

Dutchess County HIV Health Services Planning Council
DCHIVHSPC
Planning and Allocations Committee
Minutes
Monday, June 11, 2008

Members in Attendance: Kathleen Murphy, Chair; Ben Barile; Melvin Garrett; Lisa Reid; Trina Hiemcke

Grantee Representatives: Jay Landolfi; Lisa Cardinale

Planning Council Staff: Christopher Lee

Guests: Jessica Mack; Brian Riddell; Eva Grenier

- I. The Planning and Allocations (P&A) Committee meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Kathleen Murphy. Roll call was performed. There were five (5) members present at meeting. Ben Barile was a proxy for Peggy Patterson-Dennis and Mary Spriggs. A quorum was established. Introductions and conflict of interest disclosure took place. The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the April 9, 2008 and May 14, 2008 meetings. Both sets of minutes were accepted as is.

- II. The Planning and Allocations Committee met with representatives from the Home Delivered Meals and Emergency Financial Assistance service providers. Kathleen Murphy informed representatives Jessica Mack and Brian Riddell of reasons why and the procedure for meeting with members of various HIV/AIDS service providers. It was stated that the Committee met with and will continue to meet with various HIV/AIDS service providers in Dutchess County to discuss various aspects of each program. Aspects discussed include client loads, client outcomes, needs, trends, and barriers of the program. The Committee is meeting with representatives to get a better understanding of how each program runs, what it does for the community, and what it needs to carry out its goals. This information is imperative for the Committee to know in order to make the best possible decisions regarding the funding allocations of each service category.

Representatives Brian Riddell and Jessica Mack discussed their food pantry, home delivered meals, and emergency financial assistance programs. The service provider has a food pantry available and serves approximately two hundred and fifty (250) households. Each client is allowed a three day supply of food every month.

The Home Delivered Meal program was discussed. It was stated that major costs of the home delivered meals program include payroll, food and packaging, and various other expenses such as gasoline for drivers. The Home Delivered Meals program is now serving between twenty-five (25) and thirty (30) HIV/AIDS infected and affected clients. These clients receive one home delivered meal for each day of the week. Meals are delivered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The program was paying for a currier service to deliver the meals, but had to stop that expense in order to save money.

Approximately ten (10) to fifteen (15) volunteer drivers deliver the meals for the program. The Office for the Aging is also assisting with delivery. The drivers deliver to clients across Dutchess County, including clients in Wassaic and Amenia. However, most clients live in the Poughkeepsie area.

In order for clients to be eligible for these services they must have a doctor's note saying that they are in need of this service. Many doctors have been declining clients and as a result the program has stopped delivering meals to many affected clients. It was stated that in some cases of those who are now ineligible, it could be because they are only temporarily ineligible, but will be home bound and unable to feed themselves again soon. Ben Barile stated that consumers may be afraid to speak out about the program because they fear losing their right to meals, which would not happen. It was stated that the fact that less people are in need of these meals could mean that people are getting healthier. With the money saved due to less meals being made, the program is attempting to upgrade the quality, nutritional value, looks, and taste of the meals.

The representatives discussed the food used in the Home Delivered Meals program. The food is purchased from a wholesaler and is cooked in the kitchen at the Family Partnership Center. It was stated that it is difficult to meet the food wants of all consumers simultaneously. Not everyone is going to enjoy or like the taste of the same foods. Also, it was stated that a nutritious meal does not always equal a good tasting meal.

The representatives discussed the Emergency Financial Assistance service. This service provides financial assistance to HIV+ clients. This service received a dramatic cut in funding from the previous fiscal year. The emergency financial assistance can only be used for HIV medication, or connecting or continuing a telephone or utility service. Each client is eligible for up to \$1200 a year for medication, either at once or throughout the year, and \$200 for a telephone or utilities. It was stated that help with utility bills is a larger expense than assisting with medication. If a client needs emergency financial assistance their case manager would have to contact this service provider and request it. In order to be eligible a client must have a denial letter from social services. If they are eligible then they can receive financial assistance within the same or next day.

Committee Chair, Kathleen Murphy, thanked the two representatives from the Home Delivered Meals and Emergency Financial Assistance services for attending the meeting and informing the Committee about their programs. The representatives thanked the Committee for allowing them to discuss their programs and left the meeting.

- III. The Committee reviewed and discussed 2007 program report data of each service category. The Committee discussed the mental health program. It was stated that this program received no funding because almost all of their services are billable. The Committee discussed the Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance service category. This program will set clients up with health insurance. From there, APIC is able to pay for and continue their insurance policies. It was stated that if more clients receive insurance than less Ryan White last resort services are needed. Also, it was stated that if the program is to pay for clients' co-pays then they would need more funding than the Planning Council has allocated. Jay Landolfi stated that a request for proposal will be sent out tomorrow. He also stated that NYS Uninsured Program is willing to provide technical assistance to the provider who will be offering this service.

IV. The next Planning and Allocations Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at 9:30am in the Planning Council office. The Committee will invite a representative from the Part B Mental Health service provider to attend our next meeting and discuss their program. At the meeting, the P&A Committee will also discuss prioritizing service categories for the 2009 fiscal year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.