



## **CONSUMERS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 28, 1:00 – 3:00PM

LGBT Center, 208 West 13th St., Room 410, New York, NY 10013

**Planning Council Members Present:** Victor Benedava (Co-Chair), John-Anthony Eddie (Co-Chair), Kareem Clemmons, Gerald DeYounge, Keith Kaiman, Glen Phillip

**Planning Council Members Absent:** Brent Backofen, Felicia Carroll, Alexander Hardman, Steve Hemraj, Munying Hunt-Chena, Hilda Mateo, Pastor Jerome Payne

**Community Members Present:** Gregory Cruz (Consumer At Large), Linder Ford, Yves Gebhardt, Myron Gold, Juanita Owens, Ron Joyner, Marcelo Soares, Joseph Sellman

**Guests:** Ruben Carrasquillo, Alan Perez

**DOHMH:** Darryl Wong

### **Meeting Materials Distributed:**

- Draft Meeting Agenda for April 28, 2010;
- Planning Council Ground Rules of Respectful Engagement/Rules for Public Comment;
- March 17, 2010 Draft Meeting Minutes;
- AIDS WATCH, Health Care Becomes the Law of the Land, March 30, 2010, Vol 2, Issue 3;
- HRSA/HAB Policy Notice#10-02, Eligible Individuals and Allowable Uses of Funds for Discreetly Defined Categories of Services, Summary of Changes Effected April 8, 2010;
- HRSA/HAB Policy Notice 10-02, Eligible Individuals and Allowable Uses of Funds for Discreetly Defined Categories of Services;
- AIDS WATCH, April 26-28, 2010, The Nation's largest annual constituent-based Federal HIV/AIDS advocacy event;
- AIDS WATCH, Telling Your Story;
- New York AIDS Coalition, Press Release – *New York AIDS Coalition Applauds Governor Patterson for Signing Landmark Healthcare Legislation, March 17, 2010*;
- New York AIDS Coalition, Press Release – *Senate Passes Landmark Bill to Prevent Homelessness Among People with HIV/AIDS, April 27, 2010*;
- FY 2010 Ryan White Supplemental Base Award;
- Comprehensive Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS Service, Baseline Data (2008), Mary Irvine, Research and Evaluation Unit, HIV Care, Treatment & Housing Program, NYCDOHMH;
- NY HIV Planning Council Bylaws, amended 1/21/10;
- CC Special Election March 8, 2010 notes;
- White House Office of National AIDS Strategy Conference call, April 9, 2010;
- White House Office of National AIDS Policy, Community Ideas for Improving the Response to the Domestic HIV Epidemic, April 2010;
- 2010 Presidential Advisory Council in HIV/AIDS, Membership List;
- Ryan White Community Advisory Board (CABs) and HIV Care Services Monitoring,

Rick Goldfarb, HIVCS/Public Health Solutions, April 28, 2010 presentation;

- April & May 2010 NY HIV Planning Council Meeting Calendars;
- 2010 NY HIV Planning Council Membership Application;
- With AIDS, Time to Get Beyond Blame, NY Times, April 19, 2010

## **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Victor Benadava welcomed participants. Kareem Clemmons led the moment of silence and John-Anthony Eddie reviewed the Rules of Respectful Engagement and Rules for Public Comment. Darryl Wong reviewed the meeting agenda and meeting materials. The minutes of the March 17, 2010 meeting were reviewed, with minor corrections, but approval was deferred until quorum was reached.

## **PLANNING COUNCIL/FEDERAL, STATE & CITY UPDATES:**

D. Wong reported on the calendar of Planning Council meetings during April and May, noting that the next Priority Setting/Resource Allocation meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2010, where a second follow-up discussion will take place to address service categories and the spending plan for the FY 2010 Base and MAI awards, which overall received a net gain of \$9.4 million. Gerald DeYounge noted the continuing need for food pantries, Myron Gold shared that between 3500-4000 patients are currently receiving services from the outpatient clinic at St. Vincent's Hospital and that other facilities are increasing their capacity to serve these patients, if necessary, and Gregory Cruz sought clarification on allowable services (including legal services on page 6, Item 11) as articulated by HRSA in their recently-released guidance and the potential cuts to the Leadership Training Institute (LTI), which is currently funded by Ryan White. Marcelo Soares referenced the resolution of the PLWHA Advisory Group from March 20, at which the AG urged the Planning Council to consider additional funding to the housing, food/nutrition and legal services categories and proposed that a similar resolution be considered by the Consumer Committee. The motion was made, seconded and passed.

The White House Office of National AIDS Policy convened a conference call in April and released a report documenting the findings from the 14 nationwide community meetings held last fall.

The NYC Comprehensive Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS Update for 2009-12 was briefly referenced, with attention to the five main goals of the plan. M. Soares inquired if the PowerPoint version of this presentation would be available on line or through a webinar format.

AIDS Watch 2010 materials were included for review, including guidelines for effective advocacy and the change in NYS laws re: decision-making for domestic partners and the 30% rent cap was addressed through NYAC press announcements.

## **RYAN WHITE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS (CABs) & HIV CARE SERVICES (HIVCS) MONITORING:**

- Rick Goldfarb, from HIV Care Services of Public Health Solutions delivered a PowerPoint presentation of CABs and the monitoring process. He noted that consumer involvement was mandated federally by HRSA, but that NYC has taken it a step further by requiring CABs of all funded contracts. It was noted that:
  - There are different structures of CABs, depending on where the programs operate, i.e., ASOs, hospitals or multiple service social service agencies/CBOs,
  - There are variable attendance requirements and staffing patterns,

- Submission of CAB meeting minutes is part of the contracting process and is therefore not public information,
- Language or guidance regarding bylaws, structures or operating procedures for CABs is absent,
- CAB members should direct their grievances with the agency first,
- Since 2008, HICVS has received (3) grievances related to CABs, of a total of (12), from one organization,
- The CAB monitoring process is an internal one, performed by HIVCS staff,

Feedback from committee members include:

- Different types of CAB structures contribute to divisiveness and lack of continuity,
- There are anecdotal reports that active CABs are not universally implemented, and
- Grievances may not be handled internally to the satisfaction of the grievant.

D. Wong reported to Mr. Goldfarb that individual contact information for agency & CAB staff would be very useful to the committee during the initial outreach stage of the CAB effectiveness project. The status of this request will be reported to the Consumer Committee at the May 2010 meeting.

#### **CAB EFFECTIVENESS PROJECT 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. The hiring process for a staff person to work with the committee is underway; there will be further input on survey design, implementation issues and development of recommendations as the project moves forward. 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.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Gregory Cruz announced that he has learned that the LTI initiative has been cut by 66% and made a motion *that Part A funding for the LTI initiative be maintained and/or increased, rather than decreased, to levels that provide the LTI capacity to develop training and technical assistance to HIV+ consumers and those affected by HIV to the NYC HIV Planning Council, Committees, PLWHA Advisory Group, which would also include PLWHA empowerment and community involvement trainings, in addition to the re-development of the present NYC HIV Planning Council series.* He underscored the need for training opportunities that will support empowerment of PLWHA. Joe Sellman added that the HIV Care Networks should weigh in on this issue and Marcelo Soares voiced his concern that future LTI trainings may be targeted only to Planning Council members and not the affected community at large. Ron Joyner reminded the Committee that without the power to override the purview of the NYCDOHMH in self-directing administrative funds (10% of the grant award after the Tri-County allocation of 4.9%) which include Grantee Administration, Planning Council Support and portions of Planning & Evaluation and coordinated Ryan White data systems, that this discussion was futile. The motion was seconded and the vote was taken; the motion passed unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The NY State Senate voted, 42-19, to supporting the 30% rent cap and efforts are underway to assure the sign off by Governor Patterson. On May 11, there will be a Brooklyn tour of homes & condos. The Manhattan HIV Care Network Consumer Involvement Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 18

at 158 E.115 St, from 3-5PM. It was announced that Mallory Marcus' mother passed away. GMHC may be moving its headquarters at the end of the month. The NYS Advisory Group supported the change in definition of HIV disease so that HIV+ individuals can access housing services, such as HASA, without an AIDS diagnosis. There will be an immigration rally on Saturday, May 1.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT