



Meeting of the  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**  
Matthew Lesieur, Chair

July 14, 2015  
By Conference Call  
10:00 am – 11:00 am

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

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

**NYC DOHMH Staff Present:** M. Bari Khan, Nina Rothschild, DrPH, Anna Thomas

**Others Present:** Randall Bruce, Billy Fields

**Material Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from the May 8<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup> Policy Committee Meetings
- Draft Letter to HRSA re HOPE (HIV Organ Procurement) Act
- Draft Letter to NYS Health Commissioner and NYS Acting Superintendent of Insurance re Insurance Coverage of Gardasil
- Manatt Summary of CMS Proposed Overhaul of Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Rules
- Reimagining the Ryan White Program Issue Briefs 1, 2, and 3

**Introductions/Review of the Meeting Minutes/Review of the Meeting Packet:** Participants announced their presence. Review of the minutes from the May and June meetings was deferred because of the absence of a quorum. Nina Rothschild reviewed the material distributed electronically.

**Draft Letter to HRSA re HOPE Act:** Congress passed the HOPE Act mandating the Secretary of Health and Human Services to craft and promulgate standards for research involving the transplantation of organs

from HIV+ donors into HIV+ recipients. In response to a request for comments in the *Federal Register*, Planning Council staff drafted a letter urging the Secretary to implement criteria for research on such transplantation with all deliberate speed. Jan Carl Park suggested adding local context to the letter – e.g., number of people in New York awaiting livers and kidneys.

**Draft Letter to NYS Health Commissioner and NYS Superintendent of Insurance Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Gardasil for People over the Age of 26:** Gardasil, the vaccine which protects against infection with some strains of HPV, is only approved for use in populations ages 26 and under. Some physicians are now prescribing it for HIV+ patients who are over the age of 26 and already have anal dysplasia, but insurance won't necessarily pay for it because it is formally approved only for individuals ages 26 and under. Planning Council staff drafted a letter on this topic to the NYS Health Insurance Commissioner and the NYS Superintendent of Insurance. Jan Park recommended obtaining from Christine Rivera the number of people who have obtained Gardasil through ADAP.

Grantee staff member Anna Thomas recommended running the draft letter by a clinician within NYC DOHMH – e.g., Dr. Demetre Daskalakis or Dr. Ben Tsoi. Policy Committee Chair Matt Lesieur stated that he is willing to let one of the doctors review the letter but does not necessarily to defer to the doctor's opinion.

**CMS Proposed Overhaul of Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Rules:** The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) takes a somewhat haphazard approach to approving health insurance plans. In some states, e.g., Tennessee, oversight of the plans doesn't really help the patient. The new CMS proposed regulations raise the bar to close to the New York standard and should help to improve the appeals process.

**White Papers on the Future of Ryan White:** At the present time, a groundswell for reauthorization does not seem to exist. Jan Park and Matt Lesieur agreed to reach out to Bill McColl and elicit his impression of the importance of the white papers.

The paper on the workforce does not address the problems concerning the lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS among members of the HIV/AIDS workforce acknowledged in the Black AIDS Institute's report entitled "When We Know Better, We Do Better."

**Request for \$10 Million for HIV/AIDS in NYC:** The End of AIDS Coalition is meeting tomorrow at Housing Works. The HIV community may have lost ground with City money. When the executive budget for the City was

adopted, no money was included for any of the HIV community's asks. Public Health Solutions had to pull an RFP that it had already issued. We cannot formally address the absence of money for the HIV community's asks as a Planning Council, but we can include it as a Hot Topic for the Planning Council.

Carlos Rosario noted that a small surplus exists from the City Council members' discretionary fund and that some agencies are being encouraged to apply for funding if they already have an RFP.

**Federal Budget:** The federal budget will probably be a Continuing Resolution. The House does not have any interest in generating a compromise appropriations bill.

**Comprehensive Plan for HIV/AIDS:** We have received the new guidance for the comprehensive plan for HIV/AIDS services from HRSA and CDC. We should update the Council on the guidance and reach out to our partners at the NYS DOH AIDS Institute.

**Public Comment:** No members of the public commented.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

**Items for Follow Up:**

- Planning Council staff will circulate the May and June minutes by email to Policy Committee members for approval because a quorum was not present on the phone call.
- Planning Council staff will add local context concerning NY – e.g., number of people awaiting organ transplants -- to the letter to Dr. Jonah Odum of the NIH on the HOPE Act.
- Planning Council staff will add additional information to the draft letter on Gardasil coverage such as the number of people who have obtained Gardasil via ADAP.
- Jan Park and Matt Lesieur agreed to reach out to Bill McColl and elicit his impression of the importance of the white papers.
- Kimberleigh Smith has a seat on the policy committees of both the Planning Council and the PPG. Planning Council staff will draft an inquiry about the \$10 million request from the City Council, cc Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, and convene a joint conference call. Planning Council staff will include the loss of the \$10 million as a hot topic for the Planning Council meeting in July.