



Meeting of the  
**NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**  
Carrie Davis, MSW, and Daniel Castellanos, DrPH

December 10, 2015  
LGBT Community Center  
208 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street in Room 101

**Members Present:** Randall Bruce, Pedro Carneiro, Amber Casey (alt. for Graham Harriman), Daniel Castellanos, DrPH, Carrie Davis, Timothy Frasca, Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn, Frank Machlica, Jan Carl Park, Glen Phillip, John Schoepp, Maiko Yomogida (for Angela Aidala, PhD)

**Members Absent:** Fay Barrett, Maria Caban, PhD, Jeanine Costley, Sabina Hirshfield, PhD, Jennifer Irwin, Rosemary Lopez, Anne Lyster, Antonio Munoz, Marcy Thompson

**NYC DOHMH Staff Present:** Nasra Aidarus, Kate Penrose, Nina Rothschild, DrPH

**Public Health Solutions Staff Present:** Nagla Bayoumi, Derek Coursen

**Others Present:** Ron Joyner

**Material Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from August 13, 2015
- Planning Council Calendar for December 2015
- CHAIN Fact Sheet on HIV/AIDS, Food and Nutrition Service Needs
- CHAIN Fact Sheet on Food and Nutrition Services, HIV Medical Care, and Health Outcomes

**Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Review of the Meeting Packet/Review of the Minutes:** Carrie Davis and Daniel Castellanos 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 Needs Assessment

Committee meeting on August 13, 2015 were approved for posting on the Planning Council website at nyhiv.org.

**Planning Council Appointments Update:** Jan Carl Park, Governmental Co-Chair of the Planning Council, provided an update on the appointments process. Nine new members have been appointed to the Council including six consumers and providers from the Tri-County Region (TCR) north of New York City. The TCR Steering Committee has operated as a mini-Council, crafting directives for serving categories, contributing to the EMA's grant application, and more and is now another committee of the Planning Council. Contracts for services in the TCR, formerly administered separately from contracts for services in New York City, are now being brought under the oversight of Public Health Solutions.

**HIV/AIDS Issues:** The Planning Council and the larger HIV community in the New York EMA are confronting a number of issues:

- Hepatitis C (HCV)/HIV co-infection
- Socioeconomic vulnerabilities and disparities between resources for Ryan White clients in New York City and in the TCR. One approach to reducing these disparities would be to increase the allocation for the TCR. Currently, TCR receives roughly 4.7% of the EMA's award and provides services to roughly 1,000 RW clients.
- Homelessness and housing insecurity for people in the TCR: PLWHA are sleeping in cars and doubled up in homes.

**Half-Day Community Briefing:** The Needs Assessment Committee is developing a half-day community briefing to gather and interpret data with a focus on these pressing issues. Members of the Council and the committees will be invited. The event will take place either on February 25<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon (1<sup>st</sup> choice) or February 23<sup>rd</sup> in the morning (2<sup>nd</sup> choice). NAC members requested inclusion of the following:

- Research and service data
- A variety of perspectives
- Transgender data

To prepare for the community briefing, the NAC will meet twice in January and twice in February. Planning Council staff will send additional dates and address logistics. In the meantime, several NAC members volunteered for a conference call to plan for the event:

- Nasra Aidarus
- Randall Bruce
- Daniel Castellanos

- Carrie Davis
- Guillermo Garcia Goldwyn
- Antonio Munoz
- Jan Carl Park
- Kate Penrose
- Nina Rothschild

NAC members discussed questions for panelists and a format for the panels:

- What are the characteristics of the approximately 3,000 co-infected Ryan White clients?
- What are the barriers and successes in accessing HCV treatment? Invite an administrator to talk about the preauthorization process for HCV drugs and invite a pharmaceutical company representative – or possibly the person who makes presentations on accessing HCV meds at a pharmacy in Chelsea – to address these questions.
- How do we pay for the medications?
- Who does HCV screening, other than the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control (via prevention contracts) and IDUHA?
- Are buyers' clubs bringing in medications from other countries?
- Involve primary care providers and HIV providers in the conversation.
- Ensure that presenters and discussants have information on hand and do not reply to questions from the audience with promises to respond at a later date.
- Provide each presenter with a packet. This should help with developing a tool that is useful to other committees, including IOC, after the briefing.
- Think about 2 or 3 questions and send them to the task force for winnowing down and distributing to the panelists.
- Possible speakers on HCV/HIV co-infection: Dr. Maria Caban of BOOM!Health and Gloria Searson of the Coalition on Positive Health Empowerment.
- Identify two individuals who are very good at facilitating access to medications for co-infected PLWHA (one in TCR and one at Mt. Sinai).
- Do we have non-DOHMH sources of information for the panel on socioeconomic vulnerability?
- Consider journalists as facilitators.

**Public Comment:** Carrie Davis stated that a youth outpatient substance use treatment program will start at the LGBT Center. Drugs used by this population include crystal meth, marijuana, opioids, and alcohol. Marijuana use can pose an obstacle to youth seeking employment. Tim Frasca noted that he accompanied someone to an initial medical appointment following a positive HIV test – and the appointment was with a provider whom he met through the Planning Council. Billy Fields stated that the Consumers

Committee (CC) would like to receive charges from the NAC. Dr. Castellanos is interested in attending the CC and will discuss with Mr. Fields and with Darryl Wong, staff to the Consumers Committee, off-line. Maiko Yomogida noted that the new CHAIN cohort includes individuals as young as 18 years of age.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.