

HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York

Meeting of the

Consumers Committee

January 18, 2005
Ryan Health Center 645 10th Ave
3pm-5pm

Minutes

Members present: R Abadia, K. Butler, F. Carroll, C. Craig, C. Cobb, A. Richardson, B. Curry, H. Mateo, L Dolloway

Members Absent: C. Dzubilo, R. Gonzalez, J. Lopez, H. Hernandez R. Gonzalez, And D. Woodard. S. Hemraj

Guests Present: Peter Avitabile, J. Livigni, L. Holly, M. Gold, O. Clanton, L. Gonzalez, and D. Chandler, P. Bright, B. Soskind, R. Jones

Staff Present: I. Gonzalez, S. Bailous, and S. Dwyer. Molina, and G. Moon

Agenda Item #1 Welcome /Introductions/Review Agenda & Minutes

Rafael Abadia & Lucille Dolloway, Co-Chairs opened the meeting and had everyone introduce him or herself. Steve B. reviewed the meeting packet.

Rafael A. led a moment of silence.

The Minutes of the December 14, 2004 meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Agenda Item #2 HASA CAB

Peter Avitabile, who is the point person for the HASA CAB, announced that the CAB application has been widely distributed. The deadline to return completed applications is January 31, 2005. Applications can be mailed or faxed to the attention of Peter Avitabile. Peter reviewed the composition of the 11 member CAB and emphasized that they are looking for consumers. The mayor will appoint six members, and the speaker from the city council will appoint 5 members. There is no date set for the first meeting or a schedule for planned meetings. There is a requirement for the CAB to meet at least once each quarter. There will be a review board appointed by Commissioner Verna Eggleston to review the applications. Myron G. asked if the consumers have to be clients of HASA and will applicants be investigated. Peter responded that consumers don't have to be HASA clients but that he would hope that HASA clients are represented on the board. Potential board members will go through a review process that may include a Department of Investigation background check. Myron G. asked if people who were previously incarcerated would be considered. Mr. Avitabile replied that every application will be considered on its' own merit. Those who know the commissioner know that she will support individuals who have been through certain things and arrived at a better place. Peter responded to Derrick C. by saying that there are already received 99 applications and they will welcome

applications from Planning Council participants. The goal is to have broad representation and the right people sitting on the board. The appointments will be for two-year terms. Applications are in the meeting packet and here on the table for distribution.

Rafael A. thanked Peter for coming to the meeting.

Agenda Item #3 Committee Updates

Craig C. reported that the Rules & Membership committee reviewed applications for committee appointments and have recommended 16 people for appointment. Craig shared that a great number of them are Consumers. Craig shared that the committee has worked to ensure every committee have consumer representation. The Co-chairs of the Planning Council will make the appointments based on the recommendations of the committee. It was explained that Rules and Membership meeting are closed because they discuss privileged information including information on peoples HIV status.

Steve B reported that Needs Assessment is hosting Data Day 1 on Friday January 21, 2005. The Integration of Care Committee will present its new Comprehensive Model of Care. The morning session will focus on Access to Care and the afternoon will focus on Maintenance in Care. There will be lots of data presented and panels will discuss how this data supports access to and maintenance in care. Myron G. added that the Needs Assessment committee has agreed to have consumer representation on the panels. It was announced that Myron G. and Rafael A. as members of the Access and Maintenance committees has been asked to help facilitate. Rafael A. announced that the Needs assessment addendum is available and would be presented at the Planning Council meeting. Everyone is encouraged to read it so we can have a full discussion on it next month. Ingrid G. explained that the Needs Assessment update and addendum are going to be used to update the Strategic Plan. The new strategic plan will reflect the new planning council structure and have measurable objectives. This material has been distributed in ATC and MIC committee meetings.

Hilda M. reported that Priority Setting and Resource Allocation is working on scenario planning. They are preparing for an increase, a decrease, or flat funding in our grant award. The award should be announced at the end of February. It was announced at the recent Policy meeting that HOPWA has received a \$13 decrease. Rafael A. said consumers need to be vocal. Ingrid shared that HOWA has a larger jurisdiction that includes NJ and is drafting a letter in response to their award. The policy committee has also drafted a letter to support our application. Steve B. will prepare copies for the chairs to sign at the council meeting January 20th.

Laverne H. announced that the first Monday of each month the NY Continuum of Care Consumers Committee meets to discuss housing interests. Derrick C and Orbit C. were identified to attend and report back to this committee as chairs of the External Committee.

Agenda Item #4 CAB Survey

Rafael A. reminded everyone to make sure the members who are affiliated with agencies that receive Title I funding complete the survey. Make sure they have received the application and if there is any question contact OAPC for assistance. Steve B. reported that at the last AG meeting

a good discussion took place about the survey that included some ideas for revisions. It was decided to keep optional agency information and to keep section III unchanged so that agencies don't feel we are trying to evaluate them.

Responding to a question from Brenda Lee, Rafael said that every Title I agency is required to have a functioning CAB. Craig C. shared that many consumers are not familiar with Title I and who pays for which services. Steve B. responded that the survey asks consumers to rank the services they feel are most important, identify gaps in services and respond to a satisfaction question about the quality of the services they receive. They can complete the survey even if they don't understand Title I. Laverne shared that we need to do outreach and training so that consumers have a better understanding of Title I. Rafael A. agreed and reported that we did hold a training to address this and will have additional trainings. Bruce shared that he asked about Title I funding at an agency and found they did answer his question. Anthony R. shared that the care network meetings offer a great opportunity to reach out to CABS and consumers. Rafael responded that at the last Internal/External committee a plan to reach out to the networks was discussed. Myron G. asked how are we making sure that the surveys are getting into the hands of the right people. Steve B. responded that the surveys are mailed to the ED of the agency. We made calls last year and have the contact persons from last year as a place to start. When we make our follow up calls this year that is the first order of business, to make sure that the survey has been received by the staff liaison to the CAB. If you know of a CAB that needs a copy of the Survey, let us know and we'll get a copy to them by fax, mail or e-mail.

Agenda Item #5 Public Comment

Robert J. shared that many consumers don't understand CABS or how they should function. We need to train more consumers on CABS and the entire planning process. Orbit thanked Ingrid for her explanation of the needs assessment and how that will impact on the strategic plan then encouraged everyone to read it.

Agenda Item #6 Other Business

Cameron C. shared his experience with Medicare/Medicaid. He explained his experience applying for Medicaid part B to pay for Medicare. They gave him a difficult time and did not tell him Medicaid had just raised the amount that you can earn and still keep your benefits. A consumer can go to HASA and just ask for Medicaid. Word of mouth is still one of the best ways to find out about services and how to navigate the system.

Agenda Item #7 Announcements / Close

Anthony R. announced that South Brooklyn Legal Services has legal services on all the issues that affect PWAs. They are offering two workshops on legal advocacy on January 24, and February 8th. Myron announced that Governor Paataki's budget is coming out tonight which will include cutbacks in Medicaid for home attendants and will require prior approval for medications. These changes will be devastating, and we need to address this right away. Myron clarified that the federal law passed last year will take effect 2006. Orbit shared that there is confusion with the federal law and the governor's proposed budget cuts. We need to look at the

legislation and the proposals themselves. Bruce added that there are still many questions around how the law will be implemented. Bruce shared that whole thing is so complicated that there are not answers to these things at this point. Consumers should speak out and ask questions because the government does not understand what a mess this is.

On February 2nd there will be a Housing Rally on the steps of City Hall.

On February 8th there will be computer training for consumers. Call OAPC to RSVP.

The meeting adjourned at 5pm.