



CONSUMERS' COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
LGBT Community Center, 208 West 13th Street, Rm 101, New York, NY

Planning Council Members Present: Billy Fields (Co-Chair), Randall Bruce (Consumer At Large), Lisa Best, Maria Diaz, Antonio Munoz, Saul Reyes, John Schoepp

Planning Council Members Absent: Katrina Balovlenkov, Altirik Harper, Harry Jackson, Jesus Maldonado, Carlos Rosario, Kim Watson

Appointed Community Members: Yves Gebhardt, Glen Phillip

Guests: Mark Brown, Paul Carr, Lawrence Francis, John Goodman, Maiko Yomogida, Winston Wynter

NYCDOHMH: Nina Rothschild, Darryl Wong

MEETING MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

- Meeting Agenda & Rules for Respectful Engagement;
- January 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes;
- Minutes of the Needs Assessment Committee, 1/14/16 and 1/26/16;
- ETE NYS Regional Discussions - Upper Manhattan Regional Meeting, 9/21/15;
- 2015 Blueprint – Upper Manhattan Region Report, 9/21/15;
- ETE NYS Regional Discussions – Lower Manhattan Regional Meeting, 9/22/15;
- 2015 Blueprint – Lower Manhattan Region Report, 9/22/15;
- HIV Infection, Risk, Prevention & Testing Behaviors among MSM, National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS), 2014;
- Behavioral and Clinical Characteristics of Persons Receiving Medical Care for HIV Infection, Medical Monitoring Project, US 2013 cycle (June 13 – May 14), HIV Surveillance Report, No.1;
- Cuomo's Proposal Seeks Confidentiality for Minors with HIV, NY Times, 2/11/16;
- Gov. Cuomo Announces Proposal Increasing Access to HIV Treatment for Teens, NYS, 2/11/16;
- NYCDOHMH HIV/AIDS Bi-Weekly Update, 2/8/16;
- Consumer Committee January & February 2016 Meeting Evaluations; and
- February & March 2016 HIV Planning Council Calendars.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/REVIEW OF MINUTES

Billy Fields, Co-Chair of the Committee opened the meeting, followed by participant introductions. He led the group in a moment of silence in honor of those struggling and those who have passed. *Katrina Balovlenkov*, Co-Chair, was unable to attend the meeting due to a security incident at her agency's site. The group reviewed the Rules of Respectful Engagement and *Darryl Wong* reviewed the meeting agenda, meeting packet. The January 2016 minutes were accepted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION OF ETE RECOMMENDATIONS: UPPER & LOWER MANHATTAN:

The Upper and Lower Manhattan Regional Discussion Groups and ETE Blueprint Regional Reports were distributed to committee members in advance of the meeting in order to facilitate an efficient and comprehensive review of the best practices, needs and gaps and pursuant recommendations

contained in the reports. While the development of the CDC/HRSA Integrated Prevention and Care Plan is moving forward, Ms. Sandra Houston, the consultant retained by the NYSDOH AIDS Institute has expressed willingness to meet with the Consumers Committee and its leadership at the March 2016 meeting. Several consumers expressed concerns that the review of borough-based recommendations would be difficult and not informed by lived experience if they were to be asked to review recommendations for services in a borough in which they did not reside or seek services. Consequently, reports for Upper & Lower Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and the Hudson Valley were distributed to members residing in those areas, with an average of 4-5 individuals reviewing each borough's recommendations. It was agreed that an organizational tool would be distributed to members in order to facilitate borough by borough comparisons of needs, gaps and recommendations.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY BRIEFING/FEEDBACK ON PANEL QUESTIONS

Committee members were reminded that the Needs Assessment Community Briefing will take place at the NYU Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, Rm 914, on Tuesday, February 23 from 9AM – 1PM. Dr. Nina Rothschild, staff to the Needs Assessment Committee, introduced the community briefing agenda and corresponding questions to be posed to the panel members. Consumers were given the opportunity to provide additional input and feedback to the questions. In response to the HIV/Hep C Co-infection panel, members suggested that patient education on HCV re-infection (Question 2b) and physical and psychological side effects of HCV medications (Question 4b) be addressed.

With respect to socioeconomic vulnerability/employment and economic well-being, the impact of juggling medical appointments, especially for newly-hired employees who may not have paid leave, may affect health status. There is a lack of clear and consistent information addressing the economic impact of earning a stipend or salary and the impact on Social Security benefits, Social Security Disability Insurance, and for NYC residents, HASA housing. Employment discrimination was also highlighted as an area for additional discussion. It was suggested that questions be more inclusive by including HIV+ transgender individuals in the larger, overall grouping of HIV+.

The third panel will address housing issues across the NY EMA, with an emphasis on the Tri-County region. Although emergency rental housing can address some needs, the overwhelming need is for permanent, stable housing which can help support positive health outcomes. In particular, more specific information regarding client eligibility guidelines, depending on region, is needed. It was also noted that some HASA programs and private landlords do not, in reality, offer any apartments to "program" participants.

NEW BUSINESS/BOROUGH /NETWORK UPDATES:

Yves Gebhardt noted that the Manhattan HIV Care Network will be meeting on Wednesday, February 17. Mark Brown noted that many groups will be participating in AIDS Watch in Washington, D.C., on March 1. Scholarship opportunities were distributed through the GMHC Action Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT/NEW BUSINESS/BOROUGH UPDATES/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM.