



CONSUMERS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 20, 2012, 1-3:30PM

NYCDOHMH, Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street, Room 18-25,
Long Island City, NY

Planning Council Members Present: Victor Benadava (Co-Chair), Gregory Cruz (Co-Chair), Randall Bruce, Deborah Marcano

Planning Council Members Absent:, Victor Alvarez, Felicia Carroll, Gerald DeYounge, John Eddie, Steve Hemraj, Rev. Keith Holder, Muying Hunt, Hilda Mateo, Pastor Jerome Payne

Community Members Present: Billy Fields, Yves Gebhardt, Mallory Lowenstein, David Martin, Jacqueline Williams

DOHMH: Darryl Wong, Nina Rothschild, DrPH

MEETING MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

- Meeting Agenda/Planning Council Ground Rules of Respectful Engagement;
- April 18, 2012 & May 23, 2012 Draft Meeting Minutes;
- What is the future of the Ryan White Program? Matt Lesieur, HIV/AIDS Community Teach-In, June 2012;
- HRSA Announcement: Public Input Sought on Ryan White Reauthorization;
- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Solicitation of Comments, Federal Register, 5/2/12, Vol 77, Issue 85;
- Ryan White Program Solicitation of Comments Form, Regulations.gov;
- Health Care Reform in Your State: Making It Work for People with HIV, 4/26/12, HIVHealthReform.org;
- Summer State Decision on Essential Health Benefits for PLWH, 6/14/12, HIVHealth Reform.org
- Assessing Essential Health Benefits for People with HIV in Proposed State Plans, 6/12/12, HIVHealth Reform.org;
- 2009-12 Comprehensive Strategic Plan Evaluation Summaries;
- Challenges to the ACA & The Supreme Court, HCFANY, June 2012;
- Listing of Speak-Out Venues re: ACA Ruling, HCFANY;
- Policy Update, 6/8/12, AIDS United;
- Heart Trouble Early and Often in HIV Patients, 6/18/12, New York Times;
- Delivering Culturally Competent Care to the Young Adult Patient, June 2012, HRSA CARE Action;
- Positive Voice, Vol. 3, Issue 6, June 18, 2012, National Association of People with AIDS,
- Year 2013 Full HIV Planning Group Membership Announcement, NYCDOHMH;
- Invitation to 7/11/12 Faith Forum, Faith In Action, NY; and the
- June 2012 NY HIV Planning Council Meeting Calendar.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Gregory Cruz and Victor Benadava, Co-Chairs opened the meeting. Yves Gebhardt Carroll led the Committee in a moment of silence, Gregory reviewed the agenda and Darryl Wong reviewed the meeting materials. Because the meeting was sparsely attended and there was a lack of quorum, the minutes of the April & May meetings could not be approved.

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION : WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE RYAN WHITE PROGRAM?

Darryl presented an overview of the Ryan White Program, providing an historic summary of the Act, its funding history, the different parts and recent changes in legislation during previous reauthorizations.

It was noted that because the current year is an election year, there is considerable bipartisanship and a lack of willingness to compromise, despite recent scientific studies indicating that anti-retroviral therapy can greatly reduce infectivity and result in lower community viral load. The treatment cascade was explained, showing that only 39% of those infected have suppressed viral load.

The basic components of health care reform/Affordable Care Act were reviewed, highlighting that an estimated 50-70,000 New York residents will become newly eligible for Medicaid as a result of Medicaid expansion, in addition to 250,000 individuals participating in State Insurance Exchanges. As a result, there will be significant movement of PLWHAs into some level of insurance coverage, resulting in improved care for many people.

The options for continued funding of Ryan White were explored: reauthorization, extension, or no activity. The benefits and disadvantages of reauthorization were explored and the legislative process was reviewed. The option of simply extending the Act, through a continuing funding resolution, was also discussed.

HRSA – RYAN WHITE REAUTHORIZATION STAKEHOLDER INPUT PERIOD

The announcement from HRSA seeking input from stakeholders by July 31 from individuals, as well other stakeholder groups, including grantees, was presented. Consumers were urged to submit their individual perspectives on the value of Ryan White services and how these services have benefitted consumers. It was noted that the Policy Committee will be meeting on June 26 and consumers were encouraged to attend, in order to strategize with the Policy Committee, which is charged with developing a letter on behalf of the Planning Council in support of Ryan White reauthorization or extension. The need for non-core services for PLWHA to support and facilitate treatment adherence was highlighted and the need for a coordinated statement to convey synergy was articulated.

BOROUGH UPDATES: HIV NETWORKING ACTIVITIES/PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Staten Island CARE Network will meet on 6/25 from 1-3PM at the Staten Island LGBT Center and the Manhattan HIV CARE Network will meet on 7/11 at Sisterlink on West 127th St, NY, NY. The stop & frisk policy which can result in arrests for solicitation for individuals carrying condoms was noted as an inconsistency in City policy. A community forum on 6/28 will be held at Hunter College from 6-9PM to discuss this issue. There were no public comments. Members were informed that the Supreme Court ruling on the ACA is expected within a week.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM.