



CONSUMERS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 3, 2011, 1-3PM

NYCDOHMH, Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street, Room 19-28, Long Island City, NY

Planning Council Members Present: Victor Benadava (Co-Chair), John A. Eddie (Co-Chair), Felicia Carroll, Gerald DeYounge, Alexander Hardman, Keith Kaiman, Munying Hunt, Deborah Marciano, Pastor Jerome Payne

Planning Council Members Absent: Brent Backofen, Steve Hemraj, Kali Lindsey, Hilda Mateo

Community Members Present: Randall Bruce, Gregory Cruz, Linder Ford, Yves Gebhardt, Delores Henley, Ron Joyner, Joey Lopez, Mallory Lowenstein, Jacqueline Williams

Staff: DOHMH: Jan Carl Park, Kelly Piersanti, Erin Roberts, Nina Rothschild, Josh Thomas, Darryl Wong

MEETING MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

- Meeting Agenda/Planning Council Ground Rules of Respectful Engagement;
- June 22, 2011 Draft Meeting Minutes;
- Substance Use/Harm Reduction Service Directive (EC approved);
- Finance Committee Overview & Update;
- Memorandum of Understanding HOPWA/Planning Council;
- Positive Voice, National Association of People with AIDS, Vol2, Issue 9, August 1, 2011;
- ADAP Watch List, NASTAD, July 2011;
- HIV Epidemiology & Field Services Semi Annual Report, Vol 6, No 1, 1/1/10 – 6/30/11;
- Consumer Committee 2010-11 Year End Review;
- Announcement of At Large Consumer Election;
- Election Ballot;
- Community Advisory Board Powerpoint;
- Peer Facilitator Application for Positive Life Workshop Series;
- Announcement seeking HIV+ Speaker, Who's positive?

INTRODUCTIONS:

Victor Benadava and John Anthony Eddie opened the meeting, followed by Committee member introductions. Pastor Payne led the moment of silence, noting the passing of Planning Council member Susan Wayne. Meeting participants reviewed the Rules of Respectful Engagement. Darryl Wong reviewed the meeting agenda and meeting materials and introduced Ms. Erin Roberts and Ms. Kelly Piersanti, interns working on the Ryan White Part A CAB Best Practices survey this summer. The minutes of the June 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

PLANNING COUNCIL, FEDERAL/STATE & CITY HIV/AIDS POLICY UPDATES:

Jan Park, Governmental Co-Chair of the HIV Planning Council, gave an update on the HRSA award, noting an erroneous notification of \$16 million to the NY EMA. In reality, the award was increased by \$48,000, which is essentially flat funding (not including the effect of inflation). The Executive Committee has approved a spending plan based on a provisional award; the same spending plan will be reviewed and considered for approval at the Planning Council meeting on August 4, 2011. In response to a concern re: the lack of coordination and the effect of fiscal constraints at the CBO level, the impact of recent events at the Congressional (Federal level) concerning various budget appropriations has been felt.

At the State level, the major focus is on moving PLWHAs into mandatory enrollment into Medicaid Managed Care (SNPs) plans, with automatic assignments if not within the opt out period. Many consumers from Rockland, Putnam & Dutchess counties are experiencing confusion in accessing their regular primary care providers.

At the local level, a major food provider has had a projected cut reversed, allowing them to maintain food and nutrition services.

Victor Benadava provided background on the development of the current Substance Use/Harm Reduction Service Directive. After having been considered at the Executive Committee in the Spring, the directive was sent back to the Integration of Care Committee for further refinement and programmatic changes, chiefly lessening the prescriptive requirements of the original service model. It was then moved to the Executive Committee for approval and will be considered for approval at the August 4 Planning Council meeting.

Darryl Wong provided an update on the Finance Committee, noting that FY10 spending demonstrated only 1% in under spending of MAI funds and 0.16% in under spending of the Base award. The Planning Council has authorized the issuance of the letter attesting to the administrative mechanism in place by the grantee.

Recommendations for appointment to the Planning Council have been submitted to the Mayor's Office on Appointments; the Planning Council will notify applicants as soon as appointments have been made.

There was a review of the year's activities, noting the Consumer At Large election, the workplan development and discussion of the HRSA Technical Assistance Report, updates on NYC HIV/AIDS epidemiology, the former Self-Management Program (now Positive Life) and HIV/AIDS treatment Update, the Needs Assessment and Priority Setting and Resource Allocation processes, presentations on HIV & Aging, the Care Coordination program and Consumers & Quality Management and frequent updates on the progress of the CAB best practices survey & project. There will be an MMP update in September 2011.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Planning Council and HOPWA was presented to the Committee for their reference.

CONSUMER AT LARGE STATEMENTS OF INTEREST & ELECTION

In response to last month's call for nominations for the 2011-12 Consumer At Large to the Executive Committee, Victor reviewed the position announcement, noting that the nominee must be an appointed member of the Planning Council as well as a member of the Consumers

Committee. It was under-scored that this Consumer At Large position represents an additional seat on the Executive Committee (in addition to the two Co-Chairs of the Consumers Committee).

There were three nominations, with two acceptances. Candidates Gerald DeYounge and Felicia Carroll provided statements supporting their candidacies. The list of eligible voting members (12) was reviewed by Victor; ballots were collected and the recipient of the largest number of votes was Felicia Carroll.

PRESENTATION- COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS (CABS): PROCESS UPDATES & PRELIMINARY DATA

Victor provided background history on this project and Darryl reviewed Public Health Solutions' Community Advisory Group background and guidelines and introduced Summer Interns Kelly Piersanti & Erin Roberts who have been involved in the project's outreach and recruitment, data collection and analysis phases.

Ms. Roberts reported that she has made initial contacts with the entire universe of Ryan White Part A providers. At this point, 66% of contacted agencies have agreed to participate and 35 of 90 CABS have completed Staff and consumer leader surveys; it is believed that 50% of CABS is attainable after the summer recess.

Ms. Piersanti presented an analysis of the demographics of respondents, noting that there were slightly more men responding than women. 86% of respondents said that they attended all or most of CAB meetings during the year; 88% of respondents stated that they understood the goals of the local CAB; 78% of respondents said that their CAB does a good job of meeting client needs and 83% of members agreed that their CAB functions very well together. It was noted that this is a small sample of questions that have been highlighted to illustrate some broad areas of CAB functionality.

NYCDOHMH POSITIVE LIFE WORKSHOP SERIES

Josh Thomas, NYCDOHMH Positive Life Program Coordinator provided an update on the program, underscoring that this series of workshops has been designed to be led by male and female peer facilitators who are PLWHAs; announcements and applications for the facilitator positions were distributed to Committee members. The objective of this initiative is to provide knowledge, motivation, skills and the emotional and practical support necessary to make behavior changes to improve health and quality of life, targeting newly diagnosed men, women and adolescents over 18 year old. Through these workshops, participants will learn self-care skills, the importance of preventative medicine and treatment, skills to create strong collaborative relationships with their provider, tools to prepare for medical appointments and the importance of adherence to health routines and medication schedules.

The 4 hour introductory workshop will consist of sessions addressing HIV and the Immune System, Introduction to HIV Self-Management, Reducing Risk, Introduction to Self-Monitoring, Health Action Planning and Peer Experience Groups.

This will be followed by a two day intensive workshop format which addresses beliefs about HIV trusted support and self-disclosure, health risking behaviors, sexual health risking behaviors, drugs and alcohol, stress crisis coping skills, primary healthcare and patient-provider relationship, assertiveness in relationships, healthcare, HIV disclosure, nutrition, body care, grief and depression, and adherence and aftercare. Each day will close with peer experience group activities. Incentives to be provided include a resource manual, a health journal, condoms, lubricant, pill boxes, MetroCards and healthy food.

BOROUGH UPDATES ON HIV NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

There were no updates.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45PM.