

# Policy Committee Year End Report June 2005

Presented to the  
Boston Title I EMA  
HIV/AIDS Health Services  
Planning Council

Produced by



*A community working together is essential  
to winning the fight against HIV/AIDS.*

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## **From the Bylaws of the Boston EMA HIV/AIDS Services Planning Council**

### ***Section 6.4.5 Policy Committee***

#### **Section 6.4.5 of Planning Council Bylaws – Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee shall analyze local and federal policy and legislative issues, and advise the Planning Council on how these issues may impact the Boston EMA, recommend response strategies, and coordinate such response activities.

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The Policy Committee began their Council term by clarifying the committee's role as stipulated in the Council By-Laws and by reviewing the 2004 Policy Committee Year End Report and the Committee's prior work. The Executive Committee directed the Policy Committee to research and educate Council members regarding the 2005 CARE Act Reauthorization and Research and educate Council members on state and federal policy issues, which impact the EMA. The Committee began meeting in November and met 3 times during the Council term.

Barry Sandberg was Chair for the 2004-2005 Council term.

#### **1. CARE Act Reauthorization:**

Responding to the committee members' desire to receive background on CARE Act Reauthorization, Rich Stevens, Director, Boston Public Health Commission's AIDS Program, was invited to and spoke at the January 20, 2005 Policy Committee meeting. The discussion with him helped the Committee assess issues surrounding the expected 2005 Reauthorization of the CARE Act.

Some issues that the Committee thought the Planning Council should be aware of:

- **The potential geographic change to the existing Boston EMA**

Details: On June 6, 2003 the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued its revised definitions of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) based on data gathered in the 2000 U.S. Census. The federal government uses these definitions to determine funding regions and amounts for many programs. If the Boston EMA is characterized by these new guidelines, Worcester and Bristol Counties within Massachusetts and Hillsborough County in New Hampshire will be excluded from the Boston Title I EMA, resulting in 21.6% reduction in the Title I award and the loss of funding to 23 programs through 6 agencies. According to the Grantee, this change in the Boston EMA will result in the loss of over \$2.9 million dollars in funding to the EMA.

- **The potential restructuring of the CARE Act**

Details: Currently the CARE Act provides a comprehensive national structure to the planning and delivery of HIV CARE Services: four Titles (Titles I, II, III, and IV) targeting different systems of care, and Part F, including Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS), AIDS Education and Training Centers Programs (AETCs), and the AIDS Dental Reimbursement Program. Some Titles may be merged with the Reauthorization, for instance from four Titles to one or two. There is some movement to make ADAP a separate Title. Preserving distinct Titles allows for more local control over how services for PLWH are defined and funded.

- **Title I EMA Eligibility 2005 Issues**

In the 1996 and 2000 CARE Act Reauthorizations, EMA eligibility criteria was based upon two thousand cumulative AIDS cases in Five Years, with a minimum EMA population of 500,000. With the 2005 Reauthorization, there has been some movement to reduce eligibility to 1,500 living AIDS Cases and 4,000 living HIV/AIDS Cases. This would increase the number of EMA's nationally and would reduce FY 2006 awards across existing EMA's if the CARE Act Appropriation is level funded.

**3. Recommendations for next year's Policy Committee:**

The Policy Committee recommends that next year's Committee be charged with studying and presenting to the Council information related to

- Continuing to monitor the CARE Act Reauthorization process and working closely with the Grantee to understand future planning implications.
- Looking at New Hampshire and Massachusetts 2006 budgets and pending legislation.

**4. Recommendations to this year's Council**

The Policy Committee recommends that the geographic boundaries to the Boston EMA remain unchanged and that the EMA continue to be composed of Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester counties of Massachusetts and Hillsborough, Rockingham and Strafford counties of New Hampshire.

The 2004-2005 Policy Committee members were:

Barry Sandberg, Chair  
Laverne Halfkenny  
Susan Oleksiw  
Shirley Royster

Allen Spivack  
Susan Tannehill  
Catherine Vaughn  
Marlon Wallen