



Meeting Minutes  
**INTEGRATION OF CARE COMMITTEE**  
Nancy Cataldi and Charles Shorter, Co-Chairs

February 22, 2012  
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies  
281 Park Avenue South, Conference Room A  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Members Present:** Victor Benadava, Damian Bird, Nancy Cataldi, Graham Harriman, Tracy Hatton, Carline Numa, Jan Carl Park, Mary Poupon, Charles Shorter, Kimberleigh Smith, Brenda Starks-Ross, Robin Wilder, Tina Wolf, Lisa Zullig

**Members Absent:** Jose Colon-Berdecia, Christopher Cunningham, Joan Edwards, Janet Goldberg, Elaine Greeley, Deborah Greene, Sandy Guillaume, Terry Hamilton, Christopher Joseph, Peter Laqueur, Julie Lehane, PhD, Jun Matsuyoshi, Steven Varnadore

**NYC DOHMH Staff Present:** Marcin Dzialo, Marybec Griffin, JoAnn Hilger, Rafael Molina, John Rojas, Nina Rothschild, DrPH

**Public Health Solutions Staff Present:** Bettina Carroll

**Others Present:** Felicia Carroll, Jesus Maldonado

**Material Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from the January 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- Housing Services Directive from 7/27/06
- List of Recommendations and Considerations Provided by John Rojas
- Planning Council Midterm Evaluation Form
- February 2012 Planning Council Calendar

**Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence:** Committee Co-Chairs Nancy Cataldi and Charles Shorter welcomed meeting participants. Committee members introduced themselves. Damian Bird led the moment of silence.

The minutes from the IOC Committee meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> were accepted and will be posted on the Planning Council website at nyhiv.org.

**Housing Services Directive Discussion:** John Rojas, Director of Housing in the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, reviewed a document consisting of considerations and recommendations for revising the guidance under which Ryan White housing services are currently provided. Three types of housing services are currently funded: emergency rental assistance, housing services for homeless PLWHA and those at risk for homelessness, and housing placement assistance. Ryan White does not provide permanent housing.

Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA): Ryan White housing assistance is for clients who are not eligible for HASA for administrative reasons. The lease has to be in the name of an HIV-positive person. ERA is transitional, short-term housing. Currently, the program serves close to 250 clients. Most clients stay for two years, although some remain for longer. Mr. Rojas recommended several adjustments/issues to consider:

- The current guidance uses the term “emergency.” IOC Committee members may want to change the descriptive term “emergency” to “short term” to more accurately reflect the nature of the services provided in the current model. (Although HRSA doesn’t allow us to do long-term housing, we don’t kick people out after two years.)
- The current guidance states that the money should be used for “Rent payments to landlords and accompanying charges such as brokers’ fees made directly to such brokers.” Mr. Rojas argued that the term “accompanying charges” is too vague and should be clarified. HOPWA does not pay for application fees or credit checks. Should Ryan White pay for these services? Paying for security deposits is complicated administratively because the money may not be returned if, in fact, the housing is damaged in some way during the client’s term of residence. We should be clear about the HRSA guidance on brokers’ fees and application fees.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the client to pay 30% of income toward rent if he/she receives income other than public assistance. This offsets the cost of the housing and helps the client to feel more vested in maintaining the housing.
- The importance of quality housing standards should be emphasized.
- Should the housing come with mandatory case management for clients? Mandatory case management places an undue burden on providers.
- What constitutes a household?
- Reminder: ERA consists of a cash payment, not actual housing.
- Reminder: the National HIV/AIDS Strategy called for housing 80% of the HIV/AIDS population.

Housing Services for Homeless PLWHA and Those at Risk for Homelessness and Unstable Housing:

- Currently, 9 or 10 programs provide housing services within this category.
- This service category consists of actual housing, as opposed to Emergency Rental Assistance, which is a cash payment.
- A waiting list usually exists for this form of housing.
- Mr. Rojas reminded the group of the need to become very familiar with the non-HASA-eligible population. These individuals won't be eligible for enhanced programs coming down the pike.
- Mr. Rojas also informed Committee members that HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) funds transitional and permanent housing but wants to move toward permanent housing.
- Committee members will want to consider the issue of substance use. HOPWA does not have an admission policy requiring sobriety, but people receiving the housing are not allowed to use on-site.
- The definition of chronically homeless is street homeless for twelve months or three episodes of homelessness in three years.

Housing Placement Assistance:

- Do we want to keep the current model or provide post-placement services, too?
- This form of housing services actually helps the client to find an apartment (as opposed to Emergency Rental Assistance, which consists of financial assistance).
- Bettina Carroll stressed the importance of finding information on housing durability – how long the client remains in the housing.

**Public Comment:** Billy Fields asked about a situation in which the lease is in the agency's name and the client loses the ability to advocate for him or herself.

**Items for Follow-Up:**

- For the next meeting, the HRSA description of housing services will be included in the packet.
- Staff will look at the last housing services RFP for expectations regarding participation in programs.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.