



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

Community Healthcare Network  
60 Madison Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room C  
May 27, 2015

**Members Present:** Peter Campanelli, PsyD, Michael Ealy, Dorothy Farley, Janet Goldberg, Deborah Greene, Christopher Joseph, Jan Carl Park, Bobby Rallakis, Brenda Starks-Ross, Lisa Zullig

**Members Absent:** Christopher Cunningham, Joan Edwards, Graham Harriman, Terry Hamilton, Tracy Hatton, Daphne Hazel, Zach Hennessey, Peter Laqueur, Julie Lehane, PhD, David Price, Gina Quattrochi, Claire Simon

**NYC DOHMH Staff Present:** Nina Rothschild, DrPH, Anna Thomas

**Public Health Solutions Staff Present:** Bettina Carroll

**Others Present:** Cathy Bowman, JD, Randall Bruce, Mary Grace Ferone, JD (by phone), Liana Fixell (by phone), Adrian Guzman, JD (by phone), Adam Halper, JD, Rick Kahn, JD, Amanda Lugg, David Martin, Tom Petro (by phone), Howard Sherwin, JD, Liliana Vaamonde, JD, Kate Webster, JD

**Material Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from the May 6<sup>th</sup> IOC Meeting
- Presentation by the Grantee on Ryan White Part A Legal Services
- Legal Services Directive Approved by the Planning Council in July 2004
- Legal Site Visits Summary
- Memo from African Services Committee to Jan Park re Ryan White Legal Services in Light of President Obama's Executive Action on Immigration Reform
- Correspondence between Members of the NYC Bar and Dr. Deborah Parham Hopson Concerning Ryan White Legal Services
- Planning Council Calendar for June 2015

**Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Review of the Meeting Packet/Review of the Minutes:** Committee Co-Chairs Lisa Zullig and Christopher Joseph welcomed attendees. Meeting participants introduced themselves. Randall Bruce led the moment of silence. Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet. The minutes from the previous IOC meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> were accepted for posting on the Planning Council website at nyhiv.org.

**Expansion of Legal Services to Include Immigration-Related Work:** Jan Carl Park asked that a copy of the letter from Public Health Solutions to current legal services providers stating that they could provide immigration-related services to PLWHA be placed in the packet for the first June meeting.

**Currently Provided Legal Services in the New York Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMS):** Grantee staff member Anna Thomas delivered a presentation on Ryan White-Funded legal services. The presentation is available on the Planning Council website.

- The NY EMA can only pay for legal services falling within HRSA's specifications.
- The RFP, which will be constructed by the grantee, must be based on the Planning Council's service directive and must be implementable.
- The majority of Ryan White clients served through this service category are male because there is more funding for legal services for women from other sources.
- Legal services is the last category for which directives will be composed separately by members of IOC and of the Tri-County Steering Committee. After this directive is complete, we will begin to construct joint directives.
- The grantee conducted informational site visits to current providers. A write-up of those visits is included in the meeting packet.

**Ryan White Legal Services Provider Panel:** Members of a panel of currently funded Ryan White legal services providers were asked to respond to a series of questions.

- No client has only one problem. More professionals and more resources are needed to address the multiplicity of issues. Providing legal services is an investment with extraordinary returns. Lawyers can help with family matters and with providing access to Medicaid and Medicare, although they have to cobble together their funding.
- The #1 need is for housing-related legal services. Finding and holding on to housing is becoming more and more difficult because of gentrification. Even East New York in Brooklyn is being up-zoned, and people have nowhere to go. Shelters are a terrible alternative

and are very expensive. Keeping people housed is less expensive than finding them new housing. Several years ago, lawyers were told that they could not use Ryan White funds to do eviction prevention – but lack of housing is the biggest barrier to everything. (*Eviction work is, in fact, allowed if it is directly necessitated by a client's HIV status.*) Many clients live in disgusting situations, but their landlords won't do repairs. If clients withhold rent because repairs aren't being made, the landlord will try to evict them.

- Providing housing-related legal services ultimately saves money for legal services and medical services. People who are housed have less need for additional services to deal with loss of benefits, custody issues, and hospitalizations.
- Offering outreach and information to case managers at provider agencies and to staff at infectious disease clinics is helpful.
- PLWHAs need lawyers when, for example, they are denied public assistance.
- Clients also confront homophobic and transgender slurs.
- Ryan White legal services funding can be used to assist transgender persons with name changes if that name change is directly necessitated by HIV status.
- Just this month, legal services providers benefited from the increase in allowable service types to include immigration-related services. Permitted immigration work includes PRUCOL – Permanently Residing Under Color of Law. If someone is PRUCOL, he or she may become eligible for HASA and for Medicaid. PRUCOL is a benefits classification, not an immigration status. It means that an individual has submitted an application and that Immigration has either consented or acquiesced to that individual's presence in the US.
- The 2012 definition of permissible services is poorly written: “directly necessitated by the individual's HIV status.” We should take the broadest interpretation possible and increase the range and capacity of services. The last letter from Dr. Deborah Parham Hopson of HRSA stated that “...the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Grantee, along with respective planning bodies, will make the final decision regarding the specific services funded under the grant.” This statement does not restrict lawyers from providing specific services, as long as the services are required because of HIV status.
- Other sources of funding for legal services for PLWHA have been reduced.
- The NY EMA struggles to fund pieces of the guidance.
- The legal services contracts are over-performing and are enhanced every year, but the extra dollars don't come until the end of the cycle.
- Legal services is the only category for which direct service providers do not have to report on all primary care status measures.

- Providers may be reluctant to take on legal issues that are not in e-Share out of concern that the service will not be deemed an appropriate use of Ryan White funds.
- Use of Ryan White dollars in cases of identity theft is a benefits-related service and may not fit into the official definition of RW-reimbursable services.
- Domestic violence/interpersonal violence were removed from the list of allowable services in 2013. A strong link, however, exists between domestic violence and HIV. Exclusion from a family home severely and negatively affects clients. Not including domestic violence services in the new directive would be irresponsible.

Follow-up is needed on issues including:

- What exactly does crisis intervention mean?
- Grantee staff will provide the IOC Committee with a service unit breakdown of the percentage of services involving PRUCOL, discrimination, permanency planning, etc. Having this information will enable IOC and the Planning Council as a whole to better see how money is being spent.

Every year, the Planning Council re-ranks the service categories – and lawyers who want to advocate for more funding for RW legal services may wish to attend the PSRA Committee and make a data-driven impassioned speech.

**Public Comment:**

- Amanda Lugg mentioned the inter-agency federal working group on IPV.
- Dr. Mary Bassett has taken the issue of IPV to heart.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.