



Planning Council
Thursday, October 13, 2011
4:00-6:00pm
John Hancock Conference Center, Room 303

Summary of Attendance

Members Present

Darren Sack
Aixa Almonte
Dan Alroy
Lena Asmar
Stephen Batchelder
Jib Bowers
Srin Chakravorty
Tim Comeaux
Larry Day
Anthony Fortuny
Dawn Fukuda
Donna Gallagher
Michael Goldrosen
John Grant
Dianne Hackett
David Hawkesworth
Julialene Johnson
John Keith
Alison Kirchgasser
Corin Landrum
Sonya Lee
Wendy LeBlanc
Chipo Mazhandu
Erika Moreno
Ramonita Mulero
Ellen Nagami
Brian Quigley

Donna Rivera
Shirley Royster
Gary Sandison
Juliet Sithole-Berk
Meg Sullivan
Mary Troiano
Fred Verro
Kimberly Wilson

Members Excused

Jose Sostre
Delfine Masongo
Donna Mombourquette

Members Absent

Craig Conway-Smith
Ann Davis
Alice Kiwanuka
James Marshall
Jorge Rodriguez
Michelle Rogers

BPHC Staff

Frantzou Balthazar
Sara Chang
Gayle Mendoza
Eric Thai
Mark Forry

PCS Staff

Cara Mathews
Carmen Pimentel

Guests

Beth Hastie

Welcome and Introductions

Topic A: Welcome, Introductions

Darren Sack, Chair of the 2011-2012 Planning Council, called the meeting to order members and asked everyone to introduce themselves for the record.

Review and Approve Minutes

Topic B: Review and Approve September 8, 2011 Summary of Meeting

The Council members reviewed the minutes from the September 8, 2011 meeting. Darren also pointed out to members that if there were spelling issues of names to please write comments in the evaluation for PCS staff to correct.

Motion to approve the minutes from September 8, 2011: Kimberly Wilson

Second: Brian Quigley

Result: (2) abstentions; Motion passed.

Committees Updates

Topic C: Committees updates

Consumer Committee – Dianne Hackett

The Consumer Committee met before the Council meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2011. The committee reviewed their charge, workplan, recommendations, and training topics for the 2011-2012 term. The election process for Chair and Vice-chair was discussed, and elections took place. Dianne Hackett thanked members for nomination and reported being the chair of this committee for a second term. Dianne announced Kimberly Wilson a vice-chair Kimberly Wilson. The committee had a short version of the Epidemiology 101 presentation conducted by Marcus Rennick from the Boston Public Health Committee (BPHC).

Evaluation Committee – Shirley Royster

The Evaluation Committee held their first meeting on October 6, 2011. The committee reviewed their charge, workplan, Year End Report and recommendations for the 2011-2012 term. A presentation on Biostats 101 was given by Shannon O'Malley from the BPHC. The Committee set possible topics for review this year and discussed possible reports to evaluate for this term. The Committee changed its meeting time to 3-5 PM. The election of vice-chair of this committee will take at next scheduled meeting on 11/03/11. Shirley thanked everyone for coming.

Planning Committee – Julialene Johnson

The Planning Committee held their first meeting on October 3, 2011. The Committee reviewed minutes, their charge, work plan and recommendations for the 2011-2012 term, and the 2010- 2011 year-end report. Elections for vice-chair did not take place at this meeting because many members were absent. Elections will take place at next scheduled meeting of 11/07/11. The Committee also became familiar with the current service categories and the priority setting process. The needs assessment report and Early Identification of Individuals with HIV and AIDS (EIIHA) was also introduced to members at this meeting. Members discussed changing the meeting time to 3-5 PM; this will be discussed further at next meeting.

Policy Committee – Meg Sullivan

The Policy Committee will hold their first meeting on 10/20/11. Meg stated that she was looking forward to being part of the committee and reviewing the work to be completed this term.

Executive Committee – Darren Sack

The Executive Committee met on September 22, 2011. Meetings are from 2-4 PM at the Boston Public Library (BPL). They reviewed and approved the minutes from 08/25/11. Members looked at attendance, which they do throughout the year. It is too early to view any type of pattern. The Committee talks to members about attendance issues as needed. Darren encouraged members to contact PCS staff if they are having any attendance issues for any meeting. He highlighted the importance of attending assigned committee meetings because that is where most of the work takes place. The Committee looked at the work plan for this term and continues to do so throughout the year to look at progress and any concerns about any areas.

Members reviewed their role and committee charge as well as committees and membership and finalized all those pieces. The Council election process was reviewed, as well as the evaluations from Orientation and the September Council meeting. The agendas for the October and November Council meetings were reviewed and finalized. The laptop program was discussed. Darren explained that the laptop program is available to all members in need of access and directed members to ask PCS staff if needed.

Cara highlighted that the laptop program is open to all members in need of computer access and explained the application process. The program is in the process of ordering new laptops to be made available to members. Four laptops will be distributed today and other members will get them either at their next committee meeting or at next Council meeting. Cara also instructed members who had a laptop last year and were interested in reapplying to see her to get a reapplication form.

Presentation: Epidemiology 101

Topic D: Epidemiology 101 – Marcus Rennick

Marcus Rennick from BPHC gave a presentation on the basic concepts of epidemiology. These concepts included a definition of epidemiology; incidence; prevalence; surveillance; the importance of demographic information; and the importance of determining the mode of HIV transmission. He also discussed how and why epidemiological data is used.

A Q&A session took place around HIV diagnosis of cases in the jail system and how these diagnoses are counted by the state. A clarification on this topic was given by Dawn Fukuda from the Department of Public Health. Other discussions took place on how diagnoses are counted state wide and epidemiology in the Boston EMA around the percentage rates among Black and Hispanics. Access to Care, availability of services and programs to serve the diverse populations were also discussed. Name Based Reporting was discussed and an update on this process was given by Dawn Fukuda.

Presentation: Grantee Update on Ryan White

Topic E: Grantee Update on Ryan White – Michael Goldrosen

Michael Goldrosen from the BPHC gave a presentation on the timeline of funds awarded to the Ryan White Part A Boston EMA this fiscal year and the final award received. The Grantee has been working on the 2012 Part A grant application, which is due November 1, 2011. The Grantee introduced the need to vote on Rapid Allocation for FY2011. The Grantee introduced to council members the new PCS director, Beth Hastie and informed members that she will be starting on October 31, 2011.

VOTE: FY11 Rapid Allocation

Topic F: FY11 Rapid Allocation - Daren Sack

Darren Sack put forth a motion strictly related to Rapid Disbursement for FY2011 Awards and explained that this is an unusual year since this would have normally taken place last year and it would have been decided by the previous council. It did not happen as scheduled due to federal budget issues that took place this year. The Chair directed the members to the document in the package and read the motion aloud.

Motion to approve FY11 Rapid Allocation: Darren Sack

Second: John Grant

Results: (2) Abstention; Motion passed

Darren highlighted the Consumer Committee membership and explained that membership is open to all Council members and encouraged participation. Darren gave an overview of activities that take place at this committee.

Agency Reports

Topic G: Agency Reports

Office of Medicaid - Alison Kirchgasser

There has been an increase of Medicaid copays from \$3.00 to \$3.65 for brand and generic; few medication categories will remain at the same price of \$1.00. They are currently working on the FY2013 budget. Alison explained that part of her role at the Council is to keep members updated on the MassHealth state budget. She is on a team at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services that is working to implement the Affordable Care Act. Alison directed members to the website www.mass.gov/nationalhealthreform for more information on the Affordable Care Act. Every quarter, stakeholder public meetings take place; the meeting for the month of October 2011 was cancelled and will be rescheduled.

New Hampshire Dept. of Public Health & Human Services- Donna Mombourquette

A report was not available.

MA Dept. of Public Health- Dawn Fukuda

Dawn Fukuda, Director, Office of HIV/AIDS, reported that they had received word that in the governor's supplemental budget that in both versions of the bill the House and Senate restored \$500,000 to the HIV/AIDS Line for FY12. They are confident that these bills will be moving forward. The department will be driving these resources right into direct care contracts of prevention and screening and client health services. Dawn will be giving budget updates of FY12 and FY13 at Project ABLE's annual meeting, as well as explaining how the governor's budget is shaping up. This is the first fiscal year, FY12 that started this past July 2011, for which they have had the higher rebate ceiling of the HIV drug assistance program. There is no limit on how high the rebate ceiling can go. The current \$6 million expected to be reimbursed does not constitute additional money that can be put back into contracted services. It is money to be put back into the HIV Drug Assistance program.

At the October meeting of the Massachusetts Prevention Planning group the department will officially announce to this group that they will have a new name and will become the Massachusetts Integrated Prevention and Care Committee, or MIPCC. This will be an integrated planning body for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; having a single group that does planning across care and prevention for the entire state. This is the first time this has been accomplished. The White House National HIV Strategy calls on states to do this.

Dawn also highlighted concerns in regards to current actions being taken by Blue Cross Blue Shield in terminating health insurance benefits of members due to members not being able to produce MA proof of residency. Their office is following up on these issues in order to have people living with HIV/AIDS continue health insurance coverage and access to care and medications.

Another concern is the new requirement of social security identification numbers for people applying for health insurance in MA. Dawn expressed that the department is looking into the legalities of these actions. They are working with Community Research Initiative of New England (CRI) in terms of evaluating who can potentially be affected and how to possibly avoid this.

Dawn also clarified information on the open enrollment period for insurance in MA. Enrollment in non-group insurance is limited to open enrollment periods; the next open enrollment period is July 1-August15, 2012.

Boston Public Health Commission - Michael Goldrosen

Michael gave an overview of current work being completed by the grantee on the grant for FY2012. The Grantee reported that it has historically received good reviews/points from the Health Resources and Services Administration office (HRSA) on previously submitted grants. Due to delays on grant awards there are delays on other submissions requirements by HRSA in terms of awarded money. The Grantee gave updates of new BPHC Client Services staff members present at the meeting who would be starting next week.

Planning Council Support

Cara Mathews, PCS staff, directed members to the meeting packet to see items such as the committee roster and the calendar of meetings of all committees. She also informed members that meeting packets can be left at the table at the back of the room so PCS staff can recycle them. Webinar information and other resources will be posted on the Planning Council website.

Evaluation of Meeting & Adjourn

Topic H: Evaluation of Meeting

Darren Sack directed members to evaluation forms and requested that members fill them out.

Topic I: Adjourn

Summary of Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Brian Quigley

Second: Steve Batchelder