



CONSUMERS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Housing Works, 57 Willoughby Street, 2nd Fl. Conf Rm., Brooklyn, NY

Planning Council Members Present: Victor Benadava (Co-Chair), John A. Eddie (Co-Chair), Felicia Carroll, Kareem Clemons, Gregory Cruz, Gerald De Younge, Yves Gebhardt (alt. for E. Viera, Jr), Munying Hunt, Glen Phillip

Planning Council Members Absent: Brent Backofen, Alexander Hardman, Steve Hemraj, Keith Kaiman, Hilda Mateo, Pastor Jerome Payne.

Community Members Present: Ronald Brown, Manuel Ducret, Linder Ford, Myron Gold, Delores Henley, Brenda Hopkins, Ron Joyner, Joseph Ogun D.V., Juanita Owens, Joseph Sellman, Ross Singletary, Marcelo Soares, Escott Solomon, Robert Steptoe

DOHMH: Rafael Molina, Jan Park, Darryl Wong, Alan Neaigus, Ph.D., Julie Petrie

Meeting Materials Distributed:

- Draft Meeting Agenda for January 20, 2010
- Planning Council Ground Rules of Respectful Engagement
- Planning Council Ground Rules for Public Comment
- December 16, 2009 Draft Meeting Minutes
- January 2010 HIV Planning Council calendar
- Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) – Preliminary Findings from the 2007 survey
- Ryan White Title I Desktop Reference Guide (excerpts)
- Draft CAB effectiveness survey – original & revised with track change comments
- NYCAHN Update on 30% Rental Cap
- NYCAHN January 2010 Update on Mandatory Medicaid Managed Care Expansion
- AIDS Watch January 2010 issue – Governor’s 2010-11 Executive Budget
- BLCC National Black AIDS Awareness Day
- NYSDOH 2010 Statewide Hepatitis C Conference – Strategies for the New Decade
- NYSDOH 2009/10 Dental Resource Directory for PLWHAs
- NYSDOH, [AIDS Institute Resource Directory](#), December 2009
- NYCDOHMH List of Ryan White Part A Care Coordination Contractors
- NYCDOHMH HIV Epidemiology & Field Services, [Semiannual Report](#) (Jan 2008- Dec 2008)
- NYCDOHMH Fall/Winter 2008, [The Bronx Knows Update](#)
- NYCDOHMH City Health Information, [HIV Prevention & Care](#), January 2010
- NYCDOHMH City Health Information, [Improving Medication Adherence](#), July 2009
- Project ACHIEVE, [Growing Older with HIV](#), Fall 2009 Quarterly Newsletter,

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Victor Benadava welcomed participants, followed by the moment of silence (led by Linder Ford) and the Rules of Respectful Engagement and Rules for Public Comment (read by V. Benadava). Gregory Cruz moved that the Rules for Public Comment be accepted for the day's meeting; the motion was seconded and carried. Darryl Wong reviewed the meeting agenda and meeting materials. The minutes from the December 16, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

CITY, STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAM, POLICY & PLANNING UPDATES:

Jan Park reported that the Planning Council met in a Special Session in early January, where a decision was reached to direct \$3MYN in accrued MAI funds to the NYSDOH ADAP program. These funds resulted from the synchronization in MAI and Base-funded Part A services. At the full Planning Council meeting to be held on January 21, updates will address the NYCDOHMH HIV Epidemiology & Field Services Program epi/surveillance activities, the CHAIN project with respect to new & emerging issues and the Planning Council Board of Directors Resolution. The Needs Assessment Committee will be looking into immigrant populations, with recommendations to address the needs of documented and non-documented foreign-born individuals, as well as AOD and substance using populations and their HIV/AIDS treatment issues. The Policy Committee will be discussing the newly-released Governor's budget. The Rules & Membership Committee continues its work on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Integration of Care Committee will be examining Harm Reduction programs as the Care, Treatment, Housing program begins its work on the new RFP.

COMMUNITY UPDATES:

D.Wong announced that subsequent to the White House-sponsored nationwide community listening sessions, the Call to Action will reach its next milestone – the development of a “12 point” blueprint/strategic plan by March 31. Participants in the NYC community forum reported that recurring issues included PWAs over 50 years of age and housing. Linder Ford suggested that PWAs should be re-framing their perspectives of the services that are available, as opposed to exclusively focusing on what is not available.

MEDICAL MONITORING PROJECT (MMP):

Dr. Alan Neaigus and Julie Petrie of the HIV Epidemiology & Field Services Program presented preliminary findings from the 2007 NYC sample:

- THE MMP utilizes a probability survey format, based on locally & nationally representative cross-sectional samples which permit statistical inferencing;
- The 2007 MMP Sample includes data from an analysis sample of 279 patients, culled from completed interviews of 305 patients, who were randomly chosen from a larger sample of 800 patients;
- 71% were >40Years, 74% were male, 39% were black and Hispanic, respectively, 48% identified as heterosexual, 40% homosexual, 70% were US born and 51% had some college education;
- The median year of HIV diagnosis was 1997;
- 1/3 of the sample was given an AIDS diagnosis, while 2/3 were not;
- 11% had CD4 counts less than 199, while 58% had undetectable viral loads;
- However, nearly 18% did not know either their CD4 counts or viral loads;

- 94% of participants had seen a healthcare provider in the past 12 months;
- Hispanics used the Emergency Room most frequently;
- Mental Health counseling, HIV Case management and social services were among the most needed services;
- 50% reported using alcohol;
- 77% of men reported being sexually active, 66% of whom had sex with men;
- 57% of women reported being sexually active, 87% of whom had sex with men;
- Nearly 50% of sexually active males having sex with males had unprotected anal sex , while of those males having female sex partners, 22% reported unprotected vaginal sex;
- Among sexually active females, those with male sex partners reported vaginal sex (91%), with 38% reporting unprotected vaginal sex.

Comments from the groups included objections to the use of the term “other”, which imply numbers too small to measure, despite current data which indicate otherwise, e.g., over 50 and APIs.

CAB EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY DISCUSSION

D. Wong reported that Dr. Mary Irvine provided input on the previously revised draft survey questions regarding CAB effectiveness, which appear as “Red lined, track changes” in the version distributed today. He also reported on the Bureau’s intention on distributing the CAB effectiveness survey through the list-serve, maintained by Public Health Solutions, of the contractors funded by Part A. Comments relate to each question as it appears in the track-change survey (for further detail, refer to document under see Meeting Materials distributed).

Comments from the group include:

- CAB participants do not uniformly have access to issues or processes which might inform their responses to the questions;
- the answers derived from the survey might be subject to respondent bias;
- both the CAB Community Chairs/Co-Chairs and the Agency CAB Coordinator should receive the survey;
- members of the Consumer Committee should assist the point persons at each CAB to be surveyed, although it is resource intensive;
- the information gathered from this survey will help inform the recommendations of the Consumer Committee on CAB operational and logistical guidelines;
- inquire who is completing the survey and the method used to determine the responses, and then take a sample of completed surveys and check with individual CAB members for verification;
- require that both the CAB Chairs and the Agency CAB Coordinator complete the survey;
- the entire CAB membership should be queried and not individually designated point persons.

Mr. Wong requested that the Committee respond with final comments on the formatting of the survey by Wednesday, February 3, 2010.

Marcelo Soares proposed a motion that an Ad hoc Committee, within the Consumer Committee, be created to develop guidelines to assist agencies in creating and maintaining their own CABs. The motion was seconded. G. Cruz suggested that creating another Committee will derail the efforts made thus far. The vote was taken, (1) in favor, (9) opposed, (1) abstention. The motion does not carry. J. Park suggested that we should consolidate the information on CABs that exists nationally to help inform the Committees recommendations.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

The ACTG in Haiti, which comprises 1000 members, has lost 3 identified individuals as a result of the devastating earthquake. Logistics, housing, treatment and care remain a huge challenge. The 30% rent cap will be signed by Governor Patterson when it is presented to him.

Yves Gebhardt shared a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King:

“The urgency of the hour calls for leaders of wise judgment and sound integrity—
Leaders not in love with money, but in love with justice;
Leaders not in love with publicity, but in love with humanity;
Leaders who can subject their particular egos to the greatness of the cause!”

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.