

Ryan White HIV Planning Council / HOPWA Advisory Committee
Housing Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2003

Members Present: Scott Auwarter, Kevin Blank, Joseph Bostic, Alex Brussovansky, Richard Cho, Connie Cunningham, Derryck Griffith, Daliah Heller, Liz Isaacs, Paul Moore, Debra Pantin, Anthony Raiola, David Rouge, John Ruscillo, Joshua Sippen, Terri Smith-Caronia, Barbara Van Buren,

Guests: Joseph Capestany, Derrick Chandler, Arnold Kingston, Joey Lopez, Margaret McSheffrey, Jean Schwarz, Lance Willis, Peggy Wright-Noldon, Liza Zaretsky.

OAPC Staff: Gary Sutnick and Matthew Lesieur

Action Items and Decisions

Darryl Ng could not make the meeting; G. Sutnick chaired the meeting.

Announcements were made. Members introduced themselves.

Minutes were reviewed. D. Griffith introduced a motion to approve minutes. Minutes were approved with three abstentions.

2004 Consolidated Plan Review

G. Sutnick reviewed the New York City 2004 proposed Consolidated Plan to HUD. He stated that the workgroup should in particular review the continuum of care section of the Consolidated Plan and the section that references the workgroup's official comments on the HOPWA spending plan.

A conversation ensued over the HOPWA swap. T. Smith-Caronia recommended that the sentence which begins "The HAC remains concerned that the City has not put forward any plans to allocate City Tax Levy funds..." be amended to include a comment that this request has been advocated for several years by the workgroup. J. Sippen stated his interest in there being a stronger statement in the consolidated plan voicing the workgroup's opposition to HOPWA funds going to HASA case management. B. Van Buren stated her objection that HOPWA money was taken away from the development of AIDS housing to HASA case management. The workgroup also expressed concerns about the new HOPWA regulations currently being developed at HUD and that impact these regulations, once announced, will have on the City's HOPWA portfolio.

J. Sippen introduced a motion that language be inserted that states the workgroup's opposition to \$24 million going to HASA case management and that this money get redirected to HPD and the master contractor, especially for the development of new AIDS housing units and housing operations. He also requested language be inserted that recognizes that new HUD HOPWA regulations are under development and the need to ensure that the HOPWA portfolio will be in compliance with these new regulations. D. Heller seconded that motion. 13 in support, none opposed, three abstentions. The motion passed.

The Housing Workgroup's statement in the 2004 Consolidated Plan will read as follows:

“Throughout the planning process and over the past several years, the HAC has consistently expressed strong support for using HOPWA funds primarily for the development of AIDS housing. The HAC believes that the City should be using HOPWA dollars to develop new units of AIDS housing and to support housing related services, rather than using over \$24 million in HOPWA funds for case management services at HASA. The \$24 million that is currently being used to support case management at HASA would be better used to provide funding to HPD and the Master Contractor to develop and support new units of AIDS housing. In addition, in light of the new HOPWA regulations being drafted by HUD, which would severely restrict the ability to use HOPWA funds to pay for supportive services, the HAC urges the City to anticipate the upcoming changes in the regulations and discontinue using HOPWA to pay for case management at HASA.”

J. Sippen asked that the Commissioner be invited to a meeting of the Housing Workgroup.

M. Lesieur stated that he would inform Frank Oldham and ask Mr. Oldham to mention this to the Commissioner at his next meeting with him.

Expiring PCMH Contracts

G. Sutnick went over with the workgroup a list of expiring PCMH contracts. He stated that some housing programs are currently being funded at PCMH solely with rollover monies. He stated that he is recommending that alternative dispute resolution and TA for adolescent programming contracts not be carried forward in the next RFP. The savings from this change will allow an increase in the sustainable living fund and allow the housing programs being funded with carry-over funds to be base-lined. G. Sutnick stated that the productivity from the alternative dispute resolution program has been less than what was hoped and that these funds could be better used in other areas. These changes would also anticipate changes in the HOPWA regulations.

P. Moore stated that the ADR has not produced much in the way of ADR between landlords and tenants and had to be expanded to other areas because the caseload was too low.

In response to a question from D. Heller, G. Sutnick and P. Moore stated that all the new RFPs will include performance measures with financial disincentives for not meeting performance. P. Moore stated they currently use an Internet based reporting system. PCMH is exploring options for a client-centered database, but he hopes that this system will complement on an already existing system. He does not plan to impose a new system on subcontractors, unless necessary.

A conversation ensued over the planning calendar for the workgroup, which M. Lesieur had distributed to the Workgroup. Minor revisions were to the calendar.

Meeting was adjourned.