



Meeting of the
POLICY COMMITTEE
Sharen Duke, Chair

May 22, 2012
AIDS Service Center of NYC
41 East 11th Street, 5th Floor
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Members Present: Sharen Duke, Yves Gebhardt, Kristin Goodwin, Sandy Guillaume, Matthew Lesieur, Lorna Littner, Paul Meissner (by phone), Jan Carl Park, Andresa Person, Gloria Searson

Members Absent: Kareem Clemons, Christopher Cunningham, Sharon Doctor, Elaine Greeley, Graham Harriman, Esther Lok, Lucky Michaels, Dorella Walters

NYC DOHMH Staff Present: Mary Kay Diakite, Terrance Gardet, Merline Jean-Casimir, Rafael Molina, Nina Rothschild, DrPH

Others Present: Billy Fields, Kimberleigh Smith, Lyndel Urbano

Material Distributed:

Agenda

Minutes from the March 27, 2012 Meeting

HRSA Website Statement on Program Reauthorization

Community Responses to Planning Council and DOHMH Decisions to Endorse OTC HIV Testing

Statements on OTC Test from Housing Works, Who's Positive, NMAC, NAPWA, GMHC

Statements on PrEP from amfAR, AIDS United, AVAC, GMHC

Statement from AIDS United on SEP

CAEAR Coalition Letter to HRSA Administrator Wakefield on Implementation of National Monitoring Standards

CAEAR Coalition Analysis of Impact of Charging Rent and Utilities to Administrative Costs

Letter from NYC DOHMH and NYSDOH to Dr. Deborah Parham Hopson re Exemption of Medicaid Certification Requirement for RW Testing
Letters to Dr. Monica Sweeney and Humberto Cruz from Dr. Deborah Parham Hopson re Medicaid Certification for HIV Testing Programs in Non-Clinical Settings
NAPWA Material on National HIV Testing Day, Truvada as PrEP, OTC Testing, Gilead's Quad Pill, House Move to Strip HIV Funding for Lower-Income Americans, Funding Cuts in San Francisco, Prices of AIDS Meds, Hep C, CDC Webinar on Drug-Resistant Gonorrhea, Texas's Loss Against Planned Parenthood, Appointment of Steve Bailous as Chair of DC RW Planning Council, ADAP Watch
NYS Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Meeting Summary from April 19, 2012
Request from NYC DOHMH for Information on Guidance for the Specification of a Reporting System for Streamlining HHS-Funded Prevention, Treatment, and Care Data
Policy Committee List of Open and Closed Items
Planning Council Calendar for June 2012

Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Review of the Contents of the Meeting Packet: Committee Chair Sharen Duke welcomed meeting participants. Committee members introduced themselves and observed a moment of silence. Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet.

Update on DOHMH Application for a Waiver: Jan Park, Governmental Co-Chair of the Planning Council, updated Committee members on the Planning Council's decision to apply for a waiver from the 75/25 core medical/non-core support services funding allocation requirement. Only one jurisdiction – Boston – which has universal health care -- has applied for and been granted a waiver. According to the report from the consultant team at Manatt, there will be a shift in the use of services.

Ryan White Reauthorization: HRSA is accepting comments on the possibility of Ryan White reauthorization. Committee members agreed that a sub-committee should formulate comments on behalf of the full Planning Council. The CAEAR Coalition had a call on this topic and decided not to call the process reauthorization. The current Congress is not necessarily favorably disposed to Ryan White services. Sharen Duke noted that the trend is to diminish specialty services for HIV/AIDS treatment and to focus on streamlining services, despite the stigma still associated with the illness and the complicated treatments that can justify the continuation of special services.

OTC HIV Testing: Jan Park noted that people have different ways of finding out their HIV status. When Planning Council staff learned that an FDA committee was going to have a meeting on the approval of an OTC HIV test, Mr. Park brought the matter to Ms. Duke's attention. With insufficient time to survey Policy Committee members, the issue went directly to the Executive Committee of the Planning Council. EC members agreed to sign a letter on behalf of the full Planning Council. Mr. Park wants Committee members to be aware of the process – i.e., under ordinary circumstances, matters move from individual committees to the EC and to the full PC. Ms. Duke noted that at the AIDS Service Center, a set of criteria exists to guide the organization on whether to weigh in for situations that are out of the ordinary. Mr. Park also noted that sometimes, the Planning Council propels DOHMH to respond to emerging issues. In this case, DOHMH decided to pick up on the Planning Council's response and weigh in.

Medicaid Exemption for Testing in CLIA-Waived Facilities: Ms. Duke noted a recent victory: advocacy groups motivated the City and State to write to HRSA, and HRSA announced its decision that CLIA-waived facilities that conduct HIV testing do not have to be Medicaid-certified.

Truvada as Prophylaxis: The Food and Drug Administration has recommended Truvada as prophylaxis for individuals at high risk of acquiring HIV infection. Committee members discussed the possibility of drafting a letter to Kathleen Sebelius supporting the FDA decision. This is primarily an HIV prevention issue. Is it relevant to Ryan White? Terrance Gardet of the HIV Planning Group stated that UCHAPS is doing a letter in support of Truvada as PreEP. Cornell University, moreover, is looking at other medications for prophylaxis. Insurance companies do not want to pay for prophylaxis. Nina Rothschild agreed to put together a briefing document on Truvada as PrEP and, going forward, on other HIV/AIDS policy issues for Policy Committee members. Matt Lesieur noted the importance of pre-exposure prophylaxis for some groups such as commercial sex workers and people in abusive relationships who cannot ask their partners to use protection.

Syringe Exchange: One or more members of Congress generally attach riders prohibiting the use of federal funds for syringe exchange. Although the Planning Council cannot weigh in on pending legislation, we can write a letter on the importance of syringe exchange. Policy Committee members agreed to draft a letter about our understanding of the efficacy of SEP for disease prevention and to send it to the EC, the PC, to PACHA (Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS), President Obama, Senator Harry Reid, and Speaker Boehner. This letter should go out before the end of September. Terrance Gardet noted that the HIV Planning Group (formerly known as the PPG) is sending a letter to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer asking them to champion this issue.

Rent and Utilities as Administrative Expenses: Ms. Duke noted that she and several colleagues went to their Congressional representatives, who have contacted HRSA to ask whether HRSA is examining the impact of including rent and utilities as administrative expenses. Senator Schumer may be getting on the case.

Certification: Although Medicaid certification is not needed for testing, it is necessary for harm reduction programs. The NYS DOH is recommending that harm reduction be Medicaid-reimbursable. OASAS currently issues outpatient licenses for agencies to conduct outpatient drug treatment, but OASAS requires abstinence. As a Policy Committee, we'll keep an eye on this issue.

Non-Preferred Drugs: Any attempt to restrict access to hepatitis C and mental health drugs potentially impacts negatively on our population. In addition, restriction works at cross purposes with New York City's push for hepatitis C detection and treatment. Committee members discussed whether to take up the advocacy cause for illnesses other than HIV. People with HIV often have co-infections, and we know that hepatitis C complicates the treatment for HIV. Matt Lesieur spoke up for the importance of including antipsychotics on preferred drug lists, although Ms. Duke noted that antipsychotics are more of a reach than hepatitis meds. Nina Rothschild noted that HRSA requires us to have someone co-infected with hepatitis C on the Council. Dr. Rothschild agreed to create a briefing document on why the Planning Council should or should not address illnesses other than HIV.

City Council Update: Commissioner Doar spoke to the City Council. We are at risk of losing \$6-\$7 million in HASA housing support. Momentum's food and nutrition program is on the chopping block, and cuts to child care slots and to seniors are being considered. Kristin Goodwin encouraged Committee member to call their Council members and, if they submit testimony, to send a copy of the testimony to their Council member.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the March meeting of the Policy Committee were approved for posting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.