



Meeting Minutes
Needs Assessment Committee
Ivy Gamble-Cobb & Ann-Gel Palermo, Co-Chairs

Thursday June 7, 2007
9:30–11:00 AM
GMHC, 119 West 24th Street, Room 410

Members Present: Ivy Gamble-Cobb (Co-Chair), Angela Aidala, Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn, Myron Gold, Janet Goldberg, Jennifer Irwin, Howard Marcus, Jan Carl Park, Sayida Self, Luis Scaccabarozzi

Members Absent: Ann-Gel Palermo (Co-Chair), Christine Campbell, Peter Catapano, Orbit Clanton, Peter Laqueur, Julie Lehane, Rosemary Lopez, Frank Machlica, Carline Numa, Victor Rodack, Teresita Rodrigues, Howard Schwartz

DOHMH Staff Present: David Klotz, Rafael Molina, Nina Rothschild, Clarissa Silva

MHRA Staff Present: Roberta Scheinmann

Others Present: Cameron Craig, LaVerne Holley, Gunjeong Lee, James Livigni, Nat Liengsiriwat, Jacqueline Whitehead

Materials Distributed:

- June 7, 2007 Agenda
- May 10, 2007 Minutes
- Special Information Sessions Schedule
- Presentation by Dr. Gunjeong Lee (2007): HIV/AIDS and Aging: People over 50 Years Old
- Handout Accompanying G. Lee Presentation

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting opened with a round of introductions, followed by a review of the minutes from the Needs Assessment Committee’s previous meeting on May 10, 2007. The minutes from the May 10th meeting were unanimously accepted.

II. Review of the Meeting Packet

Ms. Silva reviewed the contents of the meeting packet.

III. 2007 Special Information Sessions Schedule

Jan Park discussed the schedule of special information sessions. He is working with Planning Council staff to juggle many presentations. Presentations from the 2006 MAI evaluation by DOHMH and by NYAM are



scheduled for the Planning Council's meeting on July 19, 2007 but may be distributed in print because of time constraints, as Planning Council members have to vote on the spending plan at that meeting. In addition, Planning Council staff will have to schedule a presentation prepared by MHRA on performance-based contracting. Ivy Gamble-Cobb noted that a presentation on a topic will take place at each Needs Assessment Committee meeting. Ideally, the presentation to the NA Committee will precede a presentation to the full Planning Council. In July, the Needs Assessment Committee will work on a research protocol, developing a series of questions which the researchers presenting on any given topic will attempt to answer. One issue for which such a protocol may be developed is the definition and measurement of unmet need. The Needs Assessment Committee should have a series of questions to inform its examination of topics.

IV. Special Topic: Needs of PLWHA Over 50 Years Old

Dr. Gunjeong Lee presented CHAIN's study on HIV/AIDS and Aging: People over 50 Years Old. Copies of the study and of the handout accompanying her presentation are available in the office of the Ryan White Planning Council.

Myron Gold addressed the topic of the needs of PLWHA over the age of 50. His group will receive \$500,000 to do outreach to people in this age group, and he has testified to Congress and to the State legislature. He noted that seniors resent being sent to 25-year-old case managers who don't know how to approach seniors. In this society, seniors usually have stability. He inquired about the kind of stability found by researchers in the CHAIN project when they conducted a study of this population. Dr. Lee responded that CHAIN researchers looked at stability of income among recipients of SSI and SSDI and stability in housing. The older group of CHAIN participants had more stability in finance, housing, health status, and service needs. However, although the older participants are more stable, they still need assistance with housing, especially in the face of forces such as gentrification. Mr. Gold inquired whether CHAIN has conducted any research on people over 50 who are victims of domestic violence, but that is a topic for another CHAIN study. Howard Marcus asked whether the CHAIN researchers looked at mental health variables such as suicidal ideology among the over 50 cohort. CHAIN researchers used the perceived stress scale, incorporating measures of depression and anxiety, and found that younger CHAIN participants have higher stress levels, but the difference is not statistically significant. CHAIN researchers also found that Latino PLWHA have more mental health problems than members of other racial/ethnic groups.

One participant in the meeting asked whether members of the study sample are connected to case managers, to which the CHAIN researchers responded that participants have to have one service encounter in the last 12 months. Some participants are very engaged, while others are only marginally attached. Forty percent have one service gap in case management services.

PLWHAs attending the meeting expressed widespread dissatisfaction with their case managers. Mr. Gold asked where the case managers receive training in sensitivity. He commented that case managers treat everyone the same, regardless of whether they are 30-year-old injection drug users or 60-year-old stable persons. James Livigny commented that his case manager threatened him and asked what happens when a case manager doesn't know what he or she is doing. Another participant in the meeting noted that PLWHAs are encouraged to become involved in the AIDS care treatment system, but involvement doesn't do any good. HASA case managers, for example, don't know anything. Dr. Lee noted that the over 50 cohort still has many social service needs and experiences isolation. Dr. Angela Aidala, also of the CHAIN project, noted that her research group did a HOPWA-supported study on seniors. The general assumption is that seniors have access to other, non-HIV service systems, but that is not in fact the case.

CHAIN researchers will present on pathways into mental health services at the next Needs Assessment



Committee meeting.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Actions/Decisions

- N. Rothschild to circulate the CHAIN paper on pathways into mental health services.*
- N. Rothschild & C. Silva to contact CHAIN author of pathways into mental health services to formally request presentation at our next meeting*
- Next meeting: July 12, 2007(?), 9:30-11:00 am, location TBD.*