



CONSUMERS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 17, 2010, 1:00 – 3:00PM

Public Health Solutions, 40 Worth Street, Conf Rm 5.2/5.3, New York, NY

Planning Council Members Present: Victor Benedava, Kareem Clemons, Gerald DeYounge, Munying Hunt-Chena, Keith Kaiman, Glen Phillip, Ed Viera, Jr.

Planning Council Members Absent: Brent Backofen, Felicia Carroll, John-Anthony Eddie, Alexander Hardman, Steve Hemraj, Hilda Mateo, Pastor Jerome Payne

Community Members Present: Randall Bryce, Gregory Cruz (Consumer At Large), Linder Ford, Yves Gebhardt, Myron Gold, Delores Henley, Ron Joyner, Marcelo Soares, Joseph Sellman, Escott Solomon.

DOHMH: Rafael Molina, Darryl Wong

Meeting Materials Distributed:

- Draft Meeting Agenda for March 17, 2010;
- Planning Council Ground Rules of Respectful Engagement/Rules for Public Comment;
- January 20, 2010 Draft Meeting Minutes;
- February 25, 2010 Draft Meeting Minutes;
- Ballot for Consumer Representatives Election to the Board of Directors Resolution Planning Council Task Force;
- Online Registration Form, NYC DOHMH Division of Health Promotion & Disease Prevention, Bureau of Tobacco Control, Nicotine Patch & Gum Program;
- Recommendations & strategies to President Obama on National HIV/AIDS Strategy; and
- 2009-10 Consumer Committee Contact Sheet

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Victor Benadava welcomed participants, noting the lack of quorum. Glen Phillip led the moment of silence and Ron Joyner reviewed the Rules of Respectful Engagement and Rules for Public Comment. Darryl Wong reviewed the meeting agenda and meeting materials. The minutes of the January 20, 2010 and February 28, 2010 meetings were reviewed and approved. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is currently being reviewed by the NYCDOHMH Office of Legal Affairs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gregory Cruz made a motion that conference call capability be made available at all future Consumer Committee meetings to allow for maximum community participation. However, the limitations of such arrangements were articulated, particularly in the case of confidentiality, voting/roll call votes. The motion was seconded, but the vote was tabled until a quorum was present [*Note: The motion passed at the end of the meeting, when quorum was reached*].

Marcelo Soares asked for clarification on the 2009-10 Consumers Committee Contact Sheet and the relative numbers of Planning Council Committee members and Community Members. The attendance poll of appointed members will be discussed at the next Rules & Membership

Committee meeting and follow-up action will be undertaken for members violating attendance rules.

CAB EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY UPDATE:

In reference to the CAB Project, the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention & Control's Research & Evaluation Unit has committed to work with the Consumer Committee later this Spring/early Summer. In the interim, the notion of community members who are familiar with the CABS and the staff involved at many HIV/AIDS ASOs serving as liaisons between NYCDOHMH and the agencies in facilitating contact information was well-received.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLANNING COUNCIL TASK FORCE

At the March 8, 2010 special election, Ron Joyner and Gregory Cruz were elected as the Consumer Committee's two representatives to the Planning Council Task Force. There was agreement that the election's results would need to be ratified, even though that election lacked quorum by one member. Since one vote (Ed Viera) was invalid, due to his lack of formal appointment to the committee at the March 8 election, the motion was made to re-conduct the election at the today's meeting. The motion passed (14 in favor, 2 abstentions) and the new election proceeded.

Given quorum (16 members), a call for nominations for the representatives to the Board of Directors Task Force, the following individuals were nominated and presented a 2 minute candidate statement, followed by questions from committee members:

- *Gregory Cruz* (by L. Ford) noted the lack of consumer mobilization and advocated for a comprehensive and fair-minded approach to consumer representation, stated his view of the role of the consumer as not to dictate but to act in concert with community and governmental partners by allaying the fears of the provider community and supported the need for fiduciary responsibility in selecting representatives to the Board.
- *Ron Joyner* (by self) emphasized the need for consumers to support each other in all areas of the planning process, suggested that mandated consumer involvement could be included in new contract language for the new service categories to be re-bid and that the CABS should be forwarding their internal candidates, based on competence and experience.
- *Marcelo Soares* (by J. Sellman) advocated for the consumer in playing an active and credible role in the governance of agencies where PLWHAs seek their services and supported re-framing the inclusion of PLWHAs as a benefit to CBOs and ASOs in their programming; representatives should be knowledgeable and be chosen by their peers to speak for them.
- *Myron Gold* (by self) emphasized his experience in serving as Chair on many boards and as a consumer advocate through outreach; nominations for representatives must come from consumers.
- *Linder Ford* (by M. Soares) noted that, as a woman of color, she would be the face of AIDS for those who have forgotten what the daily struggle of living with HIV/AIDS represents; the representative should be chosen from the CAB but might also come from the agency management/staff.

The two elected representatives for the Consumer Committee to the Board of Directors Planning Council Task Force Resolution are **Gregory Cruz and Linder Ford**.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

APPROVED March 17, 2010 Consumer Committee Minutes

M. Gold reiterated his complaint that of inappropriate treatment by a NYCDOHMH staff member.

Escott Solomon announced that the Profile Conference will be taking place on March 26, 2010

Yves Gebhardt noted that the calendar for the Manhattan HIV CARE Network and Consumer Involvement Committee was available.

Victor Benedava announced his appointment to the Community Advisory Group of Public Health Solutions and sought input from Committee members on issues or concerns that need to be voiced.

Joseph Sellman announced that there will be a panel of the National Action Network conference on April 16.

Gerald DeYounge, reported on the activities of NYCAHN.

Marcelo Soares announced that there would be an Immigration rally in Washington, DC on March 21; Y. Gebhardt noted that there would be 30 buses, provided by HAF, from NYC. The Early Treatment for HIV/AIDS Act (ETHA) was not included in the Health Care Reform bill.

The Planning Council will be held on March 18 and the Advisory Group on March 20.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.