



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

March 7, 2012
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
281 Park Avenue South, Conference Room A
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Members Present: Victor Benadava, Nancy Cataldi, Elaine Greeley, Deborah Greene, Graham Harriman, Tracy Hatton, Peter Laqueur, Jun Matsuyoshi, Carline Numa, Jan Carl Park, Kimberleigh Smith, Brenda Starks-Ross, Steven Varnadore, Robin Wilder, Lisa Zullig

Members Absent: Damian Bird, Jose Colon-Berdecia, Christopher Cunningham, Joan Edwards, Janet Goldberg, Sandy Guillaume, Terry Hamilton, Christopher Joseph, Julie Lehane, PhD, Mary Poupon, Charles Shorter, Christina Wolf

NYC DOHMH Staff Present: Marybec Griffin-Tomas, JoAnn Hilger, Rafael Molina, John Rojas, Nina Rothschild, DrPH

Public Health Solutions Staff Present: Bettina Carroll

Others Present: Randall Bruce, Felicia Carroll, Billy Fields, Esther Lok, Jesus Maldonado

Material Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes from the February 22, 2012 Meeting
- Ryan White Housing Services Guidance with Track Changes
- Ryan White Part A Housing Guidance Recommendations and Considerations (“Cheat Sheet”)
- Ryan White Service Category Scorecards 2008-2010 for Housing
- Goals and Objectives of the Draft Comprehensive Plan for HIV/AIDS Services in the New York EMA 2012-2015

- HRSA HAB Policy Notice 11-01 re HRSA Housing Policy (from Federal Register)
- IOC Committee Mid-Term Evaluation Form
- Planning Council Calendar for March 2012

Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Review of the Meeting

Packet: Committee Co-Chair Nancy Cataldi welcomed meeting participants. Committee members introduced themselves and observed a moment of silence. Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet. The minutes from the February 22nd IOC Committee meeting were accepted for posting on the Planning Council website at nyhiv.org.

Review of the Service Category Scorecards: Jan Carl Park reviewed the service category scorecards for housing, noting that they contain information on amounts allocated, projected units of service, actual units of service, etc. Women of color constitute the largest percentage of women accessing services. Mr. Park reminded the group that the changes we make in the directive will have an impact on contracts and, most importantly, on clients.

Emergency Rental Assistance Housing Service Category: Mr. Park inquired whether Committee members would prefer to vote on changes to the housing services directive item-by-item, or whether members would prefer to make adjustments to the directive and then vote on the entire service category at once. Mr. Benadava noted that proceeding item-by-item will be a very slow process. The consensus of IOC members, however, was to vote item-by-item.

John Rojas noted that many clients are on Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) for two years. HRSA intends for all Ryan White-funded housing to be short-term or transitional, not permanent. Although our use of the term “emergency” aligns with HRSA’s intent, many clients who use this service category are not really utilizing it on an emergency basis. Seventy percent of people who use it have nowhere else to go. Committee members voted to term the service category simply Rental Assistance.

Committee members were asked whether they prefer to maintain the current model (rental assistance only to households residing in permanent housing) or pay rent subsidies for individuals residing in non-permanent housing. Short-term refers to anything non-permanent. Paying for transitional, non-permanent housing means that more people can be covered. Non-permanent housing includes, for example, staying with a friend and covers the client in the private housing market but does not cover congregate housing. Mr. Rojas noted that doing transitional housing is costlier, but people can be moved in and out faster. Graham Harriman noted that if the EMA applies for a waiver from the 75/25 core medical/non-core support services allocation in a year or

two, we could potentially add more resources for this service category. Victor Benadava noted that more people may need housing because the HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) will be pushing people out of HASA-funded housing. John Rojas reminded Committee members, however, that people who are served by Ryan White housing are non-HASA eligible. Deborah Greene asked whether individuals can receive these services if they are HIV-positive but do not have AIDS. In order to receive these services, clients have to be HIV symptomatic or have AIDS. The National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) emphasizes permanent housing.

Jan Park noted that 240 immigrants accessed this program. These are people who are housed, although “housed” may mean that they are sleeping on their grandmother’s couch. This service category usually includes clients who are living with someone else such as extended family. The current program only pays the landlords, not the person with the lease. JoAnn Hilger noted that she has asked our federal partners whether we can pay money to a non-landlord (i.e., to the family member on whose couch the PLWHA is sleeping). She noted that this will be money in an individual’s pocket and is likely to become a problem. She is also asking HRSA whether we can pay brokers’ fees. Currently, we do not pay any brokers’ fees. Committee members voted to maintain the current model (rental assistance only to households residing in permanent housing).

Committee members voted to limit rental assistance to housing units in the private rental market; not to cover application fees and credit checks; to pay brokers’ fees (pending clarification from HRSA); to eliminate the mandatory case management requirement; to expect the client to contribute 30% of his/her household income toward monthly rent; and to require a certification of need for housing for purposes of accessing and maintaining HIV-related medical care and treatment. Committee members also voted to routinely assess a household’s eligibility for HASA and/or other housing programs and to provide referrals as necessary, including assessing at intake and routinely (quarterly) reassessing the household’s eligibility for housing entitlements and support services and to provide referrals as necessary. Finally, Committee members voted to coordinate with HOPWA-funded rental assistance program(s) to ensure that duplication of services does not occur and to require the development of a housing plan for long-term housing needs.

Elaine Greeley asked whether paying for a service for Ryan White clients (e.g., all of a broker’s fee) is fair when HASA clients don’t receive the same benefit (i.e., HASA only pays half of the brokers fee).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.