



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

March 24, 2014
Center for HIV Law and Policy
65 Broadway, 7th Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Yves Gebhardt, Adrian Guzman, JD, MPH, Paul Meissner (by phone), Jan Carl Park, Kimberleigh Smith

Members Absent: Kareem Clemons, Sandy Guillaume, Graham Harriman, Matthew Lesieur, Esther Lok, Lyndel Urbano

NYC DOHMH Staff Present: Katrina Estacio, MD, Rafael Molina, Nina Rothschild, DrPH, Anna Thomas

Others Present: Randall Bruce, Billy Fields, David Martin

Material Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes from the March 3rd Policy Committee Meeting
- Articles on CROI Presentations
- Presentation from CROI on the PARTNER Study
- Q&A for PARTNER Studies
- New York Times Article on Early Treatment for HIV in a Baby
- MMWR Article on Female-to-Female HIV Transmission
- NY Times Article on Female-to-Female Transmission
- Center for HIV Law & Policy Article on Criminalization of HIV Transmission
- AIDS Institute Press Release on President Obama's Budget for HIV/AIDS
- ABAC Chart
- New York's Plan to End AIDS: Key Elements and Next Steps
- Announcement of Legislative & Budget Briefing on NYS's Plan to End AIDS
- NYC Fact Sheet on Mayor de Blasio's Preliminary Budget for FY 2015

- New York State Coalition of HIV/AIDS Nutrition Services Statement Supporting the CHAIN Study
- Planning Council Calendar for March 2014

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

Packet: Adrian Guzman welcomed committee members. Meeting participants introduced themselves. Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet. David Martin led the moment of silence.

Abstracts from CROI: Jan Carl Park provided summaries of several major studies presented at CROI, the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. Topics included:

- PARTNER study of sero-discordant homosexual and heterosexual couples engaging in sex without condoms. When viral load was suppressed, no transmission of HIV occurred.
- Disparities in viral suppression
- Five cancers diagnosed at a later stage
- Functional cure of HIV in a baby
- Transmission of resistance to classes of HIV drugs between partners
- HPV vaccination
- HIV transmission bottleneck and the HCV epidemic
- CD4/CD8 ratios and prediction of non-AIDS illness
- HCV medication
- Uptake of self-testing in Malawi
- Boston stem cell transplant recipients: HIV rebound
- Injectable HIV medication
- PrEP uptake and adherence
- New class of HIV medications: attachment inhibitor

More information can be found at www.CROI2014.org.

Criminalization of HIV Transmission: The meeting packet includes an article jointly authored by the CDC and the Department of Justice entitled “Prevalence and Public Health Implications of State Laws that Criminalize Potential HIV Exposure in the United States.” Although the article doesn’t include any radically new statements, it is the first joint report on this topic by government agencies and asks states to review their own HIV-specific statutes to see whether they have been effective. This is the first non-NGO to take on this topic.

ABAC Chart: The AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition chart dated March 20, 2014 shows FY 2015 appropriations for federal HIV/AIDS programs. The HIV/AIDS community’s request is always higher than the President’s request. President Obama is requesting a \$4.4 million increase in funding for

HIV. HRSA is planning to collapse Parts C (early intervention services and capacity development grants) and D (women, infants, children, youth, and their families). Part D is included in all other Parts of the Ryan White Program and doesn't need to stand alone.

New York City Budget: The de Blasio budget includes a victory for housing advocates. PLWHAs on disability from AIDS will not have to contribute more than 30% of their income toward their rent. Previously, PLWHAs on disability had to spend up to 70% of their income on rent, leaving them with approximately \$11 per day on which to live.

New York's Plan to End AIDS: Several organizations and advocates are trying to encourage Governor Andrew Cuomo to show leadership on ending AIDS as he showed leadership on revamping Medicaid in New York State. A briefing on this topic on March 13th was one of many taking place around the State. The HIV/AIDS community hoped that the Governor would include this initiative in the State of the State address and in the budget, but we're not there yet.

Meanwhile, Jason Helgerson, NYS Medicaid Director, has been negotiating with Gilead about the pricing of medication and is shopping this idea to other pharmaceutical companies. Planning Council leadership hopes to invite Dan Tietz to address the Council on this topic.

Lobbyists: With the Mayor de Blasio come new lobbyists in Washington, DC and in Albany. The Planning Council might invite these lobbyists to participate in a panel at a Planning Council meeting. Jan Park will investigate where the Mayor's office is regarding these appointments.

Guide for PLWHA: Planning Council staff members are working on a guide for PLWHAs seeking care under the ACA. Ohio has created documents for this purpose, including an analysis of the HIV formulary for the various Ohio plans. California has created a list of ten questions to which PLWHAs need answers.

Public Comment:

- Yves Gebhardt mentioned a concern that having a non-detectable viral load will be perceived as non-infected, and people will resume taking risks. David Martin expressed a related concern, namely, that HIV is no longer among the top ten causes of death in New York City, potentially leading some individuals to conclude that we can focus fewer financial resources on it. Nevertheless, 3,100 new infections still occur per year in New York. We still need to teach people how to be safe and protect themselves.

- Mr. Gebhardt noted that young people are smoking Smarties candies – hardly a good habit.
- Mr. Gebhardt stated that Douglas Brooks, MSW, has been appointed the new Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy.
- David Martin expressed concern about unsanitary, dangerous housing for PLWHAs. He fears that the Client Satisfaction Survey assesses only clients' perceptions of the services they receive to help them obtain housing and doesn't do anything to address the actual condition of the housing.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Items for Follow-Up:

- With Mayor de Blasio come new lobbyists in Washington, DC and in Albany. The Planning Council may invite Mayor de Blasio's lobbyists to participate in a panel at a Planning Council meeting. Jan Park will investigate where the Mayor's office is regarding these appointments.
- Planning Council staff will continue work on the guide for PLWHAs selecting a health care plan through the Affordable Care Act.
- Planning Council leadership hopes to invite Dan Tietz to address the Council on negotiating with Gilead and other pharmaceutical companies about the pricing of medication.