meeting. There was discussion about the Fee for Service (FFS) transition and the new Medicaid and FFS rates. DMHAS staff answered questions that were submitted via survey, but they still plan to convene trainings, webinars and will post FAQ's on their website. A copy of the PowerPoint with the rates was distributed to the board.

Questions and discussion ensued regarding partial care, partial hospital standards and Medicaid billing. There was concern upon hearing that one Medicaid service can be billed per day, which can pose a problem if a client receives two services, such as a psychiatric appointment and a group therapy session, on the same day. Since it is hard to coordinate transportation, setting up two appointments in one day makes it easier for the client, but that leaves one service unpaid. It was asked if county funds could be used to supplement that second service which would not be covered by Medicaid.

The MHASAB has invited providers to attend the April board meeting to discuss some of these issues and concerns. This would help to determine how best to allocate Human Services funding for 2017 and in the future.

CITY OF NEWARK, RYAN WHITE GRANTEE

No update.

PLANNING COUNCIL

- The NEMA Planning Council last met on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 1:30pm at the Planning Council Offices.
- The Executive Committee approved the six standards for Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals, Psychosocial Support, Substance Abuse (Residential), Substance Abuse (Non-residential), Medical Transportation and Legal services. The approval of the standards was urgent, the Executive Committee approved the documents because of the urgency, however the full Planning Council will ratify the vote and receive copies of the approved service standards.
- The Council received a presentation by Dr. Ann Dey on the Integrated HIV Prevention & Care Plan during the PC educational session.
- NEMA Planning Council did receive the 2016-2017 Partial Grant Award notice from the Ryan White Unit. Based upon last year partial award amount the Planning Council's budget was decreased.
- The planning Council will next meet on May 18, 2016.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

- The Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) is continuing the work on and framing the Integrated Prevention and Care Plan. These are guidance from HRSA and CDC to help accelerate progress toward reaching the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. This include preventing new HIV infections, increasing access to care &improving health outcomes, reducing HIV-related health disparities. All other NEMA Standing committees will be assigned task by the CPC to help draft the plan.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

- The Research & Evaluation Committee is continuing to work on the 2016 Needs Assessment.

Proposed Research Questions for the 2016 Needs Assessment

1. What are the gaps and barriers in meeting outcomes along the HIV Care Continuum among target groups (youth, MSM of color, people age 45 and older, and women of color) and late diagnosis?
2. What are the characteristics of persons who test late for HIV?
 - What are the reasons they are testing late?
 - How many times did clients see a provider (medical provider) in the last year and did not receive HIV testing?
 - What services are needed to meet the gaps and what are some of the barriers?

CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE

- The Continuum of Care Committee is working on putting together a PrEP directory and hosting a panel discussion around PrEP during the May meeting.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITY

- The Community Involvement Activity/ Community Conversation last met on March 17th and responded to the draft Needs Assessment consumer pilot survey to test the document and provide feedback to the Research & Evaluation Committee. There was also a presentation from Allison Modica of Gilead Sciences on Genvoya.

FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

PROGRAM UPDATE

- The clinic is now in its second year of performing anal paps on MSM patients. This has been a successful preventative measure that has helped to capture many abnormalities and refer patients to specialty care.

STAFFING CHANGES

- The Family Health Center has a new coordinator, Nycole Gordon, who will help to streamline administrative functions in the clinic.

NEW ISSUES/TRENDS

- Continued issues with insurance as patient incomes increase or decrease changing their eligibility for Medicaid and/or the Marketplace.
- Increase in new patients moving from out of state.

HOPE HOUSE

EVENTS

- Lunch and Learn on April 20th at 1:00pm on the topic of Oral Health. Stephanie Paneca-Navarro from Amerigroup will be our guest speaker.
- Cinco de Mayo pot luck lunch on May 5th from 12:00pm-2:00pm
- Consumer Advocacy Training on May 11th at 1:00pm-2:30pm
- Lunch and Learn on May 18th from 12:00pm-2:00pm: Guest speaker from Primerica will be discussing financial planning options for fixed income households

PROGRAM UPDATE

- Hope House Rapid Re-housing Program is taking referrals.
- Support Groups will be held every Monday in May from 1:00pm-2:00pm:
 - Men's Group-5/2
 - Co-ed Support Group-5/9 and 5/23
 - Women's Group- 5/16

NEW ISSUES/TRENDS

- Housing continues to be an issue affecting many of our clients due to the changes in HOPWA.

NEW JERSEY AIDS SERVICES

EVENTS

- The NJ AIDS Walk is Sunday, May 1st 2016 on the Green in Morristown (10 N. Park Place Morristown, NJ 07960). Online registration is open, visit www.njaids.org and select Morristown.
- A Client Appreciation Banquet will be held on at the Hyatt in Morristown on June 22nd at 6pm. This event is free for all NJ AIDS Services clients!

PROGRAM UPDATE

- NJ AIDS Services continues to host the following support groups:
 - Grief Support: Fridays at 11:00am
 - Gay Men's Support: Thursdays at 11:00am
 - HIV Support: Wednesdays at 12:30pm
- A new program in partnership with FDU School of Pharmacy aimed at teaching clients nutrition and life skills was launched for Eric Johnson House clients. It runs weekly on Fridays from 10am to 4pm.

STAFFING CHANGES

We are proud to announce two new bi-lingual (Spanish Speaking) case managers at NJ AIDS Services.

- Alison Arce, Medical Case Manager
- Kelly Martins, Case Manager

NEW ISSUES/TRENDS

- Lack of housing resources continues to be a problem for clients, especially with recent changes in HOPWA for Morris County.
- Copayments for medications are being presented as a frequent challenge for agency clients.

ZUFALL HEALTH CENTER

EVENTS

- Planning our National Testing Day event to be held in Morristown.
- CAB meeting 4/27 11:00-1:00.

PROGRAM UPDATE

- New Ryan White Clinic to be opened in our Somerville location starting in early May.
- Johanna will be a breakout session speaker at NJ Rural Health Symposium on April 21 in Plainsboro, NJ. Topic: Addressing HIV/AIDS in rural communities.

STAFFING CHANGES

- Linkage to care coordinator for Somerset-Hunterdon has been hired. His name is Brian Cevallos. Brian will be based in our Somerville location.
- Now hiring for Medical Case Managers (one nurse and one non-nurse) for this clinic