

**Washington Syndemic Planning Group General Meeting**

**Notes/Minutes**

Tuesday July 23, 2024

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Conference Call

**WSPG Members Attendance:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Name** | **Present** | **Away** |
| **Ann Mumford** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Brigette Young** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Christina Jackson** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Ella Deverse** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Ernest Walker** | [ ]  | [x]  |
| **Howard Russell** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **James Tillett** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Jsani Henry** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Kathleen Wilcox** | [ ]  | [x]  |
| **Lara West** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Lisa Al-Hakim** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Mario Bañuelos** | [x]  | [ ]  |

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| **Name**  | **Present** | **Away** |
| **Nia Sipili (Fania)** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Monte Levine** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Omero Perez** | [ ]  | [x]  |
| **Ray Gregson** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Remy Styrkowicz** | [ ]  | [x]  |
| **Tamara Foreman** | [ ]  | [x]  |
| **Tyrell Jackson** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Tanaya Davis** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Victor Loo** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Walter McKenzie** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **William Harrison** | [ ]  | [x]  |
| **Yob Benami** | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **Elizabeth Crutsinger-Perry**  | [x]  | [ ]  |

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**MEMBERS of the PUBLIC PRESENT:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DOH SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT:** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **TOPIC** | **FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS** | **ACTIONS & DUE DATES** | **PERSON RESPONSIBLE** |
| I. Call to Order/ Welcome by Tri-Chairs and member check and connect (15 mins) | * Review and approve agenda.
* Community Agreements:
* Center Community
* Experience Discomfort
* Leave stories, take learnings
* Share space
* Acknowledge your impact
* Different perspectives
* “I” statements
* Expect and accept non-closure
* Welcome to new member Ray G.
 |  | James, Omero, Beth, and Starleen |
| II. DOH Program and member updates (30 mins) | * Centralized Eligibility and Benefits EIP & PrEP DAP by Martha Grimm-Client Service Manager, Office of Infectious Disease:
* Program staff include eligibility staff and benefits staff.
* Eligibility staff coordinate with clients, case mangers or partners, pharmacies.
* Benefits staff coordinates with clients, case managers or partners and contracted providers.
* Clients we serve (EIP & PrEP DAP):
* People who need access to healthcare to remove cost barriers.
* Uninsured or insured.
* Payer of last resort.
* Coordination and benefits
* Medication Cost
* Lab or medical visit
* Dental
* Mental health
* Pay premiums for insurance
* Centralized eligibility
* Ryan White and Prevention clients
* One profile/Client ID per client
* Client profiles are shared with all partners that serve that client
* Assessment of eligibility for services – 12 month eligibility- house in Provide database
* Ryan White services include:
* Part B – Case management, housing, food bank, medical transportation, mental health, non-medical case management, outpatient ambulatory, outreach services (peer navigation), psychosocial support, linguistic services, substance abuse services, emergency financial assistance.
* Early Intervention Program (EIP) – full pay or co pay prescription assistance, premium assistance, full pay or co payments for medical, labs, mental and dental services.
* Part A – Housing food bank, medical transportation, non-medical case management, outpatient ambulatory (treatment adherence), psychosocial support, substance use disorder.
* HOPWA – Housing opportunities for people with AIDS.
* Prevention Services
* Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Drug Assistance Program (PrEP DAP) – full pay or co pay prescription assistance, full pay or co pay for medical and lab services.
* Prevention services is focused on PrEP Navigation and other supportive PrEP services including but not limited to HIV&STD testing, condom distribution, healthcare navigation and coordination, and other activities to support and engage PrEP clients.
* Ryan White Clients 7,200
* EIP Clients 5,261
* PrEP DAP Clients 3,527
* Insured – 2,446
* Uninsured – 1,081
* Insurance Status – Client Services
* 65% of clients are insured (Private of Medicaid)
* 30% of clients have Medicare of Dual
* 5% are uninsured
* Viral Suppression – Clients Services
* 90% of clients are virally suppressed
* 8% of clients are not virally suppressed
* In the last 6 months:
* 7,028 clients were receiving Ryan White services across Washington
* Early Intervention Program (EIP)
* Washington State’s AIDs Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)
* Prescription Benefits
* Health Insurance Assistance
* Part B Care Medical, Dental, and Mental Health
* Rebates – Revenue Generation
* ADAPS are categorically eligible for 340B discount. WA ADAP uses the Rebate system which pays retail pharmacies a pre-determined amount at the point of sale for drugs dispensed to ADAP clients for antiretroviral therapy. This amount is higher or lower than the average manufacturer price.
* The ADAP then bills drug manufacturers for the appropriate discount amount for the number of units dispensed. For insured clients, the rebate from the manufacturer is at full cost-recovery even if only a partial claim was paid, which generates program income.
* Generating program income on insured clients ensures cost effectiveness to both expand and sustain services.
* Able to recover costs from manufacturers to give reduced costs on drugs. Put back into Ryan White services, clinic, housing, services.
* What do rebates fund?
* Medications
* Insurance premiums
* Outpatient ambulatory (medical), lab, mental health, dental
* Medical case management and support services
* Food, transportation, emergency financial assistance, outreach
* Satellite clinics
* Max clinics
* Peer navigation
* Housing
* Most of the Provide Data System
* How eligibility reaches us – looking at this differently
* Services EIP offers
* Asking clients if they are aware of all EIP services available to them
* Complete assessment of current written materials and webpages
* Inviting feedback and input
* Victor: Is substance Use Disorder not part of the coordination of benefits?
* Fania: Identifying community leaders through networking and partnering with nonprofits orgs and other leader doing the groundwork.
* Beth: Part A is King, Snohomish and Island County Ryan White program for people living with HIV.
* James: Looks like part of Part B Victor.
* Beth: Part B is funding for Ryan white that goes into the state and DOH and serves the entire state.
* Victor: I see Substance Abuse Services on this centralized eligibility slide, this term creates stigma, and it has been replaced with Substance Use Disorder.
* Beth: Thank you, Victor. Martha will make this correction.
* Starleen: EHE – Ending the HIV Epidemic.
* Beth: EHE IS Ending the HIV Epidemic funds that come from both CDC and HRSA to King County.
* Beth: 304B is a federally defined group of programs who can purchase medication at reduced cost.
* Fania: Have there been an increase in insurance enrollment WHBE’s Immigrant Health Coverage roll out since November 2023? Those premiums were so expensive.
* Martha: January of this year started to be able to provide to non-citizens. July, services expanded for folks who are non-citizen. Clients who were on EAP, 160, did transition to the expanded Medicaid for non-citizens.
* Starleen: CLAS Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services.
* Montes: What is the impact on the local case managers now centralizing?
* Martha: Previously in data system, with those different eligibility and data sets used, it brought them into one place with one client id/file. Really streamlined for case managers.
 |  | Martha |
| III. DOH/WSPG member updates (15 mins) | * Beth: In person convening Sept 8-10, 2024.
* Starleen:
* No stipend allocated for this meeting. It is optional not required.
* Will offer hybrid option if unable to attend in person.
* Form was sent out for reimbursement, travel options, and other accommodations.
* The menu will accommodate dietary needs.
* Please review in person agenda and provide feedback by July 30, 2024.
* Beth: What we are trying to accomplish is that we will be providing all meals to the group. Meaning no out of pocket costs for meals and snacks. Have purchased those. Will be provided in snack pack bag. Will have dinner available Sunday night. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner Monday. Breakfast and lunch on Tuesday. Working with folks on dietary needs. We are still working on travel pieces. The survey gave us an understanding of transportation needs and working on these, will have an update hopefully next week. Will reach out individually about this item. Airfare will be covered by DOH. This will be case by case for travel needs. More to come. Worked with hotel and booked rooms and then also will not be required to put credit card down for incidentals. Asking folks not to charge anything to room as we are providing meals and snacks. The final item to be determined is transportation. We are working on this and submitting travel requests. A40 is a form to approve travel. Will be working through all of folk’s forms. We will be working on these the next couple weeks.
* Starleen: Last year we took a group photo. Expecting to do this again this year. Vanessa has kindly agreed to take photos and will have photo release forms.
 |  | Starleen |
| IV. WSPG Community Caucuses (15 Minutes) | * James: Last year did community caucus sessions. This year we are doing another rendition for new focus groups and topics. Christina, Mario, Tamara, and I have individual caucus groups that have been sent out. Asking anyone who identify as BIPOC to please join us. It will be virtual. Want to look at how goals are impacted due to race or individuals might have harder time having goal be met when race is brought into equations. Flyer has been sent out, can reach out if you are interested. Anyone that identifies as BIPOC please join for sessions. August 7th and 9th from 5-6 pm.
* Starleen: Tamara’s piece – not being sent out via LIstServ, ended up with bots so please ask for flyer if interested. Mario is selected Afro Indigenous session. This caucus session will be held in Spanish. Columba with OID in DOH will be note taker. Will be able to translate into English with what has been shared. This will be online only. These sessions will be in the last week of July and the first week of August. Christina’s caucus is in person only at Northwest Youth Services in Bellingham. Housing Insecure Transitional Aged Youth is the topic. Tamara caucus is Holistic Care for Sex Workers. This will be in person and online.
* Christina: Mine will be the end of August on the 28th.
* Mario: Concession, August 1st via Zoom 7-8 pm, August 2nd 7-8 pm via Zoom. Both offered in Spanish with English interpretation. Will focus on accessibility, what are the programs that are offering accessibility. What programs or services are missing in community. An overall discussion of resources.
* Starleen: No restriction to attend only one, can participate in multiple. Each session will offer honorary $50 an hour via electronic gift card. Physical gift cards had too many struggles.
* Beth: Hoping maybe some could talk about last years’ experience. How is the information that you gather and insights from important groups shared or made actionable? What do we think we are going to do with the information from these caucuses?
* James: During the in-person meeting, we are going to have presentations with what we have learned, what we have heard from communities, and how it will impact our goals and the deliverability of goals. The caucuses hold space for 10 participants.
* Victor: When a session has two meetings for 1 hour each, do participants attend both or just one of the two?
* James: For each caucus lead it is how it fits around with what our schedules may be. So, for me it is very methodical for the first session the objective of going through the goals with individuals and the second is deliverability and impact received based off race.
* Chrsitina: Mine is one session because that was their availability. Working with youth so a little different.
* Mario: For me will be the same information each session. Accessibility for folks who can’t attend one can attend the other. Can attend both but will hear the same information.
* Monte: If people are having trouble getting enough members into session, maybe reach out to other members for WSPG and reach out to folks.
 |  | James, Tamara, Mario, Christina |
| V. Public Comment and other additional updates (5 mins) | * Monte: I spent the afternoon trying to see how easily I could get tested for HIV and STIs in Kitsap County. It is not very available. Quite concerned about that. Not sure if other jurisdictions are having this issue. I can go to Planned Parenthood, but fees are high. Was advised to apply for Apple Health and go to clinic. This is not helpful if trying to stop infections. Need more accessibility.
* Beth: I will follow up with Patrick Dinwiddie in OID about testing. Can he reach out to you Monte if he has any questions?
* Monte: Lisa would also be a good person to talk to.
* Lisa: Trying to get testing on mobile van for some time and happy to be part of this conversation.
* Marcelino: With Aids Healthcare Foundation. This is my first time joining. Wanted to get a better understanding of the efforts you all are leading. Tacoma Pierce county wanted to understand efforts of this group to better meet the gaps for care and how we can potentially work together for clients.
* Ann: I have worked in outreach for black communities. Want to get to know you to see how I can have an impact in my community.
* Marcelino: Would love to Ann. Want to get black leaders together to facilitate conversations around communities.
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| VI. Closing Thoughts/ Adjourn | * The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.
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 **Minutes prepared by:** Shana Ferguson

 **Minutes respectfully submitted by:** Starleen Maharaj-Lewis

 **Minutes reviewed and approved by Tri-Chairs:** James Tillett, Omero Perez,Beth Crutsinger-Perry