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Meeting Minutes
INTEGRATION OF CARE COMMITTEE
Lisa Zullig and Christopher Joseph, Co-Chairs

McSilver Institute at NYU
41 East 11th Street in Room 741
October 21, 2015

Members Present: Peter Campanelli, PsyD, Amber Casey (alt. for Graham Harriman), Michael Ealy, Dorothy Farley, Christopher Joseph, Peter Laqueur (by phone), Julie Lehane, PhD, Maria Perez, Gina Quattrochi, Bobby Rallakis, Claire Simon, Brenda Starks-Ross, Lisa Zullig

Members Absent: Christopher Cunningham, Joan Edwards, Janet Goldberg, Deborah Greene, Terry Hamilton, Tracy Hatton, Daphne Hazel, Zachariah Hennessey, Jan Carl Park, David Price

NYC DOHMH Staff Present: Nasra Aidarus, Eleonora Jimenez-Levi, Nina Rothschild, DrPH

Public Health Solutions Staff Present: Andrea Feduzi, Stefani Janicki

Others Present: Danielle Ahmed, Lisa Best, Barbara Bento Fleming, Randall Bruce, Jasmine Bulusan, Maura Donohue (by phone), Billy Fields, Linda Hakim, Liz Hurley (by phone), Rob Maher (by phone), Scott Sullam

Material Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes from October 7, 2015 IOC Meeting
- Tri-County Service Directive for Housing
- Tri-County Service Directive for Medical Transportation
- Planning Council Calendar for October 2015

Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Review of the Meeting Packet/Review of the Minutes: Lisa Zullig and Christopher Joseph welcomed committee members and guests. Meeting participants introduced themselves and observed a moment of silence. Nina Rothschild reviewed the

1 contents of the meeting packet. The minutes from the October 7th IOC
2 meeting were accepted with one change for posting on the Planning Council
3 website at nyhiv.org.

4
5 **Tri-County Housing Services Directive:** Committee members and guests
6 made several comments regarding housing services in the Tri-County Region
7 (TCR), comprised of Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam Counties:
8

- 9 • TCR has two housing programs: one in Westchester (also serving
10 Putnam) and one in Rockland. Westchester's housing services program
11 is centrally located in White Plains.
- 12 • Ryan White-funded housing assistance does not count as income when
13 determining a client's eligibility for DSS. The Ryan White Program can
14 supply a letter attesting to this fact.
- 15 • Assistance can, for example, take the form of small grants to subsidize
16 utilities. Utilities are much more expensive in TCR than in New York
17 City and have increased by 21% in the last three years. Landlines are
18 considered lifelines and are also helpful for Dr. Lehane and her
19 colleagues when keeping track of clients. Cellphones are useful for
20 clients when, for example, they are waiting for transportation.
21 Additionally, TCR housing assistance can take the form of larger rental
22 assistance grants payable directly to landlords. Ryan White money is
23 paid directly to the utility company or the landlord, not to the client.
- 24 • Ryan White housing is intended to be short-term but effectively
25 becomes long-term because of the shortage of long-term available
26 housing into which clients can move. RW staff members look for other
27 ways to support clients and help them to remain stably housed.
- 28 • Ryan White money is paid directly to the utility company, not to the
29 client.
- 30 • Ryan White was intended to be a bridge to HOPWA or Section 8, but
31 the HOPWA grant has been reduced and there is no new Section 8
32 housing.
- 33 • Eleonora Jimenez-Levi of the Housing Services Program noted that 26-
34 30 households are served annually and about 50 people are on the wait
35 list.
- 36 • All features included in the NYC housing services model are included
37 in the TCR version.
- 38 • HRSA is a bit vague in its Program Monitoring Standards regarding
39 arrears.
- 40 • Ryan White money has not paid for rent arrears in years. Amber Casey
41 will check on whether money can be used for rent arrears. HRSA does
42 **not** allow use of RW funds for mortgage payments.
- 43 • Westchester has public housing and senior housing, although clients
44 with felony convictions cannot live in public housing.

- 1 • Ryan White Part A housing clients are reassessed every six months on
2 their progress toward independent living or entering a fully subsidized
3 housing program or entering senior housing if age-eligible.
- 4 • Westchester County Housing Services clients are not encouraged to
5 identify a roommate or share space with a family member because of
6 past problems with such arrangements (e.g., roommates disappearing,
7 roommates not eligible for HIV services).
- 8 • New York City HOPWA clients cannot have roommates unless both
9 roommates are eligible.
- 10 • Housing services programs should have close coordination with legal
11 services to do eviction prevention, although having a lawyer on staff is
12 not required.

13
14 **Tri-County Transportation Services Directive:** Committee members and
15 guests made several remarks about transportation services in the Tri-County
16 Region:

- 17
18 • Transportation is a dispatch service with only one full-time
19 transportation manager.
- 20 • The manager assures that the client resides in the TCR.
- 21 • If a pattern of complaints emerges about a vendor, that vendor will no
22 longer be used – but the transportation program hasn't received a lot of
23 formal complaints.

24
25 **Next Meeting:** Dr. Lehane agreed to make the changes to the draft guidances
26 for housing and medical transportation services. Committee members
27 informally approved both guidances and will formally vote on the cleaned-up
28 version at the next meeting on November 4th at 9:30 am.

29
30 **Public Comment:** No members of the public commented.

31
32 **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

33
34 **Items for Follow Up:**

- 35
36 • Amber Casey will check on whether RW money can be used for rent
37 arrears.