



Meeting of the
NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

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

April 13, 2017, 9:30AM -11:30AM
LGBT Center, 208 W 13th St, Rm 301

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

Members Present: Carrie Davis (Co-Chair), Fay Barrett, Lisa Best, Randall Bruce (Consumer At Large), Maria A. Diaz, Billy Fields, Timothy Frasca, Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn, Jennifer Irwin, Ron Joyner, Frank Machlica, Glen Phillip, John Schoepp, Robert Steptoe, Marcy Thompson, Maiko Yomogida, Ph.D.

Members Absent: H. Daniel Castellanos, DrPH (Co-Chair), Angela Aidala, Ph. D., Pedro Carneiro, Jeanine Costley, Ph.D., Sabina Hirshfield, Ph.D., Julie Lehane Ph.D., Rosemary Lopez, David Martin, Jan Carl Park, Mary Poupon

NYC DOHMH/PHS Staff Present: Nasra Aidarus, Nagla Bayoumi (PHS), Jose Colon-Berdecia, Laura Hernandez, Melanie Lawrence, Katherine Penrose, Cristina Rodriguez-Hart, Darryl Wong

Materials Distributed:

- Meeting Agenda
- 3/9/17 Meeting Minutes
- Community Briefing Program with Agenda & Speakers

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/MOMENT OF SILENCE/REVIEW OF THE MEETING PACKET/REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:

Co-Chair *Carrie Davis* opened the meeting. *Mr. Parks* reminded us of the importance of icebreakers as an opportunity to get to know each other. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and to express a gratitude/sharing moment. A moment of silence followed after which the minutes were approved. *Mr. Parks* asked that a new item, New Business, be included in the agenda in the future. The meeting packet was introduced by *Ms. Lawrence*. *Mr. Wong* noted a correction to the listed address on the draft flyer for the Community Briefing included in the packet.

2017 COMMUNITY BRIEFING:

GOAL STATEMENT:

Ms. Davis opened the discussion about the upcoming Community Briefing and the need for a goal statement. *Ms. Lawrence* asked that we develop a coherent statement for use on the website and other media for the event. *Mr. Parks* gave background on

the previous year's community briefing, explaining how the briefing was used to develop recommendations which were then enacted by the council. He reviewed what we know about housing for PLWHA, and the need to deepen community knowledge through education as well as discuss how to expand opportunities for housing.

Ms. Davis noted that the second paragraph of the invitation letter was a good starting place for fleshing out the mission statement for the event.

This year's briefing examines housing programs for New Yorkers Living With HIV/AIDS in a challenging funding environment; looking at government-funded programs, identifying unmet housing needs of PLWHA and preparing for what the future holds for housing services among this most vulnerable population.

Ideas for the goal statement were discussed: using the briefing for education and dissemination; forecasting; planning; to assess the current state of housing resources; to understand how people are working together to create a strategic plan; what silos are out there; the need to acquire housing that is safe and habitable; the extent of landlord abuses; educating the community on what safe and adequate housing looks like; highlighting what recourse people have when housing rights are violated; highlighting issues in tri-county and how can that region be helped; understanding that stability is critical for PLWHA; assessing where the pockets of greatest need are and figuring out how to put resources in those areas; noting that no other part of the country contributes part A money to part B; the reality of cuts on the horizon – the president has proposed cuts of 18% - and how the expense of warships dwarfs the expense of caring for people.

Mr. Parks reminded the committee about the resultant funding commitments for housing that were made to Tri-County based on last year's briefing (\$400,000). That money has been held up because the allocation is dependent on funding levels. The Council is yet to receive their full fiscal award. There is still a possibility that the award will allow for that allocation. There is also the possibility that some funding will be redirected from ADAP.

Mr. Wong asked *Mr. Parks* to discuss opportunities for planning council members to advocate for needs. *Mr. Parks* explained the process: The Needs Assessment committee (NA) identifies a need; it then goes to the Integration of Care committee (if it has to do with the way services are delivered), it then it goes to the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA) committee, who develop the budget, and decide what can be cut to fund the identified need before it goes through the final two committees: the Executive Committee and full Planning Council where it must be approved. Few people in the Needs Assessment committee are at the table in PSRA. There should be people from NA who are part of PSRA in order to advocate for identified needs, such as the 20 homeless families in Tri-County. Part of the problem is the lack of a full award, and part is the lack of representation of NA at PSRA.

Ms. Davis asked that we table that particular discussion (with regard to funding allocation) to another meeting to ensure that it has the proper time and space to happen.

Mr. Steptoe addressed the issue of persons with housing needs often being relocated long distances from their support system and medical care.

Ms. Thompson noted that HASA has changed from “HASA for All” to “HASA Expansion” – and services are being rolled back from all PLWHA to only certain people – and the importance of getting clarity on that.

Ms. Thompson asked if there is a forum that brings together all housing organizations that work with PLWHA? *Ms. Davis* noted that that would be a great recommendation to come out of the briefing.

Ms. Davis drafted a statement based on everyone’s comments (which was edited and later sent out to committee over email). *Mr. Parks* defined the community briefings as one-off needs assessments that help the committee look at emerging issues. *Ms. Davis* noted that the briefings help expand sources of data that are available to the committee.

DEVELOPING GUIDING QUESTIONS:

Ms. Davis explained the agenda for the day and the invited speakers. *Mr. Garcia-Goldwyn* expressed concern that the speakers were not all confirmed only ten days before the event. The format of the program was discussed, including the reduction of people per panel for the 2017 briefing. The panelists had been asked to present for 10 minutes each - for a 30 minute total – and with 30 minutes remaining for audience questions. An outreach table will be available for organizational info. Evaluation will be available by paper and online. The schedule for the program was discussed, and an agreement was made to start at 9am, with the first panel starting at 9:15am.

Ms. Diaz asked about the inclusion of legal services to better assist consumer needs. *Ms. Davis* noted that that is not the focus of the briefing. *Mr. Parks* noted that two of the panelists are lawyers and will be able to address such questions.

Ms. Lawrence proposed we break up into groups, but *Mr. Schoepp* noted that the process would be redundant. The group voted to stay in one group to develop guiding questions.

The following guiding questions were developed from the discussion:

Panel 1: Housing for People Living With HIV/AIDS: Government Services

- Dan Tietz, Chief Special Services Officer, NYC Human Resources Administration
- X. Pamela Farquhar, Director of Housing, Housing Services Unit, Division of Disease Control, Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Jan Carl Park, Director, HIV Health & Human Services Planning Council of New York

Guiding Questions for Panel 1:

1. What is the capacity for your budget? How many people are you serving?
2. Can you quantify the unmet need? What do the waitlists look like?
3. How cost efficient are services? For example: what are the costs of an SRO versus other forms of housing?
4. Because the city owns a lot of abandoned lots and has a workforce – why can't these spaces be used to build housing for the public good?
5. Discuss policy with regard to housing the poor – what are the eligibility requirements; how does the limiting of HUD impact housing access and availability; what are the implications of changing HASA for All to HASA Expansion?
6. How are programs falling short? What is the true need, in terms of resources, to ensure that all HIV+ people with a need for housing have that resource? That all people with housing needs are supplied?
7. What are the eligibility requirements and do they truly speak to the need?
8. What is the true capacity of each housing program you administer? And how does that dictate funding limits for people with HIV/AIDS?

Panel 2: Housing for People Living With HIV/AIDS: Assessing Unmet Need

- Angela Aidala, Co-Principal Director and Study Director of the Community Health Advisory & Information Network (CHAIN) Project, Columbia University
- Ginny Shubert, Cofounder and Vice President of Research, Housing Works
- John Rojas, Board Member, National AIDS Housing Coalition

Guiding Questions for Panel 2:

1. What can solve these issues?
2. How can the application process be made easier? Where are the barriers?
3. Are agencies turning away people who have need because they are “not sick enough”?
4. What kind of need are you seeing among different vulnerable populations?
 - a. What kinds of different needs do you see different populations experiencing?
5. What is the impact/availability of non-traditional housing resources, i.e. sweat equity, Habitat for Humanity?
6. What kinds of tools have been developed to assess need? How responsive are they?
7. What does your research not cover? Where should the research be going?
8. How are we going to meet the needs of anyone else considering the political climate?
9. In 2-3 years what kind of need will PLWHA be experiencing?

10. What do we need to do to ensure services?
11. How are landlords circumventing housing mandates?

Panel 3: Housing for People Living With HIV/AIDS: Trends & Forecasting

- Jason Walker, HIV/AIDS Organizer, Voices Of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-NY)
- Dawn Douglas-Blackburne, Director of Housing, AIDS Center of Queens County
- Michael Earhart/Angela Delgado, CAMBA [Invited]

Guiding questions for Panel 3:

1. In ten years what will the housing (need, access, availability) landscape look like?
2. What are the barriers that you can identify, and how should we move to address these now and in the future?
3. Is apartment sharing viable (for people with similar backgrounds, etc.)
 - a. How many PLWHA are currently in those living situations?
 - b. Can you speak to HASA's program offering this?
4. Where are policy makers on the local level?
 - a. Who are the movers and shakers?
 - b. Who do we need to put pressure on?
5. What are your recommendations for moving forward?
6. What about the undocumented who are unable to afford rent?
 - a. What services are available for them?

Ms. Davis noted that because the meeting is so short, even with the addition of new business, it would be better to reach out and try to have the item included in the agenda so that appropriate space can be made for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Community Briefing should be ongoing and regular and the next briefing should be about immigration.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30AM