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3 Meeting of the
4 **POLICY COMMITTEE**
5 June 6, 2008, 3:00-4:15 pm
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7 **Members Present:** Sean Cahill, PhD, Matt Lesieur (Chair), Jan Carl Park,
8 Dorella Walters
9

10 **Members Absent:** Gregory Cruz, Elaine Greeley, Paul Meissner, Darryl Ng,
11 Andresa Person
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13 **DOHMH Staff Present:** Nina Rothschild, DrPH, Anthony Santella, DrPH
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15 **Material Distributed:** Agenda; minutes from Policy Committee meeting on
16 May 2, 2008; text of S. 860 and H.R. 3326 (U.S. Senate and House bills to allow
17 states to provide Medicaid coverage for low-income HIV-infected persons);
18 text of S. 823 and H.R. 1420 (Microbicides Development Act); announcement
19 of community briefing to discuss the impact of possible changes in Medicaid
20 on medical care for PLWHAs; Special Edition NY State Medicaid Update with
21 2008-09 Budget Highlights; announcement of Policy Analysis and Advocacy
22 Training for Community-based Participatory Research Practitioners at the NY
23 Academy of Medicine.
24

25 **Policy Issues:**

26 HIV Testing: Policy Committee members discussed NYS Assembly Bill
27 A11461. Assemblyman Dick Gottfried is adopting the version of the testing
28 bill promoted by NYSDOH Commissioner Richard Daines. The Daines bill
29 provides permission for HIV testing in general consent for medical care with
30 an opt-out provision and a durable signature. Testing can be conducted in the
31 aftermath of occupational post-exposure and can take place even if the patient
32 is unconscious, dead, or has diminished mental capacity. The goal is to
33 increase the frequency of testing in order to identify HIV-infected individuals
34 and link them to treatment and care. Policy Committee members agreed to
35 update a letter submitted to Assemblyman Gottfried on A9195 (an earlier
36 version of the testing bill) and submit the letter to the full Planning Council for
37 a signature by PC Community Co-Chair Soraya Elcock.
38

39 Thirty Percent of the Cost of Housing: The Planning Council already
40 addressed letters to Assembly Member Deborah Glick and Senator Tom
41 Duane expressing support for bills in the State Legislature that would cap the

1 share of rent paid by PLWHAs at 30% and a letter to Commissioner David
2 Hansell of the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance asking him
3 to implement the 30% rule through administrative action. Policy Committee
4 members agreed that there were no further steps to be taken on this issue at
5 the present time.

6
7 Medicaid Managed Care: The structural changes to Medicaid reimbursement
8 have been passed and are law. Policy Committee members agreed to defer
9 writing a letter supporting exemption from Medicaid managed care for
10 PLWHAs.

11
12 Moratorium on Implementation of Changes in Federal Medicaid Regulations:
13 Nina Rothschild agreed to send the Planning Council's letter regarding a
14 moratorium on the implementation of changes in Medicaid regulations to Mr.
15 Lesieur.

16
17 ETHA: Matt Lesieur agreed to forward a letter concerning ETHA to Nina
18 Rothschild, who will modify it to be specific to New York.

19
20 City Coverage of the Cost of Confirmatory Western Blots: Policy Committee
21 members agreed to table this issue.

22
23 Development of Timeline: Committee members discussed the possibility of
24 producing a timeline on the Federal, State, and City budget processes.
25 Having such a timeline would highlight times when the Planning Council
26 could potentially take action supporting or opposing HIV/AIDS-related
27 budget items.

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29 **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.