



Meeting of the
POLICY COMMITTEE
Matthew Lesieur, Chair

October 27, 2015
10:00 am – 11:30 am
Conference Call

Members Present: Matthew Lesieur, Jason Lippman, Jan Carl Park

Members Absent: Yves Gebhardt, Graham Harriman, Amanda Lugg, Paul Meissner, Carlos Rosario, Kimberleigh Smith, Sebastian Solomon

NYC DOHMH Staff Present: Adrian Guzman, JD, Nina Rothschild, DrPH

Others Present: Randall Bruce

Material Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes from the May, June, and July Policy Committee Meetings

Opening Remarks: Jan Carl Park, Governmental Co-Chair, updated conference call participants on appointments to the Ryan White Planning Council. The Planning Council's Executive Committee approved 9 new appointments and additional reappointments. Two or three applicants expressed interest in joining the Policy Committee. We are waiting for approval from the Mayor's Office. Having one or more new Policy Committee members from the Tri-County region would be helpful in giving us access to Congresswoman Nita Lowey via a visit to her local office.

The Planning Council is tentatively merging with the HIV Planning Group (HPG) – the body charged with community planning for HIV prevention – but the merger will take several years and will require the Mayor to issue a new executive order empowering all members of the new body to vote on all issues brought to their attention (as opposed to designating certain members to vote on prevention issues and others to vote on treatment and care issues). Both planning bodies have policy committees. Mr. Lesieur agreed to reach

out to the chair of the HPG's policy committee to learn about the activities in which members engage -- writing letters? monitoring HIV legislation? – and to discuss the possibility of collaborative work.

In the absence of a quorum, call members agreed that the minutes from May, June, and July would be recirculated by email with a request for a vote to approve.

Hot Button Summer Issues:

340B Pricing: This is a way of providing discretionary money to providers but threatens to cut CBOs out of the picture. We know that CBOs are a good source of care for some clients who are not comfortable receiving care at hospitals.

Data Reporting: HRSA has asked jurisdictions to report a very large amount of data (clients, demographics, units of service, etc.) even if the services are non-Ryan White-funded. The grantee worked to quantify the impact of collecting the data and submitted a letter to HRSA attesting to the burden imposed by the directive. That letter was picked up and telegraphed by other organizations. Planning Council staff will ask the grantee for a copy of the letter and circulate to policy committee members. Mr. Lesieur asked whether the data collection raises HIPAA issues.

DSRIP: Very little money is trickling down from the PPSs to the CBOs, despite the good track record of CBOs in reaching hard-to-reach clients, because the PPSs don't want to cede money or power. Albany only cares about achieving results. Jan Park suggested that the Policy Committee represent the underdogs by gathering the EDs from some CBOs and having them collectively present questions to Ira Feldman at the NYS DOH via a conference call

Request for Funds: Ending the Epidemic (ETE): The HIV community has asked for \$54.5 million. Organizations (Housing Works, End AIDS 2020 Coalition) are sending letters. We can ask to be added and share the letter with the Council.

HIV/AIDS Services Administration: Two issues are associated with HASA: 1) single point of entry (focusing on HASA for all upstate) and 2) expansion of HASA eligibility in NYC to include people living with non-symptomatic HIV.

Single Point of Entry: HASA (housing provided by the City's Human Resources Administration for people living with AIDS and for people living with symptomatic HIV) does not exist outside of NYC. PLWHA in the Tri-County region are homeless and sleeping in their cars. The lead sponsor of

legislation on single point of entry is Senator Brad Hoylman. Matt Lesieur agreed to schedule an appointment with him.

Safe Injection Sites: Safe injection sites exist in other cities, including Vancouver, Frankfurt, and Sydney. Drug users can inject under safer conditions, often with the supervision of a nurse who can also clean wounds, provide Naloxone to reduce overdoses, and link interested clients to treatment. Mr. Lesieur stated that safe injections sites will not happen in New York State under a Republican-controlled State Legislature. One participant in the call said that BOOM!Health has a safe injection site. Planning Council staff will investigate whether this is correct and will monitor the news for developments on this issue.

Public Comment: Randall Bruce mentioned that he received an invitation to a conference call on New York State's application for Ryan White Part B funding.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Items for Follow Up:

Matt Lesieur agreed to reach out to the Chair of the HPG's policy committee, Diane Tider, to find out what that committee does and to discuss the possibility of collaborative work.

The grantee submitted a letter to HRSA attesting to the burden imposed by all the required collection of data on clients receiving non-Ryan White-funded services. Planning Council staff will request a copy of the letter from the grantee.

Planning Council staff will convene several CBO Executive Directors and provide them with the opportunity to ask Ira Feldman at the NYS DOH about the failure of DSRIP money to trickle down from PPSs to CBOs. Persons to consider for the call with Mr. Feldman include members of the Policy Committee, Sharen Duke, Marcy Thompson, Gina Quattrochi, and someone from CAMBA.

Matthew Lesieur will schedule an appointment to meet with NYS Senator Brad Hoylman on single point of entry for housing for PLWHA.

Planning Council staff will investigate whether BOOM!Health has a safe injection site and will monitor the news for developments on this issue.