

RESEARCH & EVALUATION COMMITTEE (REC)

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY – MAY 19, 2020 – 3:00PM TO 5:00PM

ZOOM CONFERENCE AND VIDEO CALL

ATTENDEES/ROLL CALL					
COMMISSIONERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	MEMBERS & GUESTS	PRESENT	ABSENT
Wallace Corbett		X	Greg Dwyer	X	
Traci Dean	X		Hellen Flores	X	
Doug Fogal	X		Naomi Seiler	X	
DeMarc Hickson (Chair)	X		Krista Hein	X	
David Hughes	X				
Dennis McBride	X				
Lenora McClain	X		NaToya Mitchell	X	
Betelhem Mekonnen	X				
Ka'leef Morse	X				
Natella Rakhmanina	X				
Andrew Torre	X				
Ashley Yocum		X			
HAHSTA/RECIPIENT STAFF	PRESENT	ABSENT	COMMISSION SUPPORT STAFF	PRESENT	ABSENT
Leah Varga	X		Patrice Bailey	X	

AGENDA

NOTE: This is a draft of the May 19, 2020 Research and Evaluation Committee (REC) Meeting. The final version will be approved at the June 16, 2020 meeting and made available thereafter.

Item	Discussion
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 3:08 pm by DeMarc H. followed by a moment of silence. Attendees introduced themselves.
Review and Approval of the Agenda	Lenora M. motioned to approve the May 19, 2020 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Traci D. The motion passed unanimously.
Review and Approval of the Minutes	Lenora motioned to approve the March 17, 2020 Minutes. Dennis M. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Needs Assessment Discussion	Leah V. indicated that the REC was not able to partner with the DIS team in conducting the Needs Assessment survey because they have been detailed to the COVID-19 response. Therefore, Leah suggested that the data collected by the PS-1906 community engagement project could potentially be used for purposes of the Needs Assessment. Leah sent a table to DeMarc and Lenora



	<p>that reported quantitative data on the dates, focus populations and the number of participants surveyed. In total, 660 people were spoken to in some type of community engagement discussion. The questions were broad. Specific HIV questions were not asked to avoid receiving the usual answers which was beneficial because it responded to more than HIV (i.e. prevention). There is an inventory of questions that can be shared with the committee. Ashley Yocum will share some results of the assessment conducted in Virginia and Peter DeMartino or Fernando will share data from Maryland in order to have 3 jurisdictions represented in the report.</p> <p>Ka'leef M. indicated that HRSA has been having a call every 2-4 weeks with recipients and their planning bodies. Currently, HRSA is focusing on COVID related needs. The PSRA process is geared toward looking at designing a program for next year. Ka'leef indicated that he is concerned about whether those needs will change once COVID is gone and whether those changes will be captured. The providers have expressed a current need for access to transportation, food, telehealth capacity, and support services like groups. Ka'leef suggested waiting for the report to come out in December for the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) plan to revise PSRA plan.</p> <p>Natella R. indicated that the DC Cohort study, conducted by George Washington University, is a source of information. The study asked about current barriers to service, stigma, mental health and multiple other aspects (i.e. geographies, educational and income levels, marriage status, area of living, household composition, medical history, any complicated health conditions since March, etc.). The Cohort study is a city-wide effort to collect data from people living with HIV. The survey specifically asked to differentiate between any new barriers to service they have experienced since the start of the pandemic. Leah added that DC CFAR released a supplement that will begin June 1st and is doing research around the way COVID is impacting HIV service delivery. Therefore, there will be data available for whoever receives the funding.</p>
<p>Review of the Annual Assessment of the Efficiency of the Administrative Mechanism (AEAM)</p>	<p>Lenora led the discussion about the Assessment of the Efficiency of the Administrative Mechanism, (AEAM) which includes a Provider Survey and a Recipient Survey. One of HRSA's comments during the site visit report was that the Provider Survey was too long and it had elements out of the legislative scope. The survey began with 35 items. Lenora was able to reduce the number to 17 and finally to 9 items.</p> <p>Ka'leef recommended additional edits in accordance with the comments from HRSA that tasks were included in the survey that are not in the planning body mandate. A revised draft was posted in Basecamp. The committee reviewed and agreed with the edits. Lenora will clean up the edits and post in Basecamp by tomorrow, to have a general discussion.</p> <p>Ka'leef also provided a draft of the Recipient Survey in Basecamp. Lenora will look at the survey to edit for the June meeting.</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER DISCUSSION

Ka’leef indicated that he has heard some complaints that providers are not being client centered. Providers have some barriers such as not accepting paper prescriptions, etc. out of fear of contracting COVID. There will be money available (CARES Act funding) to Ryan White providers to adapt their systems to become more client centered in this COVID environment in terms of service delivery to the customer. The Recipient will contact providers with details.

Krista H. announced that Safeway is open with normal hours and the employees are well equipped with safeguards. She further indicated that they also offer free delivery of HIV and PrEP medications. This service will be offered in DC as long as there is a stay at home order. Maryland will begin to charge for the service in June.

Ka’leef indicated that the providers listed under LinkU should inform LinkU of any changes in operation, so their information can be updated on the LinkU website.

Andrew T. announced that Virginia ADAP has allowed uninsured clients to pick up two months of medications. State Medicaid has also made some adjustments.

HANDOUTS

- May 19, 2020 Meeting Agenda
- March 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

MEETING ADJOURNED	4:09 PM
NEXT MEETING	June 16, 2020 @ 3:00pm DC Health-HAHSTA ZOOM Conference and Video Call