

Dutchess County HIV Health Services Planning Council
DCHIVHSPC
Planning and Allocations Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Members in Attendance: Kathleen Murphy, Chair; Ben Barile; Melvin Garrett; Mary Spriggs

Grantee Representatives: Jay Landolfi

Planning Council Staff: Christopher Lee

Guests: Katrina Belding

I. The Planning and Allocations (P&A) Committee meeting was called to order at 9:30am. Roll call was performed. There were four (4) members present at the meeting. Ben Barile was proxy for Lisa Reid. A quorum was not established. Due to lack of quorum, the draft minutes from the November 12, 2008 and November 19, 2008 Planning and Allocation Committee meetings will be reviewed at the next meeting.

II. The committee continued to work on the process of updating the 2008-2010 Comprehensive Services Plan (CSP). It was stated that the CSP is due at the end of January 2009. The committee reviewed HRSA's outline of mandatory information needed in the CSP. The committee also reviewed and discussed the notes from the community forum discussion that was held on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 during the Planning Council's annual World AIDS Day event. One suggestion from that forum was having more drop in centers for consumers in need. Those in attendance also mentioned forming a grass roots task force or an advocacy outreach group.

The committee discussed the future advocacy group that would be needed. The group or groups would be on a volunteer basis and would be very beneficial for the continuum of HIV/AIDS health care in our area. With the amount of federal funding decreasing, more community input and help is needed. It was stated that the main focus of the group would be sustainability and that PLWH/A involvement would be very important. Kathleen Murphy stated that she felt that the name 'PLWH/A Committee' is not a good name because of the stereotypes and stigmas. She felt that naming it a task force would motivate and encourage people to get involved.

The future of the Planning Council with the possible loss of Ryan White Part A federal funding was discussed. The committee discussed the fact that there most likely will not be a Planning Council office and meetings will have to take

place elsewhere, such as at community buildings, churches, or anywhere else that will offer space. Kathleen Murphy stated that it would be beneficial if this planning body was able to get another agency to work with or under until it is able to function independently. Mary Spriggs mentioned holding fund raisers and receiving donations to help. Grantee representative, Jay Landolfi, responded that the Planning Council cannot drive fund raisers, as per HRSA regulations and that donations would be steered directly to HIV/AIDS health care service providers. It was stated that the federal government could be decreasing our funding in order to provide help to other, more need areas and that this could be an obstacle for our area being award Ryan White Part B funding as an emerging community.

The committee discussed PLWH/A input in our needs assessment. The committee discussed whether or not the input received during the community forum was the opinion of all consumers in our area and, if not, were the needs of those most in need expressed. At the event there were a few consumers giving their input. The consumers who did participate seemingly were those who were receiving health care and who had financial, as well as, other means of support. It is difficult to get input from those who need it most, such as the very poor and the homeless. Mary Spriggs stated that those very needy consumers are reachable. They convene at places such as, homeless shelters in Poughkeepsie and the Lunch Box. Kathleen Murphy stated that she knew specifically of clients who did not want to attend the December 3rd event because they did not want to be in the public eye. Some PLWH/A do not want to be seen as sick and do not want to be associated with being sick or being infected. It was stated that it is difficult for people to get around these stereotypes and stigmas that surround HIV and AIDS.

The committee discussed getting more PLWH/A input. It was stated that the Part B network has very productive meetings with more consumer involvement and also covers a larger area with more people. One committee member, Ben Barile, stated that he felt that we are just reaching out to consumers in the Poughkeepsie area and that the input of those outside of Poughkeepsie is just as important. He felt that more consumers would participate if they were able to call in to meetings. By giving people the option to join meetings via conference call they will not have to worry about transportation and they can stay anonymous if they prefer to.

The committee agreed to discuss more ways to maintain sustainability for those in our continuum of care at the next meeting. It was stated that this is very important for our comprehensive plan.

- III. The next Planning and Allocations Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 9:30am in the Planning Council office. At the next meeting, the committee will continue to work on the CSP. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.