

Meeting of the

## HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York

December 17, 2009

3:10-5:00 PM

LGBT Center, 208 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** J. C. Park, MA, MPA (Governmental Co-chair), C. Shorter (Community Co-chair), S. Hemraj (Finance Officer), S. Adams, B. Backofen, V. Benadava, D. Bird, M. Brooks (for M. Bacon), S. Cahill, Ph.D., F. Carroll, N. Cataldi, K. Clemons, G. DeYounge, J. A. Eddie, Y. Gebhardt (for E. Viera, Jr.), M. Gilborn, T. Hamilton (for A. Aviles), A. Hardman, L. Hildebrand, DSW, M. Hunt, K. Kaiman, F. Laraque, M.D, M.P.H., , M. Lesieur, F. Machlica (for L. Fraser), D. Marcano, D. Marder, M.D., H. Mateo, G. Mercado, L. Freddy Molano, M.D., Pastor J. Payne, T. Petro, G. Philip, M. Piñón, D. Rakower, A. Vergara, D. Walters, S. Wayne

**Members Absent:** A. Cohall, M.D., J. Edwards, I. Feldman, M. Irizarry, D. Ng

**Staff Present:** *DOHMH:* J. Hilger, D. Klotz, N. Rothschild, R. Molina; *Public Health Solutions:* R. Miller

**Guests Present:** *LTI:* J. Hatchett, R. Miller-Hill

---

#### Agenda Item #1: Meeting Opening/Minutes

*Mr. Park and Mr. Hemraj* opened the meeting followed by introductions.

*Mr. Park* introduced the moment of silence in memory of Dennis deLeon. Mr. deLeon was one of the great PLWHA advocates, both in New York City and nationally. He publicly disclosed his HIV status while serving as the City's Human Rights Commissioner under Mayor Dinkins and went on to found and lead the Latino Commission on AIDS. Mr. Park read tributes to Mr. deLeon from Mayor Bloomberg and others and a video about his life and passing was shown.

*Mr. Hemraj* reviewed the rules of respectful engagement.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to move the co-chair election to the end of the agenda.

The minutes of the November 19, 2009 meeting were approved with an amendment from Pastor Payne to accurately reflect his question to Dr. Farley.

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

*M. Soares:* I have heard that there are discussions to merge the Consumers Committee and the PLWHA Advisory Group (AG). I want to reaffirm the importance of the AG as an independent body for consumer input.

*M. Ducret:* HASA should treat everyone the same and reopen my case

*M. Rivera:* We need the AG as a place where PLWHA can speak freely and give input to the Council and DOHMH about services. The AG's leadership needs to be independent and elected by its members. I also

want to clarify that I support the Council and its work, and while I have differences on some issues, I want to continue a dialogue, as we have the same goal.

*M. Gold:* The AG and Consumers Committee are two distinct entities with different purposes and should not be merged. Also we are facing cuts to Access-a-Ride that will have a negative impact of PLWHA and the disabled.

*Mr. Park* noted that any changes to the structure of the Council require an amendment to the bylaws, which has to go through the Rules & Membership Committee and be approved by the full Council.

*Mr. Park* reported that the Council will hold a special session on January 7, 2010 due to a post-reauthorization change in the Ryan White program that has resulted in the EMA receiving additional funding. A plan for the additional funding must be submitted to HRSA by January 15, 2010. The conflicts of interest presentation will be tabled to the next meeting, as it will be germane to the financial decisions that will be made then.

### **Agenda Item #3: PLWHA Leadership Training Institute (LTI)**

*Mr. Hatchett* gave an overview of the history of the LTI program, which was funded through Ryan White Part A to prepare PLWHA for participation in community planning bodies, and for advocacy around HIV/AIDS public policies and services. LTI also receives Part B funding to support training in HIV health care self-management.

Three trainings are offered: 1) Ryan White Part A Community Planning; 2) Using Data to Set Priorities and Allocate Resources; and 3) Working Effectively in Groups. They are designed to help participants understand the purpose, structure, responsibilities and processes of the Planning Council, with an emphasis on transfer of information, skills, and opportunities for participation in the Council.

*Ms. Miller-Hill*, an LTI trainer, discussed the importance of the peer-to-peer training method (all trainings are led by PLWHA), offering herself as an example. She went through the LTI training as a newly diagnosed woman ten years ago and became a leader in community planning as a Council member and AG co-chair.

Mr. Hatchett responded to questions from the Council on the following issues:

- LTI tries to help trainees address the causes of their frustration by focusing on problem solving.
- LTI does not provide any training on employment, but trainees can use their experience as community planners to help find work
- LTI does not explicitly address spirituality in the Planning Council trainings, but rather values such as tolerance. Spirituality can be addressed in the self-management training.
- LTI does coordinate with the Council staff to try to avoid conflicts with meeting times.
- LTI has always had a positive response from providers concerning outreach and recruitment and plans to enhance those efforts.

### **Agenda Item #4: Community Co-chair Election**

*Mr. Mercado and Ms. Walters* described the duties of the co-chair position and the process for conducting the election.

*Mr. Benadava, Mr. Lesieur and Mr. Shorter* read their statements on why they want to be Community Co-chair. No other nominations were made. Ballots were distributed and collected for counting by Mr. Mercado and Ms. Walters.

### **Agenda Item #5: Grantee Report**

*Ms. Hilger* reported that Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funding will be synchronized with the base funding year starting on March 1, 2010. Due to the 5 months of overlapping funds, there will be additional

MAI funds, which is why a special Council session is needed on January 7th. Also, post-reauthorization, there is a focus on testing and getting people who do not know their status into care. EMAs have been asked to write a four-page supplement to the 2010 Part A grant application on activities being undertaken to estimate the number of individuals who do not know status and get them into care. This will be included in the scoring of grant application, which is now 1/3 demonstrated need, 1/3 new supplement, and the balance for the rest of the application. Also a one-page description of 2010 MAI plan and how it will be integrated into base funded is needed.

Contract renewals for the rest of portfolio are underway and are scheduled to be executed by March 1. In order to comply with new Ryan White testing requirements, DOHMH is working with testing initiatives to introduce a social networking model in order to improve their success at finding HIV-positive people who do not know their status. Also, contractor spending continues to be strong, but there may be some under-spending that may need to be reprogrammed. Finally, technical assistance to the new Care Coordination providers is proceeding as scheduled.

*Mr. Park* said that the Priority Setting & Resource Allocation Committee will have a special meeting prior to the special Council session on January 7, 2010.

*Mr. Petro* reported that the review panel for the Tri-county Food & Nutrition RFP will meet next week, with awards to be announced in January and programs starting in March.

*Ms. Miller* announced that Public Health Solutions/HIV Care Services (HIVCS) is accepting applications for its community advisory group (CAG). Like Part A agencies, HIVCS has a CAG composed of consumers and representatives of Part A-funded agencies to provide feedback on service and contracting issues.

#### **Agenda Item #6: New Business**

*Dr. Marder* urged people to volunteer for the annual census of the homeless street population (HOPE). While the number of homeless living on the street has greatly decreased, a high number of AIDS deaths are among unsheltered people. *Mr. DeYounge* reported that his experience as a HOPE volunteer last year was very rewarding and that the program is a great service to the community and the City.

In response to a question from *Mr. Benadava*, *Ms. Miller* reported that the Food & Nutrition RFP will be released in the spring.

*Mr. Eddie* reported that a syringe exchange program has been approved for Staten Island, making this intervention available in all five boroughs.

*Ms. Carroll* urged consumers to apply for the HIVCS CAG.

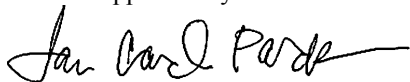
*Mr. Gebhardt* reported that Gov. Paterson has promised to sign the 30% rent cap bill.

*Mr. Mercado and Ms. Walters* announced that Mr. Shorter had been elected as the new Community Co-chair.

*Mr. Shorter* thanked the Council for its support, stressing his commitment to the Council and its work. *Mr. Lesieur* congratulated him and offered his support.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved by the HIV Planning Council on January 7, 2010



---

Jan Carl Park, MA, MPA

Governmental Co-chair