



Meeting Minutes  
**NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**  
Jennifer Irwin, Chair

February 20, 2009  
Cicatelli, 505 Eighth Avenue, Lavender Room (20<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Members Present:** Angela Aidala, PhD, Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn, Lee Hildebrand, DSW, Jennifer Irwin, Rebecca Kim, Nat Liengsiriwat (alt. for Rosemary Lopez), Frank Machlica, Don McViney, Jan Carl Park, Glen Philip, Kate Sapadin, PhD, Roberta Scheinmann (alt. for MA Chiasson)

**Members Absent:** Kecia Gaither, MD, Julie Lehane, PhD, Rosemary Lopez, Freddy Molano, MD, Troiyle Sanon, PhD, Robert Steptoe, Ricardo Vanegas-Plata, DDS

**DOHMH Staff Present:** JoAnn Hilger, Kimbirly Mack, John Rojas, Nina Rothschild, DrPH, Anthony Santella, DrPH, Elys Vasquez, Jessica Wahlstrom, Ellen Wiewel

**Public Health Solutions Staff Present:** Sandra Greer

**Others Present:** Stacey Bristow, Felicia Carroll, Billy Fields, Mallory M., Theresa Zephirin

**Material Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from the January meeting of the NA Committee
- 2007 data from DOHMH's HIV Epidemiology and Field Services Unit on HIV and AIDS among teenagers and individuals in their twenties
- Presentation by Ellen Wiewel of NYC DOHMH on Deaths Among Persons with HIV/AIDS in New York City
- Presentation by Theresa Zephirin and Stacey Bristow of Safe Space on HIV-Related Outreach Services to Homeless and/or Street Youth

**Welcome/Introductions:** Jennifer Irwin welcomed participants. Members introduced themselves. Today's conversation about homeless and street-involved youth will help to guide the Planning Council's Integration of Care Committee as it works with DOHMH to prepare for re-bidding the youth outreach services category.

**Moment of Silence:** All present observed a moment of silence in recognition of individuals who have died from HIV/AIDS and individuals who are still active in the struggle.

**Review of the Meeting Packet:** Nina Rothschild reviewed the contents of the meeting packet.

**Presentation on Deaths to Persons with HIV/AIDS in New York City:** Ellen Wiewel of NYC DOHMH's HIV Epidemiology and Field Services Program presented on mortality among PLWHA in NYC. A copy of the presentation is available in the office of the Ryan White Planning Council and can be obtained by contacting Nina Rothschild at [nrothsch@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nrothsch@health.nyc.gov) or at (212) 788-4284. A few of the highlights from the talk and the discussion follow:

- Marked disparities in deaths are evident in different communities
- Blacks and Hispanics have the highest death rates among PLWHA
- Death rates are higher for females and for injection drug users
- Females tend to do worse than males with HIV
- In every age group, people who have HIV/AIDS are much more likely to die than people who are not infected
- Roughly one-third of deaths to PLWHAs were from non-HIV-related causes
- Other, non-AIDS causes of death may be exacerbated by HIV
- The trends that are visible in New York City are reflected nation-wide; people are living longer with HIV
- When HIV-infected youth die, the cause is usually failing to adhere to treatment regimens
- Very few of the deaths of PLWHA between the ages of 20 and 29 are attributed to injection drug use. We don't know whether the low rate of deaths for this transmission risk in this age group is because these young people are accessing ESAP and syringe exchange programs or because prevention messages are reaching this group or for a combination of reasons
- CHAIN is initiating a mortality study which will provide more information about causes of death among members of the cohorts

Dr. Lee Hildebrand commented that examining deaths among young PLWHAs who have been in and out of the foster care system would be interesting. She also noted that quantitative data are important but that case studies (using

qualitative data) help to understand the nuances and supply the human factor. Anthony Santella noted that the consumer focus groups on which the Care, Treatment, and Housing Program is working are qualitative and will broaden our understanding of the lives of consumers. Rebecca Kim requested information on mortality by demographics over time.

**Review of the Minutes:** The minutes from the January meeting of the Needs Assessment Committee were reviewed. A misspelling in one name was noted. The minutes were passed unanimously.

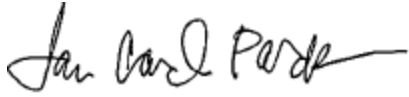
**HIV-Related Outreach Services to Homeless and/or Street Youth:** Theresa Zephirin and Stacey Bristow of Safe Space made a presentation on runaway and homeless youth. A copy of the presentation is available in the office of the Ryan White Planning Council and can be obtained by contacting Nina Rothschild at [nrothsch@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nrothsch@health.nyc.gov) or at (212) 788-4284. Some of the salient points from the presentation and the discussion follow:

- The office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention estimates that there are 1,682,900 homeless and runaway youth in the United States
- Safe Space serves youth between the ages of 13 and 24 who are runaway or homeless and at risk for HIV and other negative health outcomes because of their behavior
- Safe Space provides counseling and case management, showers, laundry, social and recreational activities, assistance with life skills, career exploration, job training, and arts programming. A CASAC is available two times per week.
- Peer educators from Safe Space use a variety of methods to communicate their message including theater and break dancing on the subways.
- Safe Space has two congregate care facilities.
- Although youth affiliated with Safe Space may temporarily disappear, they are usually networked with peers and can be reached by one means or another. The police have become involved in a disappearance with a missing persons report only a very small number of times.
- Homeless youth with HIV do not fare well medically.
- Having a list of youth-friendly health providers would be helpful for the Safe Space staff.

Dr. Santella suggested that the first half of the March meeting should include a conversation with someone from the New York City's Department of Youth and Community Development and/or the Department of Homeless Services, while the second half should be dedicated to developing an official recommendation on homeless and street youth to IOC. Dr. Lee Hildebrand

also asked for a presentation from the Bureau of STD Control on sexually transmitted infections among youth.

**Public Comment/Announcements:** No public comment/announcements.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Carl Park". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jan Carl Park, MA, MPA  
Governmental Co-Chair