



Meeting of the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 10, 2011
3:00-5:00 pm

Hispanic Federation, 55 Exchange Place, 5th Fl. Conf Rm, NY, NY

MINUTES

Members Present: Jan Carl Park (Governmental Co-Chair), Matthew Lesieur (Community Co-Chair), Victor Benadava, Sean Cahill, Gregory Cruz, John Anthony Eddie, Joan Edwards, Marya Gilborn, Alexander Hardman, JoAnn Hilger (for F. Laraque), Gonzalo Mercado, Julie Lehane (for T. Petro), Miriam Pinon, Charles Shorter, Allan Vergara

Members Not Present: Damian Bird, Felicia Carroll, Steve Hemraj, Lee Hildebrand, Kali Lindsey, Dorella Walters

Staff Present: NYCDOHMH: David Klotz, Rafael Molina, Nina Rothschild, DrPH, Darryl Wong

Public Health Solutions: Bettina Carroll

Agenda Item #1: Welcome/Minutes:

Jan Park, Governmental Co-Chair, opened the meeting and members introduced themselves. Victor Benadava led the moment of silence, John Anthony Eddie read the Rules of Respectful Engagement and Jan Park reviewed the meeting agenda and materials. The minutes of the January 13, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Agenda Item #2: Public Comment

Mr. Rivera raised his concern regarding the candidate selection criteria utilized in the Planning Council Committee appointment process.

Agenda Item #3: Rules & Membership Committee: Bylaws Revisions

The Rules & Membership Committee (RMC) has recommended that the election of Community Co-Chair and Finance Officer occur no more than three (3) months prior to the end of the Council session, with their term to begin at the beginning of the new Planning Council session on September 1st. If the seated officer were to vacate his/her seat between an election and the beginning of a new term, the officer-elect shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

ACTION: *A motion was made to approve the change, as noted above. The motion was seconded and carried and will go before the full Planning Council for consideration.*

The second proposed Bylaw revision addressed the election of the Executive Committee at-large consumer member; the proposed amended language calls for the election of this individual, a member of the Planning Council, at a joint meeting of the voting members of the PLWHA Advisory Group and the Consumers Committee. Given the lack of specificity in the proposed amendment regarding when such an election would take place and the process by which voting eligibility would be determined, it was agreed, by consensus, to send this revision back to RMC for the discussion and clarification.

Agenda Item #4: Policy Committee

Sean Cahill, Co-Chair of the Policy Committee presented several letters drafted by the Committee for today's review and consideration:

- Testimony was drafted for submission to New York State Medicaid Redesign Team regarding the impact of changes in Medicaid on PLWHAs. It was noted that there is only one consumer representative on the team who represents a spectrum of chronic diseases. The statement was approved with two changes regarding the removal of HIV medications from the list of exemptions to the preferred drug list and its impact on the health of those living with HIV, as well as community viral load. *A motion was made, seconded and voted on to approve the letter as amended.*
- A letter to Dr. Nirav Shah, the newly appointed New York State Department of Health Commissioner, inviting him to attend an HIV Planning Council meeting and to learn more about the States strategies for fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic. *A motion was made, seconded and voted on to approve the letter.*
- A letter to Dr. Monica Sweeney, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention & Control, referencing her recent dialogue with the Planning Council regarding the "It's Never Just HIV" public service announcement and a request for follow-up information. *A motion was made, seconded and voted on to approve the letter.*
- A congratulatory letter to members of the Presidential Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion and Integrative and Public Health, which is tasked by the Affordable Care Act with developing an HIV prevention health promotion strategy for the US. *A motion was made, seconded and voted on to approve the letter.*
- A letter to the Commissioner of Social Security regarding revised medical criteria for evaluating HIV infection and eligibility for disability. *The letter was tabled until the Policy Committee could prepare a powerpoint overview of changes and present to the Planning Council for further discussion.*
- A letter to members of the State Assembly and Senate budget Committee asking for the inclusion in the final enacted budget language instituting the 30% rent cap, which caps the rent contribution for low-income PLWHAs at 30% of their income. *A motion was made, seconded and voted on to approve the letter.*

Jan Park and Matthew Lesieur reported on the recent CAEAR Coalition meeting, which was largely devoted to strategizing on how to approach Congress and the House with new elected officials and new chairs of various appropriations and sub-committees in the House. Mr. Lesieur reminded the Council that 30% of the newly-elected members of Congress have no history as elected officials.

Agenda Item #5: Committee Updates

Manny Rivera reported on behalf of the *PLWHA Advisory Group*, which met on January 28, 2011. A motion was passed in support of the *Its Not Just HIV* PSA, although both Co-Chairs did not sign the letter.

Victor Benadava reported that at the January 19, 2011 *Consumer Committee* meeting a presentation on the Needs Assessment process was conducted, as well as updates on Borough-wide networking opportunities. He added that he has taken the online Robert's Rules of Order online training as well as the Planning Council trainings offered by LTI.

Charles Shorter reported that the *Integration of Care Committee* met on January 14, 2011, at which there a presentation was given on the Community Reinforcement Approach, a behavioral intervention with environmental contingencies, for people with substance abuse issues.

Mimi Pinon reported that the *Needs Assessment Committee* recently met on February 3, 2011, devoting the meeting to examining the survey tool being developed to capture information about all providers of HIV related services.

On behalf of the *Finance Committee*, David Klotz reported that the Committee reviewed the Planning Council's support budget. HRSA will be asked, for additional guidance on how this budget is negotiated

between the Planning Council and the grantee when they come to the NY EMA for their technical assistance site visit.

The *Priority Setting/Resource Allocation Committee* met on February 7, 2011 to discuss and vote on a scenario planning methodology in the event of a reduction to our Part A award. It was agreed to accept the PSRA toll and its objective stance during the allocations process and to further examine a combined Base and MAI spreadsheet which combines the two funding streams for the purposes of different scenarios.

Agenda Item #6: Grantee Update

JoAnn Hilger reported that the new HIV testing RFP was released, combining both prevention and Ryan White funds. The issue of immigrants being included in target groups was raised. Pre-proposal conferences are scheduled for February 16 (Brooklyn) and February 17 (Manhattan). Ms Hilger announced that the 2009 MAI carryover will be released in 2011 and that as of 2010, it was allowable to use Part A funds for syringe exchange programs, as a separate support service category. Further clarification on this policy change is forthcoming. Due to the close of the fiscal year and the close out process, some contracts are currently being taken down. The FY 11 award will be valued until the NY EMA receives its award in March, which will be half of the formula award and half of the MAI award. As a consequence, the current scenario planning cannot be put into place until there is a full award, which is dependent upon Congress approving the budget. HRSA will be conducting a technical assistance site visit from March 16-18, requiring a commitment on behalf of Planning Council members of a day and a half. The expectation is that all Planning Council members will attend both days of the training.

Julie Lehane reported that the Tri-County region is currently reviewing continuing funding applications and engaging in rankings of services and scenario planning.

The agenda for the February 17, 2011 full Planning Council meeting was reviewed and approved.

Agenda Item #7: Public Comment

Mr. Rivera stated that Black and Latino elected officials will be convening to address the exclusion of people in the Planning Council process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.