

Meeting of the

Consumers Committee

October 19, 2004
Ryan Health Center 645 10th Ave
3pm-5pm

Minutes

Members present: R. Abadia, L. Dolloway, K. Butler, F. Carroll, C. Craig, B. Curry, S. Hemraj, H. Hernandez, H. Mateo, Anthony R.,

Members Absent: C., Cobb, C. Dzubilo, R. Gonzalez, J. Lopez, N. Nagy, D. Woodard

Guests Present: G. Goodson, O. Clanton, L. Holly, M. Gold, D. Chandler

Staff Present: I. Gonzalez, S. Bailous

Agenda Item #1 Welcome /Introductions

R. Abadia opened the meeting and had everyone introduce him or herself by sharing their background.

S. Bailous reviewed the meeting packet that included Positive Partnerships focusing on consumer involvement in the Ryan White Care Act programs.

S. Hemraj led a moment of silence.

The agenda was approved after it was decided to have the public comment follow the discussion on roles and responsibilities.

Agenda Item #2 Roles and Responsibilities

The committee discussed the participation of consumers on the council committees. The committee membership roster was reviewed. Each member was asked to confirm his/her committee assignment. Those that are new members of the planning council and have not been placed on a committee should contact OAPC and request an appointment. It was pointed out that there is participation on each committee. Members on the Consumers Committee hold 7 of the 24 seats on the Executive Committee. Rafael explained the importance of this committee and what being an unaligned member means. Rafael discussed the difference between this committee and the advisory group. Responding to a question Mr. Abadia explained that regular updates on the work being done in the other committees would be shared. He will invite the co-chairs of the other committees to attend and give updates. Everyone was reminded to select an alternate who is also an unaligned consumer. The three responsibilities are to monitor consumer participation, support consumer training, recruitment & retention, and collaboration with the policy committee as we prepare for reauthorization. Rafael shared that several members of this committee received training from HRSA and that this committee will make sure that it is presented for NY consumers. We still have to work out the details for this training. Steve

H. recommended a long-term plan for ongoing consumer training. This was followed by a lively discussion. Mr. Abadia suggested that we deliver the training from HRSA and use that experience to inform our plan for future trainings. Mr. Richardson asked if there was an advertising budget that could be used to reach out to consumers thru Body Positive, Poz magazine or other similar publications.

Agenda Item #3 Committee Report

Ingrid Gonzalez reported that the Policy Committee met on October 12th and meets on the 2nd Tuesday every other month. This is one of the many committees that this body will be collaborating with. During the meeting the committee drafted a preliminary one-year strategic plan. The committee decided to wait until January to hold its forum on Reauthorization. By that time there should be a better understanding of where congress is going. We will work with the Care Coalition and AIDS Action position. Mathew Lesieur will be presenting on policy and reauthorization to the AG in December. City, State and Federal issues will be discussed as those issues come up. To support this year's planning council application their will again be letters of support from our community leaders and elected officials.

Agenda Item #4 Public Comment

Ms Holly raised a concern about the Executive Committee of the Planning Council being mostly providers and Directors of Agencies. Mr. Clanton responded that of the 24 members 7 of them are consumers and that is almost 1/3 and that is very good representation. Rafael Abadia added that the committee chairs are appointed by the Planning Council Co-chairs and they make up the Executive Committee.

Myron reported that in the year 2006 all persons who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare would be dropped from Medicaid. This will affect over 50,000 people with HIV. Medicare only has two classes of HIV meds and most of the drugs that Medicaid covers will not be included in their formula. This could be a disaster.

Myron and Rafael talked about the confusion around the re-organization of the planning Council and the members appointed. There is anger that some people were not re-appointed to the council or appointed to committees. They both agreed that we need to move forward and not this derail the process. The rules and membership committee will be looking at these issues.

Agenda Item #5 Other Business

It was announced that the Needs Assessment distributed would be revised and updated. At Thursday's Planning Council meeting a vote will be taken on the recommendation of the Executive Committee to have a 3-year planning cycle.

The next meeting will be November 16th 3-5pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5pm.