



Consumers Committee Meeting

February 18, 2009, 1:30-4:30PM

Housing Works, 57 Willoughby Street, Brooklyn, NY

Members Present: Victor Benadava (Co-Chair), Brent Backofen, Juanita Chestnut, Manuel Ducret III, Felicia Carroll, Anthony Case, Gerald DeYounge, Billy Fields, Yves Gebhardt, Jan Carl Park, Glen Phillip, Marcelo Soares, Escott Solomon

Members Absent: Gregory Cruz, John Anthony Eddie, Terri Faulkner, Linder Ford, Myron Gold, Juanita Owens, Alvin Perry, Edilberto Viera, Jr.

Guests Present: Ronald Joyner, Dan Tietz

DOHMH: Rafael Molina

Meeting Materials Distributed:

- February 18, 2009 Meeting Agenda
- January 21, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- February 2009 PC Meeting Packet
- FY 2009 Priority Setting Tool
- FY 2009 Part A Base Spending Scenario
- FY 2009 Part A Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Spending Plan
- Notes on Consumer Focus Groups Meeting
- PowerPoint Presentation from DOHMH HIV Testing Program
- President Obama's Global AIDS Plan and Proposed Health Care Plan
- DOHMH Report on Ryan White Program Highlights
- DOHMH Epidemiology Report
- NAPWA Denver Principles Project Paper
- Reports from the Kaiser Foundation on Medicaid and Medicare

Welcome/Introductions/Minutes:

Victor Benadava welcomed participants, followed by introductions. A moment of silence was held in memory of HIV activist Martin Delaney, who made a huge difference in the lives of PLWHA. Glen Philip reviewed the Rules of Respectful Engagement and Jan Park reviewed the agenda and meeting materials. There was a discussion on the Denver Principles, how they should be used to make sure that consumers are represented on decision making bodies (such as agency boards of directors), and the proper channels for advocating for this.

The minutes from the January 21, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved with changes to reflect the discussion on peers.

HIV Planning Council Update:

Jan reported that the PLWHA Advisory Group Bylaws Workgroup is meeting to review the PLWHA bylaws. The Priority Setting & Resource Allocation Committee (PSRA) approved the FY 2009 budgets. The Finance Committee met to review spending reports, which will be reported to the full Council. The Tri-county Steering Committee met and got a presentation on HIV in the suburbs. The Policy Committee approved a letter concerning proposed changes to Medicaid, as well as letters asking President Obama to lift the ban on federal funding for needle exchange and to lift the ban on entry to HIV+ immigrants. The Executive Committee approved the PSRA budgets. Felicia and Marcelo reported that the PLWHA Advisory Group met and had a training on consumer involvement. The full Council meeting is tomorrow and they will approve the PSRA's budgets. Needs Assessment meets afterwards and will have a presentation on youth and HIV. Integration of Care meeting on Feb. 24th and will discuss the service model for food and nutrition programs. Rules & Membership meets on Feb. 26th to continue reviewing members' attendance and to begin the process for recruiting new Council members. It is important that members who are appointed to committees show up to meetings, and members who received warnings were very responsive.

Jan reported that reauthorization has not been addressed in Congress due to their focus on the economic stimulus plan, but that it will start soon. The community and Council are already addressing reauthorization issues. NAPWA is writing their report on the community forums on Ryan White that they held.

Jan explained the FY base and MAI budgets. For base funding (about \$102 million in FY 2008), the PSRA and EC approved a formula that would apply a formula should there be a reduction in the award that will distribute cuts proportionately based on priority rank as determined by the priority setting tool. If there is an increase, then it will be distributed based on the budget approved by the Council in July 2008 and submitted with the application. There was a discussion on the amount allowed for administration and programs and how to approach reauthorization. A number of national organizations have already begun to discuss how the community wants a reauthorized Ryan White law to look like.

Jan explained the FY 2009 MAI budget, which received a small increase (about \$70,000). There was a discussion on how these funds are targeted (based on numbers of people of color living with HIV by zip code). MAI funds also have separate, special reporting requirements.

Consumer Focus Groups:

Victor reported that there will be two consumer focus groups in each borough to obtain consumer input for planning. In addition to general groups, there will be some targeted to special populations for additional information, such as youth, immigrants, women and Spanish-speakers. There was a discussion on the special populations, and how to make sure that all populations provide input. There was a discussion on the focus group venues (CBOs, hospitals, etc.), with concerns raised that all populations have the opportunity to provide input. The groups will occur in April and May, with recruitment starting in March.

Community Update/Public Comment/New Business:

A number of events were announced, including Feb. 24th is AIDS Awareness Day in Albany and various LTI trainings. Dan Tietz said that the AIDS Institute is interested in making sure that consumers have input into the state's Ryan White Quality Management program, which helps providers improve the quality of their programs.

Yves reported that a housing bill has been introduced into the state legislature to ensure that not too much rent is taken from benefits. PLWHA should call their state representatives to support this bill.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.