



Consumers Committee Meeting

January 21, 2009, 1:30-4:30PM

Housing Works, 57 Willoughby Street, Brooklyn, NY

Members Present: Victor Benadava (Co-Chair), Juanita Chestnut, John Anthony Eddie (Co-Chair), Felicia Carroll, Anthony Case, Gerald DeYounge, Billy Fields, Yves Gebhardt, , Glen Phillip, Marcelo Soares, Escott Solomon

Members Absent: Brent Backofen, Gregory Cruz, Manuel Ducret III, Terri Faulkner, Linder Ford, Myron Gold, Gonzalo Mercado, Juanita Owens, Alvin Perry, Edilberto Viera, Jr.

Guests Present: Ronald Brown, Joseph DelValle, Ronald Joyner, Yvette Modica

DOHMH: Rafael Molina, Darryl Wong

Meeting Materials Distributed:

- January 21, 2009 Meeting Agenda;
- December 17, 2008 Meeting Minutes;
- Consumer Input Topics Questions – Annotated Compilation of Responses rec'd from Consumers Committee;
- CHAIN Study Conceptual Variables
- Consumer Bodies of the HIV Health & Human Services Planning Council, January 2009
- Priority Setting & Resource Allocation - Overview for the 2008-9 Planning Council New Member Orientation;
- Ryan White 101: Past, Present & Future – Fall 2008;
- January 2009 NY HIV Planning Council: Consumers & Executive Committees & Full Planning Council Meeting Calendar;
- 2008-9 HIV Planning Council Consumers Committee Contact List;
- NYCDOHMH Report Linking Heavy Drinking to Increased Risk of HIV and other STDs;
- 2009 National Conference on African-Americans and AIDS February 23-24, 2009 Conference Announcement;
- A Faith-Based Approach to Addressing Health Disparities, Consumer Health Resource Info Services;
- AIDS Action – 2008: A Year in Review;
- Positive Sexuality & HIV March 11, 2009 Conference; and
- Email communications re: NAPWA, POZ and APA Mental Health & Substance Use Needs Survey & Obama-Biden Transition Project Citizen's Briefing Book & Website.

Welcome and Introductions:

Victor Benadava and John Anthony Eddie, Co-Chairs welcomed participants with staff, Committee members and guest introductions. Billy Fields led the moment of silence, John Anthony Eddie reviewed the Rules of Respectful Engagement and Darryl Wong reviewed the agenda and meeting materials for the afternoon's meeting. M. Soares inquired as to the process for adding agenda items.

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Review of the December 17, 2008 Minutes:

The minutes from the December 17, 2008 were reviewed. Motion made to accept minutes, seconded and voted. Minutes were accepted.

HIV Planning Council Update:

Mr. Wong announced that the Bureau has recently released the Care Coordination RFP and that Bidders' Conferences have taken place; the RFP is available online at www.publichealthsolutions.org

Felicia Carroll updated the Committee on the January 10th Advisory Group meeting at Iris House, where Caleb Terry from Housing Works presented on HIV disclosure issues. The meeting was well-attended by many young people who shared their unique perspectives. Discussion ensued regarding the budget cuts (City & Federal) letter from the Advisory Group to the Mayor and President, respectively. Mr. Solomon asked why HIV Care Network Committees were not asked to sign on; it was clarified that due to time constraints, community-wide review, feedback, approval and sign-on would have delayed the letter. It was recommended that 1) there should be greater CARE Network participation in the Consumer Committee in order to assure greater dissemination of time-sensitive policy initiatives, 2) the five borough-based HIV CARE Networks should generate their own letter addressing their particular concerns and 3) attention be paid to speaking for NYC jurisdictions only when writing on behalf of Statewide Consumer Committees and/or groups.

Mr. Wong announced that Mr. Benadava has been appointed the local CAB representative for the NYC Medical Monitoring Project (MMP). He will be participating in national CAB conference calls with other survey sites, as well as one CDC-sponsored national meeting with all sites. Mr. Joyner questioned the efficacy of repeated studies and how this information will result in improved treatment outcomes; Mr. Soares asked why the HIV prevention and AIDS treatment/care/housing arms have been divided into discrete "arms".

Consumer Input Strategies:

Mr. Benadava reported to the Committee that he and John Eddie, as Co-Chairs of the Committee, recently met with Drs. Laraque, Santella and Irvine, and Mssrs. Park and Wong to discuss the consumer input strategy for 2009. Mr. Wong presented the work of Mary Irvine, DrPH, who has color-coded the issues and concerns (consumers were asked over the course of the last few months to provide input on which content areas need further exploration and which groups need to be queried) – topics currently addressed by the CHAIN studies are highlighted in green and topics not currently covered with existing surveys are highlighted in yellow (and may be "fleshed out" through focus groups).

In keeping with consumers' desires to expand the focus groups conducted in 2009, there was discussion that consumers participate in the recruitment of participants in order to reach individuals who could not typically be reached by NYCDOHMH, including younger people, older populations, transgenders and Spanish-speaking individuals.

Mr. Eddie reviewed the discussion of Ryan White funded agencies' Community Advisory Boards (CABs) in NYC. Given past anecdotally-reported difficulties in capturing reliable information, it was suggested that the work of the Consumers Committee and Advisory Group be focused on developing recommendations on standardized CAB guidelines, operational practices and mechanisms for client feedback, which would then be presented to the Executive Committee and the full Planning Council for review, feedback and approval. These recommendations would then be presented to Public Health Solutions for implementation at the individual agency level. *The Consumers Committee approved, through consensus to the NYCDOHMH to conduct expanded focus groups throughout NYC (at least two per Borough). It was further moved that an Ad-hoc Task*

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Force composed of Consumer Committee members, NYCDOHMH staff and Public Health Solutions be formed to spearhead this initiative.

Priority Setting & Resource Allocation Overview

Mr. Wong reviewed the mission, background and guiding principles behind the Priority Setting/Resource Allocation process. Topics in the brief overview included conflicts of interest, the fiscal history of CARE Act funding in NYC in relation to nationwide trends, the priority setting/resource allocation matrix, or tool, including the criteria used to rank service categories, the application of the spending formula to the NYC's HRSA award, pro-active scenario planning in the event of funding cuts and the monitoring of spending in order to maximize spending of grant funding.

Public Comment/New Business:

Mr Solomon discussed the evolving role of peers, from the originally-conceived notion of part-time workers to full-time program staff and the fiscal pressures which limit how much PWAs can earn through "peer" stipends. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45.