



Meeting of the
POLICY COMMITTEE
Matthew Lesieur, Chair

June 23, 2015
Conference Call

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

Members Absent: Yves Gebhardt, Graham Harriman, Esther Lok, Amanda Lugg, Paul Meissner, Kimberleigh Smith, Lyndel Urbano

NYC DOHMH Staff Present: Nina Rothschild, DrPH, Anna Thomas

Meeting Material:

- Agenda
- Minutes from the May 8, 2015 Meeting
- Press Release from End AIDS NY 2020 Coalition Demanding \$10 Million for Ending the Epidemic
- Letter to NYC Council Speaker Mark-Viverito Requesting \$10 Million for HIV
- Material from Federal Register Regarding HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act Safeguards and Research Criteria for Transplantation of Organs Infected with HIV
- PACHA Letter to President Obama on HCV
- PACHA Letter to HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell Regarding Federal Funding for Syringe Exchange

Recruiting New Policy Committee Members: Committee Chair Matt Lesieur has reached out to organizations such as Housing Works to recruit new members for the Policy Committee.

Review of the Meeting Packet/Review of the Minutes: Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet as distributed electronically. Review of the minutes from the May 8th meeting was deferred for lack of a quorum on the call.

Request for \$10 Million for Ending the Epidemic: The City Council will vote on the \$10 million request for ending the HIV epidemic on Thursday, June 25th.

HOPE (HIV Organ Policy Equity) Act Safeguards and Research Criteria for Transplantation of HIV-Infected Organs: The NIH is developing criteria for conducting research on the transplantation of HIV+ organs into HIV+ recipients. Donating an HIV+ organ is becoming standard practice in other countries. The Planning Council will submit comments and will reach out to the CAEAR Coalition and to other Planning Councils for support. Comments must be received by August 17, 2015.

Home Office Congressional Visits:

- In order for Policy Committee members to make visits to the home offices of Congressional Representatives and speak about the value of Ryan White, we need updated epidemiologic information on HIV in each Congressional District and an update on the number of agencies providing services in each district.
- Carlos Rosario has been working closely with the Bronx delegation.

Gardasil: Although Gardasil is primarily intended to protect individuals ages 26 and under against becoming infected with the most common strains of the human papilloma virus, some doctors are recommending that patients who already have anal dysplasia receive Gardasil as a preventive measure. Insurance companies, however, will not necessarily pay for Gardasil for anal dysplasia. The New York State ADAP Program pays for Gardasil. Planning Council staff will draft a letter to the NYS Health Commissioner and to the NYS Finance Commissioner requesting coverage of the vaccine for individuals over the age of 26 with anal dysplasia.

Affordable Care Act (ACA): The Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is working on a NYS-specific report on the purchase of health insurance on the exchange. We are interested in learning whether the number of PLWHA who are purchasing private insurance has increased.

Legal Services Directive: The Executive Committee of the Planning Council just approved the new legal services directive drafted by the Integration of Care Committee. The new directive covers expanded services such as legal representation for victims of domestic violence. In order to pay for expanded services, money will have to be redirected from elsewhere in the NY EMA's portfolio – possibly from ADAP funding, cost savings, or reprogramming dollars. All of this is happening in the context of a reduction in the total award. Jan Carl Park advocated for discussing several topics during the allocations process and for having the conversation in the Fall:

- Underspending
- Trend analysis
- Redirection of funds
- Zero-based budgeting

Public Comment: No members of the public commented.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Items for Follow Up:

- Planning Council staff will draft comments on the proposal in the Federal Register regarding donation of HIV+ Organs to HIV+ recipients and bring the draft to the next meeting of the Policy Committee. If the Policy Committee approves, the draft comments will move to the Executive Committee and to the full Planning Council.
- Planning Council staff will draft a letter to the NYS Health Commissioner and to the NYS Finance Commissioner requesting coverage of the Gardasil vaccine for individuals over the age of 26 with anal dysplasia.