

Storytelling Project

Name/Initials: Saysha

Date: 12/22/2020

1) How has your life changed since March as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Saysha: I had it months ago and it was terrible. The situation I am in being without a place to live made things worse. People are scared to help you during this time. I was sad and embarrassed. I also worked during COVID in a few different jobs so that makes things harder too.

2) What were the main or most trusted sources you received information about COVID-19 from? How did you act upon the information you received? Have you developed any new sources of information?

Probably the news. I don't watch all the time but other adults are usually telling us what we should do. I didn't think I would actually get the virus but I am thankful I got better. I just pay attention more and I know to protect myself more because I would not want that again, especially because of the way people treat you.

3) What was the hardest/biggest challenge for you or your family during/amidst COVID-19?

Well, the people I stayed with at the time are related to me and the whole house went through it. One person was in ICU but he had an underlying condition already. He pulled through and is doing fine. It's been a while now. But being homeless during this time is the hardest part.

4) In what ways did you address the challenges of COVID-19? What challenges do you expect will remain post-COVID-19?

I couldn't address it really, I just feel like I was trying to survive it.

5) What are your greatest fears moving forward?

I am in a place of change now, unstable and hoping my next move will be better. I am starting to get help and I also have counseling virtually but I am struggling everyday.

6) Did you have any conversations with healthcare or other service providers about COVID-19? What did this conversation look like? Who said what

I did when I had to but that was just during treatment. I have some medical problems but that is hard to take care of when you cannot see someone or have transportation. I have a mentor who helps me but sometimes it is hard for me to take the help because I don't want to be a burden.

7) What COVID-19 resources are you aware of, or have you benefited from?

I am not sure.

8) Do you think that all communities have been treated equally during COVID? Were there populations who were favored over others?

No I do not feel they have. Communities with African Americans and others who are less fortunate need more help.

9) Who do you think was left out of NJ's emergency COVID response? Why were they left out?

Communities in need are always last to get what they need and get what's left.

10) What do you think NJ could have done better?

I don't know where to begin with that. Just more help with food and people shouldn't lose their homes.