



Meeting of the
NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
Daniel Castellanos, DrPH, Chair

December 11, 2014
The Ryan Center
110 West 97th Street

Members Present: Angela Aidala, PhD, Fay Barrett, Randall Bruce, Maria Caban, PhD, Daniel Castellanos, DrPH, Carrie Davis, Timothy Frasca, Sabina Hirshfield, PhD, Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn, Jennifer Irwin, Rosemary Lopez, Frank Machlica, Jan Carl Park, Glen Phillip, Marcy Thompson

Members Absent: Jeanine Costley, Graham Harriman, Anne Lyster, Antonio Munoz, Mary Poupon

NYC DOHMH Staff Present: Stephanie Chamberlin, Kate Penrose, Nina Rothschild, DrPH, Wilbur Yen

Public Health Solutions Staff Present: Lauren Feldman Hay

Others Present: Billy Fields

Material Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes from the November 13, 2014 NA Committee Meeting
- Presentation by Stephanie Chamberlin on the Research and Evaluation Unit

Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Review of the Meeting Packet/Review of the Minutes: Committee Chair Daniel Castellanos welcomed meeting members. Participants introduced themselves. Maria Caban led the moment of silence. Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet. The minutes from the November meeting were accepted for posting on the Planning Council website at www.nyhiv.org. Daniel Castellanos explained that he is sending out a survey following each NA Committee meeting to help members decide on the deeper conversations we

need to have in order to be active participants in the work of the Planning Council.

Current Evaluation and Research Projects and Future Directions:

Stephanie Chamberlin, Senior Analyst in the Research and Evaluation Unit (REU) of the Care and Treatment Program in the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control delivered a presentation on the mission, vision, and purpose of the REU. A copy of her presentation is posted on the Planning Council website. Comments and questions included the following:

- Synergy between programs works to the Planning Council's advantage and to the grantee's advantage. Last year, for example, a subset of Needs Assessment and Consumers Committee members met with REU staff to discuss questions for a survey. Collaboration enhanced the questions.
- Given what we have already heard about data burden, what is the response rate when REU sends out a survey to providers?
- Program evaluation is about being accountable to your funder, but we also want to learn in order to improve what we are doing.
- The client satisfaction survey is a rigorous exam requested by HRSA, although HRSA does not specify how you have to collect the data.
- How is data shared with clients? In 2012, summaries were sent to providers, and providers were asked to share the information with their clients.
- To gain more knowledge about consumers, additional focus groups are planned.
- The CHORDS study reveals statistically significant improvement in viral load suppression and CD4 count in the year after enrollment in care coordination. Knowing when the full results from the CHORDS study will be available is important because the Planning Council has invested so much money in care coordination.
- The Planning Council can hire a consultant to conduct its own research. The Council can also learn from examining work completed by other EMAs.
- The Tri-County component of the CHAIN study is very important because most members of Congress represent suburban areas and are more likely to pay attention to data on PLWHA in suburbia.
- What mechanisms are in place to take advantage of the tools being developed and lessons learned? How can the Needs Assessment Committee increase its activity? If the committee can develop a well-defined question, the REU may be able to answer it.

The CHAIN Project: What It Is and What It Is Good For: Dr. Angela Aidala, Co-Principal Investigator of the CHAIN Project, discussed this longitudinal cohort study. A copy of her presentation is available on the Planning Council

website. CHAIN is a collection of information about PLWHA by topic. Interviews are a structured conversation and take about two hours. CHAIN has an 80%-90% follow-up rate and is able to learn from people who are in care and from people who are more marginal and harder to reach and distrust medical providers, often because of mental health or substance use issues. To date, CHAIN has completed approximately 8,000 interviews with 2,699 clients. Some comments and questions included the following:

- CHAIN comes out of provider and client concerns and is not physician-defined or contract-monitor-designed.
- The NAC is becoming more proactive by attending CHAIN Technical Review Team once-per-month meetings and wants to request reports.
- CHAIN is useful not just to the Needs Assessment Committee but also elsewhere in the Council's work: for example, CHAIN researchers recently produced a draft of a revised report on employment and economic well-being. This topic is relevant to the Planning Council's policy committee, whose members have begun discussing the issues for PLWHA in returning to work and confronting the possibility of losing their benefits.
- Has the Affordable Care Act affected the CHAIN cohort?
- Based on what we have seen, researchers can model some things going forward.
- This enormous data set collected since 1994 should be made available to the public so that researchers can query it, asking questions such as what percentage of participants have an MOS-SF score of xyz.

Future of the Tri-County CHAIN Project: Last March, the Planning Council passed a resolution about bringing back the Tri-County component of the CHAIN project. Tri-County is not a cohort study but, rather, is a repeated cross-section. Planning Council staff agreed to write a draft of a request to be sent to the grantee to revive the Tri-County component of the study. Committee members will review the draft in January.

Public Comment: No members of the public commented.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Items for Follow-Up: Planning Council staff agreed to write a draft of a request to be sent to the grantee to revive the Tri-County component of the study. Committee members will review the draft in January.