



Meeting of the
NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Lee Hildebrand, DSW and H. Daniel Castellanos, DrPH, Co-Chairs

November 14, 2013
Partnership for the Homeless
305 7th Avenue in the 13th Floor Conference Room
9:30 am – 11:30 am

Members Present: Randall Bruce, Maria Caban, PhD, H. Daniel Castellanos, DrPH, Derek Coursen, Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn, Lee Hildebrand, DSW, Jennifer Irwin, Anne Lyster, Jan Carl Park, Glen Phillip, Marcy Thompson, Mary-Elizabeth Vachon

Members Absent: Angela Aidala, PhD, Carrie Davis, Terri Faulkner, Graham Harriman, Sabina Hirshfield, PhD, Natalie Humphrey, PhD, Rosemary Lopez, Frank Machlica, Tamella McCowen, Antonio Munoz, Ariel Negron

NYC DOHMH Staff Present: Amber Casey, Stephanie Chamberlin, Julie Cohen, Nina Rothschild, DrPH

Public Health Solutions Staff Present: Derek Coursen

Others Present: Billy Fields

Material Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes from the July 11, 2013 NA Committee Meeting
- List of Needs Assessment Committee Members
- Excerpt from the Planning Council Bylaws re NA Committee Duties and Composition
- Presentation on Service Impact of the FY 2013 Ryan White Budget Reductions
- Budget Reduction Frequently Asked Questions
- AIDS Institute Survey on the Impact of Federal Budget Cuts on Domestic HIV/AIDS Programs
- Planning Council Calendar for November 2013

Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Review of the Meeting

Packet: The NA Committee Co-Chairs, Drs. Lee Hildebrand and Daniel Castellanos, welcomed meeting participants. Committee members introduced themselves and observed a moment of silence. Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet.

New Member Orientation: Jan Carl Park provided an overview of Needs Assessment Committee activities and went over the information in the Planning Council Bylaws concerning the NA Committee. He noted that in the last two years, the Committee has put together a Comprehensive Plan and has been working on a formal needs assessment. That formal needs assessment now has a hard stop in February – i.e., a date by which we need to send it to the Health Resources and Services Administration. A first draft will be available for the Committee in January. Following these activities, the Committee will focus on methods of data collection.

Mr. Park also noted that this has been a very challenging year for the Planning Council. The New York Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) lost close to \$18 million from its award from the federal government. Various programs took 5% to 15% reductions, and numerous agencies had to reduce staff, implement co-pays, use sliding scale fees, and create a wait list. These challenges will continue as long as sequestration is in effect. We are already anticipating a further reduction. Mr. Park reported that he has met with legislators and that there is no indication that this situation will improve anytime soon. Other jurisdictions are approaching this situation similarly but are employing different tools.

Update on Formal Needs Assessment: Nina Rothschild reviewed the outline for the formal needs assessment. Dr. Hildebrand asked audience members whether they are aware of any qualitative or quantitative data that can complement the data already summarized by Nina Rothschild and also raised the topic of the way in which data is collected. Committee members suggested referencing the previous needs assessment (completed in 2002 and updated in 2004) in the new needs assessment – for example, pointing to priority populations identified last time and commenting on the new populations that have replaced the original priority pops, in addition to noting that new needs have emerged and are evident in the treatment cascade.

Mr. Park noted that several systems are used for data collection, including e-Share, e-COMPASS, AIRS, and CHAIN. Much of this information, such as service utilization data, is presented to the Planning Council. CHAIN is the New York EMA's longitudinal cohort study of PLWHAs. CHAIN data collection has been reduced because of budget cuts. Can equivalent data be extracted from e-Share? Making decisions about cuts is difficult, but we have to sustain a continuous flow of data to HRSA. Dr. Castellanos noted that the Department

collects a lot of data about sexual behavior and substance use and asked about the purpose of collecting the data: what does NYC DOHMH do with it?

Data: The last release of Ryan White data nationally was for 2010. HRSA is about to release data for 2011-2013, and that data might be useful to this Committee. Committee members raised a number of questions concerning data:

- What information (either qualitative or quantitative) is most useful to us and how can we get more out of what is being produced? In other words, are we maximizing our use of the data?
- How do the various information collection programs work (e.g., e-Share, surveillance data, etc.) and how is the information used to benefit PLWHA?
- What areas need additional information that can be obtained either through quantitative or qualitative data? In other words, what do we need to know that we don't already know?
- What problems are we encountering with our data collection systems? Are the data we are collecting still needed and what do we do with it? Are we collecting data that we don't even use? Who needs it and for what purpose?
- What is the appropriate balance between quantitative and qualitative data?

Public Comment: Billy Fields noted that he attended a talk regarding HIV/AIDS policy and the transition in City Hall to the de Blasio administration.