



### **Consumers Committee Meeting**

March 18, 2009, 2:00-4:00PM

Housing Works, 57 Willoughby Street, Brooklyn, NY

**Members Present:** Victor Benadava (Co-Chair), John A. Eddie (Co-Chair), Juanita Chestnut, Felicia Carroll, Gerald DeYounge, Linder Ford, Billy Fields, Marcelo Soares, Escott Solomon

**Members Absent:** Brent Backofen, Anthony Case, Gregory Cruz, John Anthony Eddie, Terri Faulkner, Yves Gebhardt, Myron Gold, Alvin Perry, Glen Phillip, Edilberto Viera, Jr.

**Guests Present:** Ronald Brown, Cameron Craig, Joseph D. V., LaVerne Holley, Keith Kaiman, Mallory Marcus, Thomas Powell, Keilanh Roebuck, Joseph Sellman, Dan Tietz (NYSDOH/AI), Tracy Hatton (NYSDOH/AI)

**DOHMH:** Rafael Molina, Jan Park, Darryl Wong

#### **Meeting Materials Distributed:**

- March 18, 2009 Meeting Agenda
- February 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- March 2009 Planning Council calendar
- Rules for Respectful Engagement
- Food & Nutrition Services Guideline
- Quality Management/Improvement presentation by NYS Quality of Care Program
- CAEAR News Release (February 24, 2009) on FY 09 Omnibus Appropriations Act
- Mt Sinai recruitment flyer: Study on Culture & Medication Taking
- Medicaid Managed Care Peer Trainings for PWA (Cicatelli Associates)
- Planning Council Mid-Term Committee Evaluation
- NAPWA Press Release (February 26, 2009) re: Appointment of Jeff Crowley, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy

John Eddie welcomed participants, followed by introductions. Marcelo Soares led the moment of silence in memory of PLWHA. Mr. Eddie reviewed the Rules of Respectful Engagement and Darryl Wong reviewed the agenda and meeting materials.

The minutes from the February 18, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved with minor changes noted.

#### **HIV Planning Council Update:**

Jan reported on activities of the Planning Council, including: 1) the revision of the Advisory Group Bylaws, 2) the meeting of PSRA, at which the budget was approved to move \$850K in funds from Outreach to Harm Reduction, 3) the Policy Committee meeting which focused on a national consensus document regarding the extension of Ryan White HATMA for an additional three (3) years and signing on to the Serrano letter in support of lifting the bans on using Federal funds for syringe exchange programs, and 4) the Executive

Committee meeting, where the RMC made the recommendation to consider two (2) candidates for the recently-vacated seat of a Planning Council member. At the full Planning Council meeting, a lobbyist for the CAEAR coalition will present and some changes to the Bylaws will be considered for voting. The Integration of Care Committee will continue the discussion regarding food and nutrition services and possible changes to that service model. The Needs Assessment Committee will be looking at special populations and the programs that are funded by Ryan White that target young people. The Rules & Membership Committee has begun contacting members whose attendance records are not in compliance with Planning Council Bylaws. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being drafted wherein the respective roles of the grantee (DOHMH) and the Planning Council/EMA will be clearly articulated. In addition, the Planning Council will begin its annual recruitment efforts shortly, with applications due on May 19.

At the Advisory Group meeting of March 18, Dr. Laraque presented epidemiologic data on HIV/AIDS and Women and Girls, Anthony Sumpter presented on financial aspects of the HASA program, the Bylaws Review Workgroup continued its discussion and NAPWA's Denver Principles Project was introduced. There was discussion of the termination of Scattered Site II housing programs and providing orientation materials for newcomers to the AG. City Council Speaker Christine Quinn will be attending the April meeting.

Despite the current economic crisis and its effect on Federal, State and Local budgets, the Appropriations Committee recently passed a bill which increased Ryan White funding by \$71million, with \$39 million targeted to Part A programming. Local awards have not yet been made, although we anticipate a slight increase in our award.

New York State's budgeting process should be complete by April 1, including discussions on Medicaid prescription plans (step therapy). The City Council General Welfare Committee will be discussing the Mayor's budget and hearing testimony from a Planning Council representative in opposition to the proposed cuts to HASA Scattered Site II, the reduction in HIV/AIDS case management staff and the 50% reduction in HASA funded HIV nutrition programs.

#### **New York State Dept of Health/AIDS Institute: Quality Management/Improvement:**

Dan Tietz and Tracy Hatton of the NYS AIDS Institute presented on quality management programming, managed by the State and funded by Ryan White. Per the Re-authorization Act of 2006, all grantees are required to establish a clinical quality management program, with infrastructure in place to convene meetings on a regular basis. Dan reviewed concepts and definitions of quality (including provider and consumer perceptions of quality), quality assurance, quality improvement and continuous quality improvement, indicators, outcome and process measures. Key characteristics of quality management programs were described and various electronic and print resources of quality improvement initiatives, i.e., [www.NationalQualityCenter.org](http://www.NationalQualityCenter.org), [www.hivqual.org](http://www.hivqual.org), and [www.hab.hrsa.gov](http://www.hab.hrsa.gov) were introduced to the Committee. For more information, please refer to the handout, Quality Management/Improvement: Consumers Committee March 18, 2009.

#### **Consumer Focus Groups:**

Darryl reported on the progress of the Consumer Focus Group Series which is currently underway during the month of March and early April. There will be at least one focus group for each borough, with Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx hosting two groups at local CBOs. There will also be focus groups targeted to special populations, including younger people, older people, newly-released people from jails, people of transgender experience and Spanish-speaking individuals. The consumer input data collected from this sampling of

approximately 125 individuals will be analyzed in April/May and presented to the Planning Council in June for use in the next cycle of care, treatment and housing program planning.

**Food & Nutrition Services:**

Jan described the Food & Nutrition Services Part A programming, which serve ~ 11,000 individuals/year. Of the \$5,000,000 allocated to this service category, ~\$1 million is allocated to food, or the provision of meals, with the remainder targeted to nutritional assessments, program support budget items, etc. The Integration of Care Committee discussion next week will focus on the array of services and how funds should be allocated. Committee members who use these services or are interested in how these services should be developed are urged to attend these meetings. Ms. Ford shared her experiences with home-delivered meals and food pantries; Ms. Holley noted that pantry programs are greatly reduced in numbers, with fewer resources, as the need has grown.

**Community Updates:**

Gerald DeYounge suggested that results from the DHS survey, Operation HOPE, be shared with the Planning Council.

There will be a HASA forum on Wednesday, March 25 at the Queens HIV CARE Network.

Housing Works will be convening Client Public Advocacy meetings on Thursdays, from 4-5PM, where consumer issues will be heard.

NYCAHN will be conducting a training on advocacy on Thursday, March 19.

**Public Comment/New Business:**

Members were reminded to complete the Mid Year Committee Evaluation forms and to submit them to Mr. Wong.

A request was made for a HASA representative to present to the Consumers Committee.

The Consumers Committee/Planning Council should sign on to a letter endorsing NAPWA's Denver Principles Project.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15PM.