



Section I – Mission Statement

The mission of the Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Planning Council is to determine priorities for how Ryan White Part A funds are allocated based on the documented needs of the HIV/AIDS communities within the TGA. It is the responsibility of the Council to assure that all infected and affected communities and populations of the TGA are represented on the Planning Council.

Section II – Goal and Objective

The goal of the Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Planning Council is, through its needs assessment and planning processes and through the allocation of funding, to create a seamless continuum of care that addresses the needs of the infected and affected populations of the three counties it is charged to serve. Its major objective is to ensure access to core medical services.

	Member	Regular Planning Council Meetings			Priority Setting Sessions				Regular Planning Council Meetings		
		3/3 2021	4/7	5/5	6/2 P S & AAM	6/23 Data P	7/8 Data Make up	7/21 P & A	9/1	11/3	2/2 2022
1	Alice Ferguson	P									
2	Alix Dittmore	P									
3	Angie Bremser	P									
4	Cheena Rivera	A									
5	Danielle W. Dias	P									
6	Danielle Montaque	P									
7	Ivette Brown	A									
8	Ivette Santiago	P									
9	James Lloyd	A									
10	Luis Irizarry	P									
11	Luis Martinez	E									
12	Maria Lorenzo	P									
13	Marie Raynor	P									
14	Melanie Alvarez	P									
15	Michael Ostapoff	P									
16	Myrna Millet-Saez	P									
17	Nitza Agosto	P									
18	Ruth Garcia	P									
19	Sylvia Miller	E									
20	Valerie Ingram	P									
21	Anna Marie Shand*	A									

*Alternate - nonvoting member
7 Members needed for Quorum



Guests Present: Atkinson, Cristian Ortiz, Eileen Torres, Erika Mott, Gabrielle Mitchell, Jesse Grant, John Sapro, Kasey Harding, Marilyn, Monica Martinez, Nilda Fernandez, Venesha Heron

Recipient's Office: Angelique Croasdale, Peta-Gaye Nembhard

Meeting Facilitated By: Danielle Warren Dias & Luis Irizarry

Recorded By: Sou Thammavong, Planning Council Support

Wednesday March 3, 2021 Planning Council Meeting

Danielle Warren Dias, Planning Council Co-Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed participants. Luis Irizarry, new Planning Council Co Chair, continued with the Council Mission, Notices, a Moment of Silence and asked attendees to introduce themselves in the Chat Box. Ground rules were quickly reviewed.

November 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes and Evaluation Results

The Co-chair then requested members to review the minutes of November 4, 2020 meeting. Members were given a few minutes to review, and a motion was requested. Melanie made a motion to accept the November 4, 2020 meeting minutes and was seconded by Marie. With no corrections or further discussion, 13 members voted in favor of accepting the November 4, 2020, minutes. With no objections or abstentions, the minutes were accepted.

The November 4, 2020 Council Meeting Evaluations shared that people prefer in person meetings, but the online meeting format improves each meeting, 'as we learn together, we grow together.' Respondents also enjoyed Dr. Deutsch's presentation and the support given to Luis M to help facilitate the meeting. Respondents did not like participants cameras on while they were moving around, ignoring phone participants and no food vouchers. Alice requested Co-Chairs repeat that callers must announce themselves during meetings. Uber Eats vouchers cannot be given to members for accessibility, Wal Mart gift cards were approved in lieu of vouchers.

February 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes and Evaluation Results

The Co-chair then requested members to review the minutes of February 3, 2021 meeting. Members were given a few minutes to review, and a motion was requested. Alice made a motion to accept the February 3, 2021 meeting minutes and was seconded by Valerie. With no corrections or further discussion, 13 members voted in favor of accepting the February 3, 2021 minutes. With no objections or abstentions, the minutes were accepted.

The February 3, 2021 Planning Council Meeting Evaluations shared that people enjoyed the group activity by John and Sara from In It To End It, specifically the group planning/learning process and the smaller breakout rooms. Members were encouraged to use meeting evaluation for ideas to improve meeting engagement as the Council will continue virtual meetings through the Priority Planning Sessions.

Planning Council Year in Review FY 2020 – 2021 was presented and available in a separate document.

Recipient's Office Updates

The Recipient's Office then presented updates to the Council on the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant Guidance, the funder of Ryan White Part A Services.

- The Part A grant cycle will change application submissions to every 3 years and will affect the HIV Care and Prevention Plan that will be due in 2022.
- The Unmet Needs Framework must also be updated.
- The 2021 Partial 8-month awards will be out shortly.
- There is a joint Viral Load Suppression project that has identified 2 clinics in New Haven for 40 – 64-year old's who are not virally suppressed.
- Peta-Gaye thanked providers for submitting their RSR reports and acknowledged how complicated it was. She needs clarification from HRSA on how the data will look going forward.
- The Recipient requested that more consumers fill out the COVID – 19 Survey.

It was then shared that Nitza, long time Council Member, was leaving Community Health Services to be an Administrator of Infectious Diseases and Specialties in New Haven. She thanked the Council and the City of Hartford for the opportunity to serve and improve services. Council members congratulated her and sent her off with warm wishes.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Waiver Committee – reported that the first Core Medical Services Waiver application was rejected for missing documents and needed a vote from the Planning Council that will happen in April. Melanie questioned if the cuts to Part B was being considered. Danielle W stated that the Waiver is asking for flexibility and is based on previous Council Priorities and the formula set by HRSA. The goal would be to expand money to non-core services (i.e Emergency Financial Assistance, Psychosocial Support...). It was reminded that that agencies cannot be considered, it is by Service Categories.

Continuum of Care Committee (CoC) – continues to work on the Early Identification of Individuals with HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis (EIIHAH) Plan with recommendations from the Evaluation Committee to better collect data from agencies.

Membership Committee – reviewed updated Member Rosters and the current Reflectiveness Chart. Members were encouraged to recruit male consumers to join the Council to voice their needs. Wellness Packages were mailed out to Members. It was agreed to file a grievance with the Hartford Health Department since no appointment letters have been received from the Mayor's Office since the request was made in December 2020.

Positive Empowerment Committee (PEC) – elected Luis I as Co-Chair and revised Psychosocial Support Directives for the upcoming year. They worked on the Peer-to-Peer support timeline to include a workflow and bi-weekly trainings. They are also looking to attend or host a peer training on the injectable HIV drugs.

Evaluation Committee – reviewed the EIIHAH 2020 Plan to accurately capture data, to provide feedback and recommendations for the next plan update. Marie was also elected as a Co-Chair with Angie shadowing the role. Will also begin reviewing items for the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism.

Priorities Need Assessment (PNA) Committee – reviewed the Out of Care Survey from Early Intervention Services to adapt for the 2021 Needs Assessment Survey. Will also finalize the Non-Virally Suppressed Survey to supplement the Out of Care Survey of our Transitional Grant Area (TGA), continuing to move away from the



Statewide Needs Assessment. It was also noted that some questions were adapted from surveys out of New Haven and Yale.

Multicultural Care Team (MCCT) – hosted the Dear Black Male Workshop held by Welcome2Reality which discussed Black males today and the issues they go through in society. It was well received by participants and the MCCT looks to continue hosting educational forums.

Public Comments

- The upcoming Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium (CHPC) meeting will focus on Safe Sex and meeting attendees were encouraged to attend.
- COVID – 19 testing is being offered at the XL Center in Hartford until 8 pm.
- John from the In It to End It Campaign, thanked Council Members and meeting attendees for participating in last month's Planning Activity. Preliminary analysis of the focus groups shared that 115 people have identified 65 different strategies with the top 4 being HIV Testing, Innovation, System Improvements and Access/Education.

Other Business, & Announcements

Melanie shared that ACT is hosting their annual Red Carpet event virtually on April 25th, details can be found on their website. She also shared that Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) will be going on Prioritization Access with updated applications.

It was then announced that the April 7, 2021 Council Meeting would include breakout rooms for the Evaluation and Priorities Needs Assessment Committees. Members and meeting attendees were asked to review committee descriptions to note in the Chat Box which committee they would like to join in April. It was also announced that folks could edit their names to show which committee they would like to join.

Danielle W reminded everyone to submit their meeting evaluations, refer to the agenda for upcoming meetings and adjourned the meeting.