



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

April 14, 2016  
LGBT Community Center  
208 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street in Room 301

**Members Present:** Fay Barrett, Randall Bruce, Maria Caban, PhD, Pedro Carneiro, Amber Casey (alt. for Graham Harriman), Daniel Castellanos, DrPH, Timothy Frasca, Jennifer Irwin, Julie Lehane, PhD, Frank Machlica, Jan Carl Park, John Schoepp, Marcy Thompson, Maiko Yomogida (for Angela Aidala, PhD)

**Members Absent:** Jeanine Costley, Carrie Davis, Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn, Sabina Hirshfield, PhD, Rosemary Lopez, Anne Lyster, Antonio Munoz, Glen Phillip

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

**Public Health Solutions Staff Present:** Derek Coursen

**Other Planning Council Members Present:** Billy Fields

**Material Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from the February 11<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup> Meetings
- Template for Reviewing Transcripts from Half-Day Community Briefing
- Three Handouts for the Integrated Plan
  - Local Data and Priorities Worksheet
  - List of Figures and Tables for Epi Overview
  - Titles and Sources of Data Sources
- Planning Council Calendar for April 2016

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

**Packet/Review of the Minutes:** Dr. Daniel Castellanos welcomed meeting participants. Attendees introduced themselves. John Schoepp led the moment of silence. Darryl Wong noted that April 8<sup>th</sup> was the anniversary of Ryan White's death.

Daniel Castellanos noted that Nina Rothschild is leaving the staff of the Ryan White Planning Council and that Darryl Wong will provide support. Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet. The minutes from February 11<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup> were accepted with corrections for posting on the Planning Council website.

**Follow Up on Half-Day Community Briefing:** Daniel Castellanos will put the half-day community briefing into survey monkey format and redistribute to briefing attendees.

Committee members broke up into three groups, each focusing on one of the three panels from the briefing, to discuss and make preliminary recommendations.

#### HIV and HCV Co-Infection:

- Focus on education and advocacy.
- Post on the Planning Council website a chart listing medications, prices, and income levels required to qualify for patient assistance programs.
- Develop a webinar for consumers.
- Provide Christine Rivera, the Director of the NYS ADAP Program, with an accurate count of co-infected Ryan White clients who have no payer other than ADAP.
- The NY EMA is one of the few Part A jurisdictions in the US that gives money to the State ADAP Program. If NYS ADAP can pay for drugs such as Viagra and Cialis, why not HCV meds?
- Learn more from providers such as Tracey Griffith of Downstate about how to build skills to successfully conduct linkage and navigation.
- Contact the Fair Pricing Coalition and engage with NASTAD in conversations about how other jurisdictions afford HCV medications.
- Talk with the Ramsell Corporation, which runs California's ADAP, about how Ramsell can afford to provide the new generation HCV meds.
- Explore the feasibility of an LPAP using 340B pricing.
- Work with SEPs to encourage testing for HCV.

Grantee representative Amber Casey noted the following projects and plans for programs serving co-infected populations:

- Two webinars are being developed – one for medical providers and one for care coordinators and linkage navigators.
- Care coordination staff members are being trained in how to complete the prior approval process.
- Care coordination already allows for treatment adherence. The success of this service category in helping patients to adhere to their medication routines counterbalances the arguments by some external parties that patients with these problems will not stick to medical regimens.

### Employment:

- Allow for a longer grace period during which PLWHA who have returned to work can maintain benefits such as HASA housing.
- Provide a centralized source of information about the impact of working on benefits to address inconsistency of information across providers, and to train providers on the guidelines.
- Provide a support system, including peer assistance, to help PLWHA navigate the transition from benefits to work.
- Collect data on PLWHA who have returned to work.
- HRSA has announced that vocational therapy is a reimbursable service for someone who is working and becomes disabled.

Grantee representative Amber Casey noted that vocational therapy could be a mandatory referral type. Grantee staff member Nasra Aidarus is working on a webinar and has a work group focused on engaging consumers. Mark Misrok is serving as a consultant.

### Housing in the Tri-County Region:

- HASA does not exist in the TCR.
- HOPWA is full.
- Rockland and Putnam do not have shelters, and people are sleeping in ATM vestibules.
- Ryan White-funded housing is intended to provide PLWHA with short-term support.
- The Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Committee is recommending an increase in the Tri-County portion of the NY EMA's grant from 4.7% to 5%. The additional money should go to short-term rental assistance.

### **Next Steps:**

- Planning Council staff will edit the recommendations and send them to other committees for feedback.
- At the May meeting, committee members will begin to decide about some of the larger themes on which they're interested in working such as the integration of prevention with treatment and care.

**Public Comment:** No members of the public commented.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.