



HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York

January 22, 2009, 3:10-5:05 PM

LGBT Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th St, Rm. 101, New York, NY

MINUTES

Members Present: J.C. Park (Governmental Co-chair), S. Elcock (Community Co-chair), S. Hemraj (Finance Officer), S. Adams, V. Benadava, D. Bird, G. DeYounge, J. Eddie, J. Edwards, A. Etienne, T. Faulkner, Y. Gebhardt (for E. Viera), M. Gilborn, E. Howell (for L. Freddy Molano, MD, MPH), M. Irizarry, J. Irwin, G. Joseph (for T. Mack, MD, MPH), F. Laraque, M.D., M.P.H., J. Leandry-Torres, M. Lesieur, F. Machlica (for L. Fraser), D. Marder, MD, H. Mateo, D. Ng, T. Petro, D. Rakower, C. Shorter, D. Walters

Members Absent: A. Aviles, B. Backofen, M. Bacon, A. Cohall, M.D., I. Feldman, K. Gaither, M.D., A. Hardman, G. Mercado, A. Perry, G. Philip, P. Ude, M.D.

Staff Present: J. Hilger, A. Santella, Ph.D., D. Klotz, N. Rothschild, DrPH, D. Wong, R. Molina; *HIVCS:* R. Miller; *Consultant:* M. Isbell

Agenda Item #1: Meeting Opening/Introduction/Minutes

Mr. Park and Ms. Elcock opened the meeting, followed by member introductions. *Ms. Mateo* introduced the moment of silence. *Ms. Rakower* reviewed the rules of respectful engagement. *Mr. Park* reviewed the agenda, meeting packet and conflicts of interest guidelines.

The minutes of the December 18, 2008 meeting were approved with no changes.

Agenda Item #2: Public Comment, Part I

N. Sayidan: HHC Harlem Hospital will be recruiting a random sample of women from high HIV prevalence areas for a new prevention study called "ISIS", starting this spring. The 2-year study in Harlem and South Bronx is NIH-funded and will try to get an estimate of HIV prevalence in this population.

A. Etienne: The Council needs to address upcoming changes in transportation services, including the elimination of the Part A-funded Project Hospitality program and increased Access-a-Ride fares. Also, the PLWHA Advisory Group reiterates its invitation to all Council members to attend one of our meetings.

Agenda Item #3: Ryan White Part A FY 2009 Grant Application

Mr. Isbell gave an overview of the FY 2009 Part A grant application, which was submitted to HRSA in September. The application is being scored in an environment of stable overall funding for Part A nationally, growing demand for Part A services, and increasing competition for funding. Last year, no weaknesses were cited by the reviewers for the FY08 application, and we used that application as the starting point for FY 2009. The largest number of points in the application score is for demonstrated need, which includes epidemiological data and data on co-morbidities and other factors that make the epidemic in the NY EMA more complex.

The application is the culmination of the Council's work and reflects the data-driven priorities established in the planning process. Data and consumer input has markedly improved over the years, which is reflected in the application. The annual priorities are also strongly linked to HRSA's goals and the goals of the EMA's strategic plan. The key themes of this year's application are: NY has the nation's largest and most complex epidemic; the comprehensive continuum of care is having a major public health impact; Part A plays a vital role in this care continuum; there is a data-driven planning process; the FY 2009 plan advances the purposes of Part A (emphasis on core services and care coordination), and that continuous quality improvement is an EMA priority.

There was a brief discussion about enhancing the use of quality management data in the upcoming planning cycle. Members also discussed the HRSA-designated special populations addressed in the application.

Mr. Park thanked *Mr. Isbell* for his outstanding work on this year's and previous year's applications.

Agenda Item #4: Grantee Report

Ms. Hilger reported on the release of the Care Coordination RFP and its timeline. This represents the changes made by the Council last year to combine medical case management, treatment adherence and maintenance in care services into a comprehensive model of care for improving health outcomes.

The Council's reprogramming plan is being implemented in order to use unobligated funds and keep underspending under 2%. Most of the reprogrammed funds are for one-time enhancements. Also, the MAI carry-over funds have been received, and are being reprogrammed to ADAP, as per the Council's plan.

The FY 2007 MAI program report is being submitted to HRSA at the end of the month and will be shared with the Council. Also, HRSA is changing the method of reporting Maintenance of Effort so that EMAs must track all local expenditures for Part A services. DOHMH will be looking at how to get reliable, on-going data to track this.

Mr. Petro reported that Tri-county is concentrating on base contract renewals. Also, the new medical case management learning network is taking off, with all HIV primary care providers in the region participating.

Agenda Item #5: Policy Update

Mr. Lesieur distributed a memo outlining concerns with Gov. Paterson's proposed FY 2009 budget, which cuts Medicaid payments for home care and nursing homes, as well as eliminating the HIV welfare to work program. *Mr. Ng* reported that the Obama administration's proposed economic stimulus package includes having the federal government take on a larger proportion of Medicaid funding, which would free up potentially billions of dollars in State funds. The Policy Committee is asking the Council to send

a letter to Gov. Paterson to use those savings for health care only and to avoid some of the proposed cuts to services that PLWHA access.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the letter with friendly amendments that it read “ambulatory health care safety net” and drop “community-based”, and that versions be sent to Mayor Bloomberg and County Executives in Tri-county about the local portions of the Medicaid savings. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item #6: Planning Council Committee Work Update

Mr. Park gave a presentation of the role of each Council committee, its accomplishments to date for this planning cycle, and its upcoming work.

Agenda Item #7 Public Comment, Part II

M. Soares: We have to advocate strongly with the new administration for better HIV policies. Also, I urge all Council members to attend AG and Consumers Committee meetings.

B. Fields: Housing services for PLWHA are still often sub-standard, which is bad for people’s health. We need safe, appropriate housing.

T. Smoth-Caronia: I am concerned that with the Care Coordination RFP and program start-up time, that we will face high under-spending. Also, we should ask the MTA to hold 501(c)3 organizations harmless from any MetroCard fare increases so that they can still provide transportation to their clients without hurting their budgets.

Mr. Park and Ms. Miller assured that there are mechanisms in place to ensure spending in the first year of the Care Coordination program and to monitor spending overall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved by the HIV Planning Council on February 19, 2009

Jan Carl Park, MA, MPA
Governmental Co-chair