



Meeting of the  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**  
Sean Cahill, PhD, and Kali Lindsey, Co-Chairs

May 3, 2011  
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies  
281 Park Avenue South  
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Members Present:** Sean Cahill, PhD, Kareem Clemons, Gregory Cruz, Yves Gebhardt, Elaine Greeley, Matthew Lesieur, Kali Lindsey, Lorna Littner, Esther Lok, Paul Meissner, Lucky S. Michaels, Jan Carl Park, Gloria Searson, Dorella Walters

**Members Absent:** Susan Alston, Christopher Cunningham, Sharon Doctor, Kristin Goodwin, Andresa Person, Kimberly Sanders

**NYC DOHMH Staff Present:** Rafael Molina, Nina Rothschild, DrPH

**Others Present:** Lyndel Urbano

**Material Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from the April Meeting
- List of Open and Closed Items
- ABAC FY 2012 Appropriations for HIV/AIDS Programs
- ABAC Letter to Senate and House Leadership Asking for Additional Funding for HIV/AIDS
- CAEAR Coalition Material:
  - Building the Capacity of Ryan White Program Parts A and C Service Needs: FY 2012
  - OMB: The RW HIV/AIDS Program Works
  - HIV/AIDS Funding Gaps: FY 2001-2010
  - RW Program Appropriations: FY 2011 and FY 2012
  - Increased RW Program Resources Needed in 2011 and 2012
- An Advocate's Guide to Talking about the FY 2011 Budget
- National ADAP Monitoring Project Annual Report

- Articles on Organ Transplantation from and to HIV-infected Individuals
- Planning Council May Month-at-a-Glance
- Planning Council Calendar May 2011

**Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence:** Dr. Sean Cahill and Kali Lindsey welcome meeting participants. Committee members introduced themselves and observed a moment of silence.

**Review of the Meeting Packet/Review of the Minutes:** Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet. The minutes from the April meeting were approved with one change and will be posted.

**Review of the List of Open and Closed Items:**

- **Governor Cuomo's Medicaid Redesign Team:** Committee members noted that the Medicaid Redesign Team has 6 workgroups, one of which focuses on housing. Committee members agreed to invite Ginny Schubert and someone from Mayor Bloomberg's office to speak to the Committee about housing. Jan Carl Park agreed to call Humberto Cruz of the AIDS Institute and ask him to speak with the Policy Committee on the Governor's AIDS Strategy.
- **Public Service Announcement Targeting YMSM of Color:** Dr. Monica Sweeney did not respond to a letter following up on her appearance before the full Planning Council to discuss the PSA. Nina Rothschild agreed to draft a letter addressed to Dr. Farley to follow up and to cc Dr. Sweeney.
- **Appropriations:** FY11 appropriations include cuts to CDC, HRSA, HOPWA, NIH, and the FDA. CDC lost close to \$800 million. We don't know how that will affect HIV, but the President is very committed to HIV. The Ryan White Program actually fared quite well, suffering only a small reduction. Cities don't know their awards yet, however. The New York EMA has been given a partial award which will run out at the end of June.
- **24-Month Cumulative Lifetime Cap on Housing:** The lifetime cap on Ryan White-funded housing has been rescinded.
- **Blood Donations/Organ Transplantation:** Policy Committee members want to weigh in on the issue of organ transplantation to and from HIV-infected individuals. Jan Carl Park agreed to seek clarification from Emily Gantz McKay whether weighing in on this issue is an appropriate activity for the Planning Council.
- **Policy Committee Presentation to Planning Council:** Before we give this presentation, we need clarification on what constitutes lobbying.
- **Federal Funding for SEPs:** This battle will be fought again in FY12. Jan agreed to seek clarification from Christine Rivera whether ADAP can pay for syringes for IDUs.

- **Health Care Reform and PLWHA:** Efforts are ongoing to defund the health insurance exchanges. Jan Park agreed to talk with Emily Gantz McKay about whether the Planning Council can express its concerns about potential defunding of the exchanges.
- **ADAP:** States are changing their eligibility levels to make the problem look smaller. Thousands of people have become ineligible.
- **Medicaid Managed Care and HIV medications:** We are concerned that people who are less able to fight insurance companies may be steered to less good drugs. Albany is steering patients toward certain drugs because it wants the rebates. HIV medications are on the preferred drug list. Other medications, such as for herpes outbreaks, may be on the preferred drug list. We need to be vigilant and protect access to these medications.

**City Issues:** HRA security deposit: the deposit goes up when the rent goes up, but the City's Human Resources Administration is not helping clients with the extra money for the deposit. Members discussed weighing in on this topic, given that this is a very vulnerable population. Lyndel Urbano will share his letter on this topic to Council Member Annabel Palma, and Nina Rothschild will draft a comparable one.

The City budget will come out on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Still on the table is the laying off of HASA caseworkers, even though the City backed down in the past after HousingWorks went to court on this topic. Also on the table for cuts are supportive housing case management and food programs. All City Council pre-existing initiatives are at risk.

**New Reporting Requirements:** Organizations receiving Ryan White funding through NYC DOHMH are expected to track more than 300 items (e.g., income eligibility). This is a HRSA data initiative. We may become more focused on verifying a patient's income to determine eligibility. The HRSA eligibility standard will be included in the packet for next time.