



CONSUMERS' COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
LGBT Center, 208 West 13th Street, Rm 101, NY, NY

Planning Council Members Present: Katrina Balovlenkov (Co-Chair), Billy Fields (Co-Chair), Randall Bruce (Consumer At Large), Lisa Best (TCSC), Paul Carr, Maria Diaz (Co-Chair, TCSC), John Schoepp,

Planning Council Members Absent: Jesus Maldonado, Saul Reyes, Carlos Rosario, Kim Watson

Appointed Community Members: Mark Brown, Ron Joyner, David Martin, Brittany Moseley, Glen Phillip,

Guests: Yvette Allen, Leon McCutcheon, Javin

NYCDOHMH: Jose Colon-Berdecia, Darryl Wong

MEETING MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

- Meeting Agenda & Rules for Respectful Engagement;
- December 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes;
- NY EMA Quality Management Program/Domains for Quality Management;
- NY HIV Planning Council January & February 2017 calendar;
- Consumers' Committee December 2016 Meeting Evaluation Results; and
- Consumers' Committee January 2017 Meeting Evaluation.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/REVIEW OF MINUTES

Billy Fields and *Katrina Balovlenkov*, Committee Co-Chairs, opened the meeting. A moment of silence was observed in her memory. The Rules of Respectful Engagement and meeting materials were reviewed and the December 2016 meeting minutes were accepted, with a typographical error noted, as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maria Diaz announced that VOCAL is arranging buses to Albany for Legislative Awareness Day from Yonkers and Mount Vernon on Tuesday, January 24. *David Martin* announced the availability of an advocacy training on January 19 at 224 West 57th. *Paul Carr* announced that GMHC will also be sending a bus to Albany on the 24th as well as a bus to Washington, D.C., for the Women's March on January 21.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF 2017 CONSUMER AT LARGE

Darryl Wong re-visited the role of the Consumer At Large, noting that this seat, along with the two Co-Chairs, represents three votes in Executive Committee actions. By attending the Planning Council's other monthly committee meetings, the Consumer At Large represents the voice of consumers at these meetings, as well as acting as an important information conduit from the other committees back to the Consumers'. Nominations apply only to full Planning Council members. *John Schoepp* nominated *Randall Bruce* and *Billy Fields* and *Katrina Balovlenkov* nominated *John Schoepp*.

It was noted that *Mr. Bruce's* appointment to the Planning Council will expire in August 2017, at which time he will be forced to retire from the Planning Council for at least one year. Because we have received appointments from the Mayor late in the year, usually November or December, the year of service actually turns into a six month term (December through August). *Mr. Bruce* suggested that there be an election in July 2017 at the conclusion of his term. A motion was made and seconded to

postpone the election until the July 2017 meeting. **The committee voted to hold the Consumer At Large election in July with Mr. Bruce maintaining his position until that time.** *Mr. Bruce* was thanked for his continual service to the Planning Council and the Consumers Committee.

CONSUMERS COMMITTEE BROCHURE RE-DESIGN UPDATE

Mr. Wong circulated a second revision to the narrative, reflecting edits from the Division of Communications from the NYCDOHMH. Members were asked to review this new version for a few minutes before commenting. The group was reminded that we are not compelled to accept the changes as suggested and that the feedback was offered without expectations to accept the new version. Comments from the group included:

- The emphasis on engaging consumers into the Consumers Committee is missing;
- The newer emphasis is top down, starting with the Planning Council, filtering down to the Consumers Committee;
- This is a consumer-driven, consumer- focused initiative which subliminally reduces the role and existence of consumers as the priority focus;
- The perspective of lived experience as consumers with HIV/AIDS has been de-emphasized;
- It is the impression that the DOHMH changes reflect edits from the original brochure, not from the Committee's revision;
- This work was done with good will on both sides even though the results are not what was expected;
- The latest version is watered-down and does not reflect the passion that is brought to the discussion;
- The edits may have been motivated by brevity;
- All those interested in tightening up the language should contact Katrina Balovlenkov by COB January 20;
- Next steps should be to investigate the graphic /design possibilities available through the DOHMH.

PLANNING COUNCIL UPDATES

- *Jose Colon Berdecia*, Planning Council Outreach Coordinator has been visiting graduates of The Positive Life Workshop (TPLW) with the AIDS Service Center/Alliance for Positive Change, The Latino Commission on AIDS and The Family Center. He is also working with the ETE borough based workgroups. Members are encouraged to approach those in their professional/personal circles who may be interested in becoming active in HIV/AIDS planning. The Peer Network of NY was offered as a potential source of candidates.
- We have just received notifications from the Mayor's Office regarding new Planning Council member appointments; all recommendations have been approved: Matt Baney, Billy Fields, Zak Hennessey, Freddy Molano, Jan Hudis and Saul Reyes. New appointments include Paul Carr, Joe Blaz Bush, Donald Powell and Bobby Rallakis. The Executive Committee will soon consider mid-year appointments to replace those members who have resigned due to poor attendance.
- With respect to consumer involvement in Quality Management, the various domains of QM were briefly reviewed; it was reported that the history of Community/Consumer Advisory Boards (CABs) in NYC represents a large investment in ASO agency time and staffing and that to date, the benefits have been marginal. Members are asked to think of additional, viable alternatives to real-time feedback mechanisms for consumers for the February meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT/NEW BUSINESS/BOROUGH UPDATES/ADJOURNMENT

A glossary of acronyms was requested. Many consumers have no idea that CABs exist at the agencies where they receive services. Women & AIDS Awareness Day is approaching in March. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20PM.