



Meeting of the
NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

H. Daniel Castellanos, Dr.PH & Carrie Davis, Co-Chairs

October 10, 2017, 9:30AM -12:00AM
LGBT Center, 208 West 13th St.

By Conference Call – 1-866-213-1863, Access Code 3587454#

Members Present: H. Daniel Castellanos, DrPH (Co-Chair), Carrie Davis (Co-Chair), Fay Barrett, Mark Brown, Billy Fields, Timothy Frasca, Jennifer Irwin, Carol Kunzel, PhD, Jan Carl Park, Saul Reyes, John Schoepp, Maiko Yomogida

Members Absent: Angela Aidala, Randall Bruce, Derek Coursen, Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn, Graham Harriman, Ron Joyner, Rosemary Lopez, Frank Machlica, David Martin, Ruben Rios-Vergara, Marcy Thompson

NYC DOHMH/PHS Staff Present: Cristina Rodriguez-Hart, Darryl Wong

Others Present: Angela Arias, Desire Bundy, Paul Carr, Roger Steptoe

Materials Distributed:

- Meeting Agenda
- 7/20/17 Meeting Minutes
- Community Briefing Summarized Key Points
- Calendar

Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Review Of The Meeting Packet/Review Of The Minutes:

Co-Chair Carrie Davis opened the meeting with introductions. *Mr. Fields* led us in a moment of silence. *Mr. Wong* reviewed the meeting packet with the committee and the minutes were approved.

Committee Business

The Needs Assessment Committee meeting time was discussed. A discussion was held to determine the best schedule, and a preference for 9:30-11:30 was expressed.

Transitional Care Coordination & the Portfolio

Transitional Care Coordination was discussed in the Needs Assessment Committee (NAC) at the end of the last planning session due to the possibility of the directive being cut from the portfolio. *Mr. Parks* explained the nature of the program: it is for persons experiencing homelessness/unstable housing. Last planning session, the NAC met with providers who explained some of the issues with how services are required to be provided. There was also

a larger question of whether or not TCC should be absorbed into Care Coordination due to the shrinking Ryan White (RW) budget. Clients are frequently graduated too early, according to providers, as providing housing in NYC is extremely challenging.

The grantee has let Planning Council (PC) know that abolishing TCC is no longer on the table, which was initially what drove the NAC to study the program. *Ms. Davis* suggested that the service directive should be further explored to understand its value and what changes can improve the program.

In the future, budget cuts are going to force an examination of the portfolio overall, and what services should be cut. *Mr. Park* discussed the possibility of moving funding out of ADAP to continue to sustain the portfolio as long as possible.

Mr. Carr asked if cuts to ADAP in the Part A portfolio would impact Part B services. *Mr. Park* noted that Part B's award is \$300 million, with matching funds received from the state. ADAP is the second largest part of the NYC Eligible Metropolitan Area's (EMA's) Part A portfolio. For Part A to fund Part B is unusual - most councils do not send money to Part A. ADAP does help absorb carryover, which minimizes unspent dollars. *Mr. Park* suggested that we look at this issue further in light of the need to keep other programs whole.

Ms. Davis suggested that the discussion of the budget and the ADAP allocation happen in the larger Planning Council meeting, and that the NAC focus on tying tie up the Transitional Care Coordination (TCC) conversation.

Mr. Frasca noted that it is important for the NAC to focus on when and what categories/directives are to be eliminated, as it is the mandate of the committee to determine if there is a need, or if that need has been eliminated. He also noted that the process by which the information finally came to the NAC during the planning session, seemed backwards, since the conversation was started in the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA) committee, instead of the NAC.

Mr. Castellano brought up several points:

- The process by which information is shared between committees and how decisions are made needs to be examined and probably revamped.
- Better coordination is needed between committees
- The Needs Assessment Committee should not be bypassed
- The mission of NAC needs to better focused and to direct the PSRA process with evidence based research and data
- As part of the larger body, the NAC needs to play a larger role in how funds are allocated and prioritized

Mr. Brown has seen TCC really help people. He sees the actions of PSRA with regard to fielding the cutting of funds for that service directive as an overreach.

Community Briefing: Developing Recommendations

Ms. Davis shifted the discussion to the housing issues presented in the Community Briefing. *Mr. Carr* noted that there is a lack of accountability. Based on his conversations with people in the program, people are treated poorly and disrespected.

Mr. Castellano asked what recommendations should come out of this process, and that the NAC look at why money has not been allocated to Tri-County, as the NAC had recommended. (Not mentioned: this was due to a cut in the overall funding – the money for Tri-County was dependent on a larger allocation overall)

There is a need to know how many people have need – what the waitlists look like – in order to do some forecasting on what the need is going to be. *Ms. Davis* suggested the development of a housing cascade – so that we can see where we are and figure out how to narrow the gaps.

Mr. Fields asked us to look differently at housing - landlords are no longer interested in housing programs – they are looking to make the most money possible, and that is pushing people out of housing that used to be available.

Mr. Castellano suggested we create a framework outlining the steps that lead to stable housing in addition to develop a housing cascade. Our recommendations can look at closing the gaps, including looking at discrimination. Following is a summary of points from the discussion:

- People are being placed far away from where they access services – this impacts their health
- How are oral health needs being met (Dr. Kunzel)
 - A lot of discrimination and stigma
 - Part F funds oral health – it is not in the portfolio. We should explore the need and the discrimination in that realm – do we want to add a service category?
- How do we understand the housing need when it isn't being counted (many programs do not keep wait lists)
- Are all of the consumers in need of housing actually ready for housing
- People are withholding transportation assistance and using them as incentives – how is this helping people get to their homes.
- Tenants' rights are being disrespected
- What defines stable housing? And what does that mean to clients?
- How are clients resolving their housing needs? Many have found solutions
 - Need to hear from clients not providers
- There is a reduction of buildings available for housing
- There is need to build housing so that the rent can be controlled – the numbers don't add up when looking at need versus market rates.
- A lot of the mentioned issues are outside of what Ryan White funds can do – we have \$10 million to provide housing
- Dan Teitz has left HASA – we should invite the next HASA Director to come and talk
- Previously, legal services were enhanced to deal with evictions
- Many housing challenges remain unaddressed in Tri-County
- Necessary to be realists.
- Necessary to think about influx of people due to natural disasters, such as Puerto Rico
 - Ryan White has waived any requirements to assist people from PR to access services.
 - Monitoring the situation

During the next meeting we will develop next steps. The conversation about the importance of TCC is still on the table.

Safe Injection Sites

We continue to lose a dozen people every day in NYC to overdoses. We are awaiting a mayoral study on safe injection sites – but it won't be released until after the election. Many cities across the country are passing legislation to legalize safe injection sites. Linda Rosenthal has proposed a bill to legalize safe consumption sites in NY. *Mr. Carr* says that SIFNYC has been meeting on this topic, and he will try to get information on the next meeting. Stigma will be one of the biggest hurdles to getting the bill passed. *Mr. Carr* mentioned that he and Ms. Balovlenkov (co-chair, Consumers Committee) put together a document on safe consumption needs, which includes a recommendation for safe consumption sites.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM