



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

July 9, 2015  
LGBT Center  
208 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street

**Members Present:** Fay Barrett, Randall Bruce, Maria Caban, PhD, Amber Casey (alt. for Graham Harriman), Daniel Castellanos, DrPH, Jeanine Costley, Carrie Davis, Timothy Frasca, Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn, Jennifer Irwin, Antonio Munoz, Glen Phillip, Marcy Thompson

**Members Absent:** Angela Aidala, PhD, Sabina Hirschfield, PhD, Rosemary Lopez, Anne Lyster, Frank Machlica, Jan Carl Park, Mary Poupon

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

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

**Others Present:** Billy Fields, Ron Joyner, David Martin, Gykyira McClendon, Kiara St. James, Maiko Yomogida

**Material Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from the June 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- Presentation on the Ryan White Services Report
- Presentation on BOOM!Health's HCV Testing Initiative
- Planning Council Calendar for July 2015

**Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Review of the Meeting Packet/Review of the Minutes:** Carrie Davis and Dr. Daniel Castellanos welcomed meeting participants. Attendees introduced themselves. Randall Bruce led the moment of silence. Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet. The minutes from the June NAC meeting were accepted for posting on the Planning Council website at [nyhiv.org](http://nyhiv.org).

**Ryan White Services Report:** Julie Cohen, who works on e-Share in the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, presented on the Ryan White Services Report, a required submission to HRSA. The presentation is available on the Planning Council website. In response to questions and comments, she made the following points:

- Ultimately, HRSA wants all Parts of the Ryan White grant to use a single data software system. Currently, NYC DOHMH uses e-Share, Part B uses AIRS, some agencies use electronic medical records, etc. This shift to a single system, however, will not take place anytime soon.
- While incarcerated, clients are considered to be unstably housed.
- Programs can enroll clients who receive services paid for by Ryan White and by Medicaid. Ryan White may, for example, pay for elements of mental health services that are not covered by Medicaid.

**Hepatitis C Testing Initiative at BOOM!Health:** Dr. Maria Caban, a member of the NAC and a Vice President at BOOM!Health, reported on a Gilead-funded Hepatitis C (HCV) testing initiative. Her presentation is available on the Planning Council website and included the following points:

- 522 individuals underwent testing, and 12% screened positive.
- We don't know the precise number for whom this was the first time testing positive, but testing was new for many.
- Currently, all participants in BOOM's services are offered HIV and HCV tests, but HCV was not part of the package in 2013.
- 43% had a history of incarceration.
- Health navigation has been growing: 32 were referred to medical care, 11 were engaged and retained in care, and 20 refused services.
- The 11 individuals who were engaged and retained in care already have providers.
- Participants did quite well with keeping medical appointments once they were linked, but linkage may take almost a year. A year, however, is less than the 18-month average in the US.
- Even when they learn about treatment options, some candidates for treatment may not feel ready because, for example, their housing is unstable.

**Needs Assessment Committee Planned Products:**

- Dr. Castellanos stated that he would meet with Planning Council and with Care and Treatment staff next week to map out the human resources and funding available to support the products (reports, briefing documents, and a half-day community meeting).
- Jennifer Irwin inquired about a timeline/deadline for the products. The proposed needs assessment for HCV medication should be finished by

the end of summer/early fall so that IOC can begin designing a service model in the Fall.

- Another potential product for the NAC is the new comprehensive plan, with a guidance jointly developed by CDC and HRSA. The NAC co-wrote the last comprehensive plan with the grantee. This time around, the City may work closely with New York State. Roles and contributions have yet to be fully mapped out.

**New Business:**

- Glen Phillip inquired about a cure for HIV infection. What are we doing to achieve that end? By law, Ryan White funding cannot be used to conduct research toward a cure; rather, it can only be used to pay for treatment and care services.
- Timothy Frasca raised the issue of the temporary closing of the Health Department's STD clinic in Chelsea. Annually, there are usually 20,000 visits. Are those visits in fact taking place elsewhere at other City clinics, or are people simply not going for care because it is not readily accessible or because other clinics are overflowing with clients?
- People are being offered HIV tests in urgi-centers but may decline because they don't want to be billed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting:** Needs Assessment Committee members agreed to skip the usual summer recess and meet in August and September.