



Meeting of the
POLICY COMMITTEE
Sharen Duke, Chair

July 30, 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, Matthew Lesieur, Jan Carl Park

Members Absent: Kareem Clemons, Christopher Cunningham, Sharon Doctor, Elaine Greeley, Sandy Guillaume, Graham Harriman, Lorna Littner, Esther Lok, Paul Meissner, Lucky Michaels, Andresa Person, Gloria Searson, Dorella Walters

NYC DOHMH Staff Present: Merline Casimir, Terrance Gardet, Kimbirly Mack, Rafael Molina, Nina Rothschild, DrPH

Others Present: Sallie Adams, Kurt Conklin, Cori Madrid, Kelsey Van Nice

Material Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes from the June 26, 2012 Meeting of the Policy Committee
- List of Policy Committee Activities in 2011-2012
- Planning Council letter to Dr. Mary Wakefield on Ryan White Extension
- Policy Brief on Truvada as PrEP
- Policy Brief on Addressing Illnesses Other than HIV
- Policy Brief on Syringe Exchange
- Policy Committee List of Open and Closed Items

Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Approval of the Minutes/Review of the Contents of the Meeting Packet/Review of Committee's Activities: Committee Chair Sharen Duke welcomed meeting participants. Committee members introduced themselves and observed a moment of silence. The minutes from the June meeting of the Policy

Committee were approved and will be posted on the Planning Council website at nyhiv.org. Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet and listed the Policy Committee activities (letters, presentations, testimony) during the current community planning cycle.

Truvada as PrEP: Nina Rothschild prepared a brief on Truvada as PrEP – using HIV medication as prophylaxis prior to an expected exposure to HIV -- a topic under consideration by the FDA. Policy Committee members agreed that further attention to this topic for Ryan White purposes was not warranted at this time.

Syringe Exchange Programs: The AIDS community has been active regarding syringe exchange. As the Planning Council's Policy Committee, we cannot comment on legislation or appropriations. At this time, our potential impact – e.g., if we choose to write a letter supporting syringe exchange but not advocating for funding – is limited. Policy Committee members discussed the possibility of doing an assessment of the impact of the ban on federal funding for syringe exchange in New York City. Matt Lesieur agreed to talk to syringe exchange staff at organizations such as New York Harm Reduction Educators and invite one or two of them to present to the Policy Committee.

Addressing Illnesses Other Than HIV: Committee members discussed whether we should address other, related illnesses. For example, a sign-on letter is in circulation concerning the pricing for a Hepatitis C medication. Committee members agreed that the letter could be put into circulation to Planning Council members.

Discussion: Sharen Duke asked Committee members about their understanding of the role of Ryan White in the context of health care reform. Members named a number of issues for the Committee to investigate:

- Ensuring continued services that are not duplicative of the Affordable Care Act
- Determining what we need to change about Ryan White medical case management so that it is not duplicative of health homes.
- Understanding the role of HASA in the context of health homes

Mr. Park noted that we've asked our federal partners how other planning councils are dealing with these issues and are beginning to look at how our lives will change with the implementation of the ACA. Disparities will increase in states that choose not to implement all components of the ACA. Matt Lesieur noted that Ryan White will be extended or reauthorized, and we need to be ready to go on this topic.

Mr. Lesieur noted that HIV as a stand-alone health care delivery system is disappearing. HIV-specific case management, for example, is being replaced. In a way, this is what we wanted – namely, to do away with separateness, stigma, and AIDS exceptionalism. Ms. Goodwin noted the urgency of protecting what clients have and figuring out what’s going on. Staff from the AIDS Service Center noted that some health care system changes are exciting and some are terrifying. Increasingly, the focus is on the medicalization of HIV – but the disease does not happen in isolation from a lot of social and psychological issues.

Randall Bruce noted that he is attending the meeting as a Planning Council member because he feels the need to understand more about the background behind the letters which the Planning Council signs on to or drafts. Terrance Gardet, who leads the CDC-funded HIV Planning Group at the NYC DOHMH noted that he sees himself as a resource and a support. Our federal partners want to see more intersection of prevention and treatment and care.

Kurt Conklin of SIECUS noted that PLWHAs are consumers of sexuality education. In many parts of the US, sexuality education is very limited.

Yves Gebhardt noted that he loves to educate lawmakers and also asked whether there will be enough doctors to see the patients newly eligible for care under the Affordable Care Act. Massachusetts confronted a problem with a shortage of primary care physicians, but the ACA includes provisions for training MDs, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

Committee members noted that health homes are still taking shape and are accompanied by administrative challenges. AIDS Service Center staff put together a consumer education presentation on health homes. Some consumers are puzzled by the fact that these homes are not concrete.

Jan Carl Park noted that one new service category that we’ve identified and may want to consider funding is health education. He also suggested that we begin the next Policy Committee session with an examination of the Manatt report as a baseline for understanding the lay of the land for people living with HIV/AIDS in New York City. Nina Rothschild agreed to send the report to Policy Committee members.

Matt Lesieur noted the announcement at the international AIDS conference that there are now two new patients with bone marrow transplants who are HIV-free. At the conference, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton noted that during the previous international AIDS conference held in the US, people died. The distance we have come is inspiring. Also at the conference, Elton John spoke about how homophobia fuels the epidemic. The conference also

included a big march which ended at the White House. The march was helpful in terms of increasing awareness about our issues.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.