



Meeting of the
POLICY COMMITTEE
Adrian Guzman, JD, MPH, Chair

October 27, 2014
Village Care of New York
120 Broadway, Suite 2840

Members Present: Yves Gebhardt, Adrian Guzman, Matthew Lesieur, Esther Lok, Paul Meissner (by phone), Jan Carl Park, Carlos Rosario

Members Absent: Graham Harriman, Amanda Lugg, Kimberleigh Smith, Lyndel Urbano

NYC DOHMH Staff Present: Michael Pantano, Nina Rothschild, DrPH, Anna Thomas, Wilbur Yen

Others Present: Randall Bruce

Material Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes from the July 23, 2014 Policy Committee Meeting
- Planning Council Testimony from the ONAP Listening Forum on August 8, 2014
- HIV Health Reform Material
- New York Times Article: Unable to Meet the Deductible or the Doctor
- Enrolling in Health Care Coverage Under the ACA: Questions for PLWHAs to Ask
- Press Release on Governor Cuomo's Task Force to End AIDS
- Update from the Williams Institute on Effects of Lifting Blood Donation Bans on Men who Have Sex with Men
- NYC DOHMH Website Material on HIV Care Status Reports
- Planning Council Calendars for October and November 2014

Welcome/Moment of Silence/Introductions/Review of the Meeting Packet/Review of the Minutes: Adrian Guzman, Committee Chair, welcomed participants. Carlos Rosario led the moment of silence. Attendees

introduced themselves. Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet. The minutes from the July Policy Committee meeting were approved for posting on the Planning Council website at nyhiv.org.

ONAP Listening Forum:

- Adrian Guzman delivered a statement on behalf of the Planning Council at the ONAP listening forum on August 8, 2014. The statement is posted on the Planning Council website at nyhiv.org. The Planning Council's testimony, also delivered electronically, stood out because it included numbers.
- Other organizations present included Act Up, the LGBT Community Center, Housing Works, and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project.
- Planning Council staff will check whether ONAP is posting any follow-up from the listening forums on its website.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) Update:

- An estimated 500,000 New Yorkers enrolled between 2013 and early 2014, but large numbers of people are still uninsured in New York City.
- Roughly two-thirds enrolled in Medicaid and one-third enrolled in private insurance via the ACA.
- Special Needs Plans (SNPs) are not listed on the NYS Health Insurance Exchange and will probably not be on the Exchange when enrollment opens again on November 15th.

Ten Questions:

- A possible addition to the list of questions to be asked by PLWHAs enrolling in insurance under the ACA is – what services are covered for people of trans experience?

Governor Cuomo's Task Force on Ending the Epidemic:

- Thus far, the Task Force has involved a lot of data presentations but not much interaction.
- One major component is to have a single point of access.
- Focal points include enhanced rental assistance, nutrition, and transportation.
- The Task Force has a short time frame and will only meet five times because everything proposed has to be part of the State budget.

Ban on Blood Donation by MSM:

- Despite advocacy by the HIV community, the ban persists.

- The Williams Institute at UCLA found that lifting the ban would increase the blood supply by 2%-4%.
- Planning Council staff agreed to draft public comments to be submitted prior to a hearing by the Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability on November 13th and 14th, 2014.

Care Status Reports:

- Health care providers caring for HIV+ patients may contact the City's HIV registry to follow up on individuals who have fallen out of care. Anna Thomas volunteered to present on the care status reports.

Brainstorming: Policy Committee members discussed topics to be addressed in coming months and agreed to generate one or more products per month. Committee members agreed to focus first on the issue of PLWHAs' return to work.

- Work can be an incentive to take care of oneself and can lead to better health outcomes.
- PLWHAs need benefits advisement when they transition to the labor force.
- The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) formed a New York employment network to provide employment services for PLWHA, submitted recommendations, and met with Dan Tietz.
- The Part A RFP for health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) and supportive counseling and family stabilization services (SCFSS) includes peer community health worker positions.
- Our goal can be helping to create an employment network.
- AIDS.gov includes material on work. Planning Council staff will investigate.

Public Comment:

- Yves Gebhardt commented:
 - People who receive peer stipends are taxed. They pay the employer's share of taxes and their own share. We need a better clearinghouse of information on the consequences of returning to work – e.g., changes in housing subsidies. How will rent be calculated for a PLWHA who works part-time if 30% of his or her income must go to housing?
 - The Manhattan HIV Care Network met with Commissioner Bassett.
- Carlos Rosario noted that he is bringing the End of AIDS conversation to the Bronx.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Items for Follow Up:

- Planning Council staff will check whether ONAP is posting any follow-up from the August listening forums on its website.
- Planning Council staff will look up Capital NY online. This website has an interactive map using data made available by NY State of Health. The hope is to obtain enrollment information on PLWHA.
- Planning Council staff will send a follow up email to Christine Rivera asking about the number of Ryan White clients enrolled in the ACA.
- The City's Human Resources Administration (HRA) has an office of citywide health insurance access that produces a fact sheet. Planning Council staff will attempt to obtain the fact sheet.
- Planning Council staff agreed to draft public comments to be submitted prior to a hearing by the Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability on November 13th and 14th on blood donation by MSM.
- Grantee staff volunteered to present on the HIV care status reports.
- Planning Council staff will investigate what AIDS.gov says about participation in the labor force.