



CONSUMERS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

BOOM!Health Harm Reduction Center, 226 east 144th Street, Bronx, NY

Planning Council Members Present: Billy Fields (Co-Chair), David Martin (Co-Chair), Randall Bruce (Consumer At Large), Carlos Rosario, Kim Watson

Planning Council Members Absent: Lotus Blackman, Altirik Harper, Harry Jackson, Jesus Maldonado, Antonio Munoz, Lazara Paz-Gonzalez

Appointed Community Members: Ron Joyner, Glen Phillip

NYCDOHMH: Darryl Wong

MEETING MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

- Meeting Agenda/Planning Council Ground Rules of Respectful Engagement;
- January 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes;
- HRSA Notice of Grant Award;
- NYCDOHMH Grantee Report;
- Letter to Lyndel Urbano, Community Co-Chair & the HIV Planning Council from G. Harriman & Mary Irvine, PhD., NYCDOHMH;
- 2014-15 Consumers Committee Member Contact Information;
- January 2015 Meeting Evaluation;
- March 2015 Planning Council Meeting Calendar; and
- Poz Magazine, March 2015.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/REVIEW OF MINUTES

Billy Fields and David Martin, Co-Chairs of the Committee opened the meeting, followed by guest introductions. Glen Phillip led the group in a moment of silence in support of those who have struggled with HIV/AIDS, including Victoria Hammond and Rafael Molina, who has recently been admitted to a re-hab facility. The Rules of Respectful Engagement and the meeting agenda were reviewed. The January 2015 minutes were accepted as presented, with a recommendation that only those materials relating to Ryan White Part A services be reviewed at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Periods I & II):

Comments from several clients of Boom!Health include:

- There is a need for integrated, congregate housing and other entitlement/support services for Boom!Health clients;
- What does the Planning Council actually do? Who is Ryan White? What changes have resulted in NYC as a result of the Consumers Committee and the Planning Council?
- What is HASA doing? Other ASOs receive more funding and provide fewer services and there are many unmet needs;
- A “HASA For All” meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26 at City Hall;
- What is being done to address the housing needs of Hep C positive clients?
- Why has the Planning Council and its committees not been in the Bronx recently?
- There are illegal and unmonitored SROs in the community with unsafe living conditions?
- Clients need to be a part of this process to have their needs addressed ;
- Lack of awareness about Ryan White Part A services;
- Bringing the knowledge of the process to the affected-community is vital;

- Back to work and vocational training/incentive programs are needed to successfully engage clients who are ready to go back to work; there are monetary needs associated with participation;
- Does Ryan White provide funding for the transgender population?

PLANNING COUNCIL/CONSUMER COMMITTEE UPDATES:

In response to the above questions, Mr. Wong outlined the overall mission of the NY HIV Planning Council and the roles and responsibilities of the consumers participating in the Consumer Committee. It was noted that there are sometimes areas in the broader landscape of the HIV/AIDS service continuum which do not fall directly under the aegis of the Planning Council. However, the Policy Committee often addresses policy issues impacting direct services for clients, through educational presentations and letter writing, which may be in the form of sign on letters.

The structure of Ryan White funding was briefly reviewed, calling attention to services like ADAP, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, and the difference between core, medical services and non-core, supportive services. The importance of the consumer voice was underscored and participation in the local agency CAB was strongly encouraged. Several examples were cited of substantial and meaningful input provided by consumers to the other Planning Council committees. Mr. Bruce, as the Consumer at Large, explained that his role is to attend other Planning Council committee meetings and bring back developments in those committees to the Consumers Committee for review, feedback, input, and decision-making, i.e., voting, if applicable. Co-Chair Billy Fields urged consumers to exercise their voices, which by default, when absent, remain silent. Another focus of community planning with PLWHAs is empowerment and knowledge and skills-building so that informed decision-making can prevail. The roles of community advisory boards (CABs), patient satisfaction surveys and the Medical Monitoring Project were reviewed as examples of how community input is gathered and used in programmatic development and decision-making.

It was announced that the New York EMA was granted the first portion (80%) of its annual funding, with the remainder to be announced early summer. As the nation's largest grant recipient of Ryan White funding and the epicenter of the AIDS epidemic, New York continues to be a model of treatment and care services, especially with PREP and PEP being introduced to communities practicing high-risk behaviors.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15PM.