

Meeting of the  
**HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council**

October 23, 2003  
SEIU Local 1199, 310 W. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York City  
2:10pm-5:20pm

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** F. Oldham, Jr. (Governmental Co-chair), B. Watts (Finance Officer), R. Abadia, S. Abramowitz, PhD, A. Ali, P. Avitabile (for E. del Campo), M. Bacon, M. Barnes, P. Berrios (for J. Pedraza), L. Bishop, J. Bostic, J. Brown, K. Butler, F. Carbone, R. Chavez, C. Cobb, C. Craig, B. L. Curry, D. DeLeon, L. Fraser, R. Gonzalez, A. Gutkovich (for D. Marder, MD), S. Halperin, M. Hamilton (for P. Stabile), T. Hamilton (for B. Chu, MD), E. Handelsman, MD, S. Hemraj, M. Hill, PhD, R. Joyner, H. Mateo, P. McGovern, K. McGowan (for C. Dzubilo), H. Melore, N. Nagy, D. Ng, A. Paige-Bowman, T. Petro (for R. Recchia), J. Pressley, A. Raiola, E. Santiago, L. Savola (for T. Troia), D. Woodard

**Members Absent:** R. Bonilla, G. Brown, MD, H. Cruz, I. Feldman, M. Reynolds, M. Wainberg, MD

**Guests Present:** M. Alvarez, MPA (CDC), R. Romaguera, DMD, MPH (CDC)

**Staff Present:** *OAPC:* R. Cordero, D. Klotz, S. Dwyer, S. Bailous, C. Miller, R. Shiau, G. Sutnick, M. Lesieur;  
*DOHMH:* J. Hilger; *MHRA:* J. Verdino, G. Weinberg, P. Jensen

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**Agenda Item #1: Welcome/Introductions/Minutes**

*Mr. Oldham* opened the meeting, followed by introductions.

*Mr. Joyner* read the rules for respectful engagement.

*Mr. Cordero* reviewed the meeting packet.

*Mr. Cobb* led the Council in the moment of silence.

The minutes were approved with one correction to note attendance.

**Agenda Item #2: Public Comment, Part I**

*M. Gold:* PLWH are encouraged to attend the next PWA Advisory Group Title I (Internal) Issues Committee meeting. To clarify my statement at the October Planning Council public comment, I did not call HRSA regarding the PWA Advisory Group (AG) elections, although they are interested the issue. I am concerned that the Rules & Membership Committee recommended Fatima Prioleau and Tom Sentell for reappointment, but they were not. I am also concerned about the process for appointment of new workgroup chairs to the Social Services Workgroup.

*Mr. Joyner:* It is an injustice that Ms. Prioleau and Mr. Sentell were not re-appointed. I am concerned that the transfer of the Office of AIDS Policy Coordination (OAPC) to DOHMH has had a negative impact. I am disappointed that people who dissented seemed to have been subject to retribution.

*G. Huang-Cruz:* As community co-chair of the Prevention Planning Group (PPG), I invite Planning Council members to participate in a joint discussion to enhance collaboration, including between PWA AGs, especially around the CDC's new HIV prevention initiative. The PPG's AG has issued a paper addressing secondary prevention. We also invite a Planning Council member to be an ex-officio PPG member.

*M. Hitchcock:* A TA forum is planned for January with a focus on community advisory boards.

**Agenda Item #3: PWA AG Report**

*Mr. Abadia:* The AG met on October 11<sup>th</sup> and discussed their concern about non-aligned PLWH membership on the Planning Council. Michael Isbell gave an excellent presentation on the Title I grant application. Several AG members reported back on the workgroups and conferences they have attended.

*Mr. Bostic:* 60 PLWH met recently with Elsie del Campo, new Deputy Commissioner for the HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) to get acquainted and to hear about changes in HASA services. There is a meeting tomorrow with providers about working with HASA.

#### **Agenda Item #4: CDC New HIV Prevention Initiative Presentation**

*Ms. Alvarez:* The CDC's new HIV prevention initiative, titled "Advancing HIV Prevention: New Strategies for a Changing Epidemic", is aimed at reducing barriers to early diagnosis, increasing access to quality medical care, providing on-going prevention services for PLWH and reducing HIV transmission. The new strategies are driven by data on incidence and the effect of knowledge of serostatus on behavioral change. The strategy includes counseling and testing and referral (including voluntary testing as a routine part of medical care), prevention with high-risk persons and prevention for positives as part of the overall strategy.

*Mr. Romaguera:* CDC will collaborate with other federal agencies (HRSA, SAMHSA, etc.) to implement the new initiative. Collaborative projects include the AETCs, promoting rapid testing in Ryan White clinical environments and new models for diagnosing HIV infection in non-medical settings (e.g. correctional settings). HRSA now asks about planning for the impact of the CDC initiative as part of the Title I grant application.

*Ms. Alvarez and Mr. Romaguera (in response to a questions from the Council):* Geographic areas with a 1% or greater HIV incidence should consider making testing routine. CDC is promoting voluntary, not mandatory testing. CDC will develop guidelines for hospitals on implementing routine testing and following up with people who test positive. Funds will be available for prevention with high risk HIV-negative persons. While not presented here, there is data available on non-pregnant women (available by e-mailing Ms. Alvarez at [mma8@cdc.gov](mailto:mma8@cdc.gov)). The CDC is distributing rapid testing kits to state health departments for local distribution. The CDC does not have a definition of "in care", but in one study, they looked at people who had had four primary care visits in a year. The CDC's counseling, testing and referral guidelines address issues such as testing for people experiencing suicidal ideation. Consent will still be required for testing. All CBOs will be able to compete for funds from the initiative. The CDC intends to keep funds where the epidemic is.

*Dr. Hill:* DOHMH has responded to the new initiative in numerous ways, including: increased support to CBOs targeting prevention to HIV-positives, a female condom program, a PLWH summit being planned by the AGs of the Planning Council and PPG, a positive prevention quarterly newsletter, a media campaign in subways for next year, participating in clinical forums with primary care providers on incorporating HIV prevention without stigma, enhancing the contact notification program and supporting voluntary disclosure.

#### **Agenda Item #5: Elections for Planning Council Officers**

*Mr. Brown:* There is one nominee for Community co-chair, Ms. Nagy. The floor is open for additional nominations.

*Mr. Ng:* I nominate Mr. Cobb (accepted).

*Ms. Nagy and Mr. Cobb* read their personal statements.

*Mr. Barnes:* Are the candidates willing to leave the bitterness behind and work together for the whole EMA?

*Ms. Nagy:* My top priority is to work together to get most for the EMA.

*Mr. Cobb:* While there is bitterness and I want to move forward, the past needs to be listened to. I am seeking more community involvement.

*Mr. Hemraj,* the sole nominee for Finance Officer, read his statement.

*Mr. Petro:* Motion to elect Mr. Hemraj by acclamation.

*Mr. Pressley:* We applaud the work of outgoing Finance Officer Bobby Watts, and hope that he continues as a member of the Finance Committee.

*Mr. Watts:* Thank you. I will continue on the Committee for the next year. The motion passed unanimously.

## Agenda Item #6: Finance Committee Report

*Mr. Watts:* A motion was made at the September meeting to create a position of past community co-chair. We were informed that two weeks written notice are required for a by-laws change. I have been informed that the motion is invalid because it contravenes the Mayor's Executive Order, which establishes the Planning Council. I am formally asking for that in writing. If this is correct, then I will propose a resolution for consideration at a future meeting authorizing the Planning Council co-chairs to invite previous officers to participate in discussions.

*Mr. Oldham:* We submitted the motion to the Mayor's counsel. The Mayor appoints all members, including ex-officio members.

*Ms. Melore:* This is a by-laws issue.

*Mr. Oldham:* The Mayor's counsel's interpretation is that the original motion creates a new position on the Council, which only the Mayor can do according to the Executive order.

*Mr. Watts:* The Finance Committee is waiting for the results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report (ending August). At its last meeting, they continued looking at the assessment of the administrative mechanism. After a great deal of work, looking at the legislative requirement (assessing the rapid disbursement of Title I funds) and other EMA's models, the Committee decided to pull back and focus on fulfilling the legislative requirement. To accomplish this task, the Committee will refine the fiscal timeline in collaboration with DOHMH and MRHA. The current timeline calls for reports after the first two quarters, then monthly. The Committee is requesting fiscal information two months after the end of the reporting period.

Thanks to the Planning Council for supporting me in my role as Finance Officer. We need to focus on the future, but learn from the past to move ahead in the most productive manner.

*Mr. Halperin:* I do not agree with the original motion, but also disagree with the response from the Mayor's Office, which I feel shows disrespect to the Planning Council.

*Dr. Handelsman:* This is a bad sign from the administration.

### Actions Taken/Follow-up (Responsible parties/Timeline)

- Obtain Mayor's counsel's interpretation in writing (Mr. Oldham/November meeting)

## Agenda Item #7: Grantee Report

*Dr. Hill:* The FY 2004 Title I grant application went to HRSA this afternoon. Thanks to everyone who worked on it. It's a well done application. A special thanks goes to JoAnn Hilger, who shepherded the application process. I am optimistic that we will get closer to our fair share of Title I dollars.

*Dr. Hill (in response to a question from Mr. Pressley):* Mr. Watts, as acting Community Co-chair, signed the letter of assurance.

*Mr. Watts:* The letter only asks for assurance that funds were spent in accordance with Planning Council priorities. I also want to acknowledge progress this year, with the enhanced Planning Council involvement in the application. We're on the right track.

*Mr. Hemraj:* I reviewed the draft application. As new member, it really gives a good feel of what goes on in the EMA. It is very comprehensive and presents data to justify funding to the EMA. The application should be used in the next priority setting and allocation process.

*Dr. Hill:* The application is based on the Planning Council's templates, and so it is a reflection of the work done here. We will do a debriefing on how we can use this process for the future.

*Dr. Hill (in response to a question from Mr. Halperin):* After the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft, it was reviewed by DOHMH epi staff, the Commissioner and others in-house.

*Mr. Brown:* Ms. Nagy has been elected new community co-chair.  
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Minutes prepared by David Klotz

*Ms. Nagy:* Thank you, and I look forward to working with everyone.

*Mr. Abadia:* Last year, PC used re-programming funds for computers. I want to make sure that the computers are being used as intended. This should be a parking lot issue.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Public Comment, Part II**

*Mr. Halperin (for B. Williams):* There is a training coming up on assisting immigrants with benefits. Also, the INS is deporting immigrants unfairly. Make sure immigrants do not go to the INS without an attorney.

*D. Chandler:* I encourage people to write to Congress to increase funds for HIV programs. I am also concerned about the non-re-appointment of Ms. Prioleau.

*Mr. Bostic:* I am concerned that the Planning Council may not meet the requirement for 33% non-aligned PLWH. This should be investigated.

*Mr. Barnes:* The roster of members is in the application, with the non-aligned identified.

*Mr. Oldham:* We do meet the HRSA requirement for 33% non-aligned PLWH.

*Mr. Barnes:* Planning Council membership information is public information. The CARE Act gives the Mayor the authority to appoint members. Negative rhetoric does not help the level of discourse. Our job is to plan for the delivery of health care to PLWH and we should focus on that.

*Mr. Oldham:* We have a lot of rich experience on the Council. It should be noted that Mr. Barnes was responsible for getting the EMA's entire supplemental award back after it was cut in the early 1990s, and also has a distinguished record as the former executive director of AIDS Action Council.

*F. Carroll:* Everyone is invited to an upcoming HIV Women's Power Walk and health fair.

*M. S. McLaughlin:* The HIV CARE Networks should be involved in prevention for positives.

*C. Mosely:* What is important is getting care for PLWH. Acrimony is not good. More outer borough representation is needed. The Planning Council should extend an invitation to Mayor Bloomberg to come to a meeting.

*Mr. Hemraj:* Thank you for the confidence of the Planning Council. I urge people not to be confrontational but to encourage effectiveness of service delivery and increase quality of life for PLWH.

*Mr. Bostic:* Please confirm that appointees received an appointment letter from the Mayor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

#### **Parking Lot (issues to be addressed in the future)**

- Use of computers paid for from last year's re-programming plan.
- Consider giving co-chairs authority to invite previous officers to meetings.

Minutes approved by the HIV Planning Council on November 20, 2003

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Frank J. Oldham, Jr.  
Governmental Co-chair