



## **Consumers Committee Meeting Minutes**

December 16, 2009 1:30 – 3:15PM

Housing Works, 57 Willoughby Street, Brooklyn, NY

**Members Present:** Victor Benadava (Co-Chair), John A. Eddie (Co-Chair), Felicia Carroll, Kareem Clemons, Gregory Cruz, Gerald DeYounge, Munying Hunt, Linder Ford, Keith Kaiman, Glen Phillip,

**Members Absent:** Brent Backofen, Billy Fields, Myron Gold, Escott Solomon, Marcelo Soares, Ed Viera, Jr.

**Guests Present:** Ronald Brown, Randall Bruce, Yves Gebhardt, Delores Henley, Sammy Lewis (LTI), Mallory Marcus, Manny Rivera, Joseph Sellman

**DOHMH:** David Klotz

### **Meeting Materials Distributed:**

- November 18, Draft Meeting Minutes
- Rules of Respectful Engagement
- Presentation on Comprehensive Strategic Plan
- Revised CAB effectiveness survey questions

## **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Victor Benadava and John Eddie welcomed participants, followed by member and guest introductions, the moment of silence in memory of Dennis deLeon, the Rules of Respectful Engagement and a review of the agenda and meeting materials.

The minutes from the November 18, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

## **UPDATE: COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HIV/AIDS SERVICES 2009-11**

DOHMH staff Jessica Wahlstrom gave a presentation on the implementation of the EMA's Comprehensive Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS Services. She provided background on the development of the plan, which the Consumers Committee participated in. She gave an overview of the elements in the plan, including the three main parts: 1) Where are we now?, 2) Where do we want to go (goals & objectives), and 3) How will we monitor our progress?

The Planning Council and its committees will use multiple data sources to monitor the implementation of the plan, including surveillance data, CHAIN reports, quality management data and the Medical Monitoring Project. The next steps for the Consumers Committee are to look at the needs of at-risk populations known to delay testing and entry into care. Data will be

presented that the Committee can use to look at barriers to testing and entry to care and why some groups have higher rates of concurrent HIV/AIDS diagnoses.

There were questions on what CHAIN is (a longitudinal cohort study of a representative sample of PLWHA). Comments from Committee members included the need to focus on barriers to testing, and a concern that the work plan for the Committee was not discussed with the chairs or members in advance.

### **CAB EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY**

The Committee reviewed the revised questions for the CAB effectiveness survey, as per the comments at the previous meeting. The Committee made the following additional changes:

- Add a question at the top on what the CAB is called (Client, Consumer or Community AB)
- Question 6 (strategies to promote participation on CABs) should include retention.

Other comments stressed the importance of CABs having guidelines for all aspects of their functioning, from recruitment to conflict resolution. There was concern raised about consumer apathy and ways that agencies discourage participation. The goal of the survey is to get baseline data on how CABs are functioning, which can be taken back to DOHMH and Public Health Solutions in order to ensure consumer input, and promote accountability and compliance from agencies.

### **COMMUNITY UPDATES**

Gerald promoted participation in the City's annual homeless census (HOPE) and the NYCAHN awards dinner. Sammy promoted the January LTI trainings (there was a concern that trainings conflict with Council meetings, which Sammy will bring back to the LTI staff). John said that the 2012 International AIDS Conference will be in Washington, DC and that PLWHA should already begin thinking about our participation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Manny stressed the importance of keeping the PLWHA Advisory Group as a forum for input open to all PLWHA to express themselves informally, independent of the professional class.

Gerald stressed the need for everyone to work together.

Linder reported the wonderful news that she has been declared cancer-free.

Glen reported that the State is seeking input on the use of Part B funds.

John noted the funeral for Dennis deLeon.

Yves reported that the Census Bureau is hiring and that Gov. Paterson signed the 30% rent cap bill.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.