



## Consumers Committee

June 18, 2008, 1:30-4:00PM

Housing Works, 57 Willoughby Street, Brooklyn, NY

**Members Present:** Felicia Carroll (Co-Chair), Edilberto Viera, Jr. (Co-Chair), Orbit Clanton, Manuel Ducret III, Billy Fields, Linder Ford, Yves Gebhardt, Myron Gold, Juanita Owens, Glen Philip, Anthony Richardson

**Members Absent:** Brent Backofen, Victor Benadava, Gregory Cruz, Terri Faulkner, Hilda Mateo, Gonzalo Mercado, Alvin Perry, Aracelis Quinones, Escott Solomon, Robert Spellman

**Guests Present:** Joreen Davis, Robert Jones, Jesus Maldonado

**DOHMH:** Rafael Molina, Jan Carl Park, Mary Irvine, DrPh, Heather Mavronicholas, Anthony Santella, DrPh, Jessica Wahlstrom, Darryl Wong (Consumers Committee Staff Liaison)

### Meeting Materials Distributed:

- June 18, 2008 Consumers Committee Meeting Agenda
- May 14, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- June & July 2008 Planning Council Meeting Calendar
- 2007-8 Consumers Committee Highlights
- 2007-8 Consumer Committee Workplan and timeline
- Consumer Focus Group Results Slide set
- NYSDOH Part A Quality Management 101 Presentation
- NYSDOH Part B HIV Care Network Listing
- Dept of the Aging Cooling Assistance Program Application
- Harlem United Vocational Education Program (English & Spanish)

### Welcome and Introductions:

Felicia Carroll, Co-Chair and Edilberto Viera, Jr, Co-Chair welcomed the group and participants. Myron Gold led the group with a moment of silence, noting the recent passing of Judith Verdino, the former director of HIV Care Services, Public Health Solutions (formerly MHRA) and a steadfast ally of PLWHAs. Edilberto reviewed the Rules of Respectful Engagement and Darryl Wong reviewed the agenda and meeting materials for the afternoon's meeting.

### Review of May 14, 2008 Minutes:

The minutes from the May 14, 2008 were reviewed; a motion was made, seconded; voted & minutes were accepted.

### May 2008 Planning Council Activities:

Jan Park provided an update of Planning Council activities: the *HIV Planning Council* will meet on Thursday, June 19. The Council has been involved in ranking services and identifying allocation to those services, recruitment of new members, reviewing many studies which will help us in the PSRA process. At the full meeting on June 19, there will be a discussion on Medicaid changes; on Friday, June 20 the *PSRA Committee* will begin to apply

1 a revised PSRA tool in order to rank service categories and the *RMC Committee* will meet to  
2 discuss By-Law changes and begin the annual selection process of new members, whose  
3 terms will commence in the Fall. At the PLWHA Advisory Group on Saturday, June 21, there  
4 will be a presentation on HIV and immigrant/undocumented populations and a report back  
5 from the recent HPLS meeting in Detroit. Jan conducted a review of the concept of  
6 reprogramming of grant funds, which arise because of unspent dollars due to start-  
7 up/implementation or service delivery issues. Public Health Solutions, our master  
8 contractor, is able to determine, through its ongoing fiscal and program monitoring, how  
9 much in under-spending of grant funds will occur in specific contracts and the larger service  
10 categories under which they are funded. The re-programming scenario, already approved  
11 by the PSRA and Executive Committees will include \$2,000,000 to the ADAP pools, 9%  
12 increases for the food portion of budgets for Food & Nutrition contracts, a \$14,000 increase  
13 in fuel costs for Transportation contracts, flexibility in moving funds between service  
14 categories (up to 15%), purchasing of Rapid Test Kits and a final restoration of \$1,000,000 to  
15 ADAP. Developing scenarios such as these, allows our EMA the flexibility to spend down  
16 our grant award; in this last year we spent over 99% of our awarded funds, which represents  
17 a new record for our EMA.

18  
19 Jan referenced the proposed changes to the Planning Council By-Laws. The RMC  
20 Committee approved the proposed changes; these recommendations were then sent to the  
21 Executive Committee, which accepted some of the recommendations and sent back the  
22 remainder for the RMC to continue its review. Darryl reminded the group that while all  
23 meetings are open to the public, the portion of the RMC meeting on Friday, June 20 that will  
24 involve Planning Council member application review for the 2008-9 year is a closed session  
25 and open only to members of that Committee, due to the confidential nature of personal  
26 information.

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28 **Consumer Focus Group Reports:**

29 Dr. Mary Irvine, Director of Research and Evaluation in the Public Health Practice Unit and  
30 Dr. Anthony Santella, Director of Policy, Planning and Implementation presented the  
31 findings of the consumer focus groups held in April 2008. For details of the presentation,  
32 please refer to the handout "Consumer Focus Group Results" by Mary Irvine, DrPH, Anthony  
33 Santella, DrPH and Craig Fryer, DrPH, Ryan White Planning Council Consumer Committee  
34 and PLWHA Advisory Group, June 2008.

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36 **HIV CARE Network Update:**

37 Michael Dunham of the NYS DOH AIDS Institute was unable to present an update on the Part  
38 B HIV Care Networks in NYC but furnished a listing of lead agencies and agency contacts.  
39 There will be an update in the fall as the networks become fully operational.

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41 **2007-2008 Year-End Review:**

42 Darryl reviewed the accomplishments of the Consumers Committee (CC) during this  
43 planning year. Some highlights included: 1) stabilization of membership & participation,  
44 with an average of 16 consumers attending each meeting, 2) the participation of the CC as  
45 the NYC CAB for the MMP project, including the development and feedback of local  
46 questions, 3) the participation of consumers in the annual September orientation,  
47 presentation of PSRA matrix, on-going LTI trainings and other topical presentations, 4) the  
48 participation of the CC in the brain-storming, ranking/prioritization and development of the

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1 Committee's annual workplan, 5) the CC/AG input on consumer needs/gaps through  
2 DOHMH sponsored focus groups & input into the Return to Care survey from Maintenance in  
3 Care clients and 6) the election of the Co-Chair and the at-large Consumer.  
4

5 **Public Comment/New Business:**

6 Members were reminded of the July 12 annual PWA Advisory Group and Consumers  
7 Committee picnic in Central Park and were asked to please call Rafael Molina to confirm  
8 their attendance at least one week in advance.

9 There is an Downtown Manhattan HIV CARE Network Meeting on June 24 at Exponents and  
10 an Uptown Manhattan HIV CARE Network meeting on June 26 at the Dempsey Center, 127  
11 W. 127<sup>th</sup> St. The Mayor's Office of Disability will be holding a "Friend Raiser" on July 23.  
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13 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4PM.  
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