



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

June 4, 2015  
LGBT Center  
208 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street

**Members Present:** Angela Aidala, Fay Barrett, Randall Bruce, Maria Caban, PhD, Daniel Castellanos, DrPH, Carrie Davis, Timothy Frasca, Anne Lyster, Frank Machlica, Antonio Munoz, Jan Carl Park, Glen Phillip, Robert Steptoe (for Rosemary Lopez), Marcy Thompson

**Members Absent:** Jeanine Costley, Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn, Graham Harriman, Sabina Hirshfield, PhD, Jennifer Irwin, Mary Poupon

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

**Public Health Solutions Staff Present:** Lauren Feldman Hay

**Others Present:** David Martin, Maiko Yomogida

**Material Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from the May 14, 2015 Meeting
- Survey re Reports, Fact Sheets, and Half-Day Community Briefing (Length, Content, Format, Intended Audiences)
- Planning Council Calendar for June 2015

**Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Review of the Meeting Packet/Review of the Minutes:** Committee Co-Chairs Carrie Davis and Daniel Castellanos welcomed meeting participants. David Martin led the moment of silence. Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet. The minutes from the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved for posting on the Planning Council website at [nyhiv.org](http://nyhiv.org).

**Clarification of Projects:** Daniel Castellanos explained that all of the Needs Assessment Committee's projects have the same goal – namely, to increase access to and utilization of data by members of the community, including providers, and to make the data more visually appealing. In response to questions about ownership and funding, the CHAIN researchers and Research and Evaluation Unit staff and the grantee will have a conversation at the end of June with NAC leadership to clarify the role of the NAC in developing these reports and ensure that we provide guidance.

NAC members discussed the projects ahead – reports, fact sheets, and a half-day community briefing – and made the following points:

- The Planning Council needs a formal needs assessment, produced by this committee, for Hepatitis C (HCV) medications for Ryan White clients who are co-infected. CHAIN has a lot of information on HCV infection and can be helpful with this project.
- A formal needs assessment for housing is not necessary, but the topic is very important. We might want to invite the lawyers who addressed the IOC Committee as it developed a new legal services directive to speak to this committee about eviction prevention. The NY Bar Association has a subcommittee on HIV. Members of the subcommittee overwhelmingly do eviction prevention. We might also want to invite a speaker from HASA.
- The compilation of numbers – i.e., the accumulation of lots of data – does not necessarily mean that the right decision will be made. Some data collected by DOHMH doesn't address the needs of Planning Council and committee members. NAC members should advocate for gathering more data useful for our needs and for providing more visually descriptive data such as the material contributed by Committee member Frank Machlica.
- We should create a stronger link between the fact sheets that this committee will produce and advocacy. We know that data were helpful in informing advocacy around the issue of 30% of income toward rent and, ultimately, led to a policy change.
- We are missing stories from agencies, consumers, and providers. These would showcase what has been learned.
- This committee has not addressed Obamacare and the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. Some health care plans available on the exchanges do not cover HCV meds.
- We will also need to focus in the Fall on the comprehensive strategic plan for HIV when we receive the guidance from HRSA and CDC.

**Next Steps:**

- Maria Caban, who is a member of the NA Committee and works at BOOM!Health, agreed to present on one of BOOM!'s HCV programs.
- The next meeting will also include a presentation on the RSR.

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

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.