



HIV Health Services Planning Council

POLICY AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE NOTES

Thursday, January 10th, 2008
San Francisco Department of Public Health
25 Van Ness Avenue, **Room 330B**
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Committee Members Present: Allgaier (Co-Chair), Pillatzke, Ramos

Committee Members Absent: Antonetty, Evans, Harrison, Hoffman, Spaeth (Co-Chair)

Other Council Members Present: Banks, Manley, Andrews, Frazier, Siron

Others Present: Francine Austin (SF DPH HHS), Michelle Long (SF DPH HHS), Veronica Neal, (Consultant), Allison Webel (SE Health Center)

Council Support Staff: Jack Newby, Enrique Asis

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order and everyone introduced themselves. Quorum was not established.

2. Review/Approve Agenda

The agenda was not reviewed or approved.

3. Review/Approve December 13th, 2007 Minutes

The Minutes were not reviewed nor approved.

4. Announcements

- Jack Newby announced that due to staff illness the minutes would be done via recording and it would help if all spoke clearly.
- Enrique Asis announced that the next full council meeting would be at the LGBT center and not at the State building.
- A special part of the meeting would be dedicated to a training that has been requested by new council members.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Steering Committee Update

There was no Steering Committee Update

7. Council Structure Discussion and Proposals

The committee will discuss recommendations regarding CARE Council structure and receive input from Consultant Veronica Neal.

- Women's and Minority Affairs Caucus
 - CM Banks stated that Allison Webel of SE Health Center was to do the majority of the presentation for the Women's and Minority Affairs Caucus. However he proceeded with statistics that were considered alarming. Discussion included that :
 - 1 in 50 African-American men have HIV
 - 1 in 160 African-American women have HIV
 - 1 in 250 Caucasian men have HIV
 - 1 in 2000 Caucasian women have HIV
 - CM Banks stated that the structure of the council where 3-4 committees focus internally where only one focuses on the disease and its impact externally and that he would like this caucus to focus on the impact from an external perspective. Prospective goals of the caucus would be as follows:
 - Any CM could participate on the committee if s/he chooses
 - The agenda items would be centered on women's and minorities' issues.
 - Issues should be trans-cultural, trans-historical, culturally specific, time specific (e.g. people are now on waiting lists for services due to the fact that people are living longer with better quality of medications), gender indifferent and gender specific, women needing a safe space for anonymity
 - Also discussed is how to more fully engage people of color
 - How do we get meaningful data from providers, how do we work together with providers so that they do not feel under attack
 - How do we improve communication between CARE resources and EIP resources so that there is better communication between providers
 - Also suggested was the prospect of using non CARE services especially for substance abuse.
 - Also discussed were different tiers of marginalization as far as African-Americans are concerned where you have economic, social, educational, substance abuse and plethora of legal problems-all different types of marginalization.
 - CM Banks acknowledged that the problems would not be resolved overnight and that it would be an ongoing process

- CM Allgaier added that 1 out of 4 men who have sex with men are positive while for African-American men who have sex with men the percentage is 32%.
- Michelle Long (SF DPH HHS) was asked if there were groups that focused on just women's issues and people of color issues. She replied that there were groups that dealt with all categories and that the task of the council was to allocate funds based on the disparity of the impact on different categories
- CM Frazier stated that what he was hearing was that these were issues of cultural competency and that bringing on the consultant to help balance how we as a council respond to the marginalized populations was a needed step.
- CM Frazier also voiced his concerns that due to lack of cultural competency people are not being tested nor receiving services and treatment and if we don't do something to get people into the system for services then the situation is going to severely worsen.

At this point Allison Webel of SE Health Center arrived and began her presentation. Points raised were:

- ½ of the women in San Francisco that are diagnosed with HIV are African-American with all other races/ethnic groups combined making up the other 50%
- How can we as a council work with providers to get the most out of the resources to best positively impact the health of people living with HIV
- Questions were raised as to whether or not the results of needs assessments actually determine and affect the work that we do as a council

At this point Veronica Neal arrived to present her findings of the focus groups to the committee. The presentation included:

- One of the biggest themes that come from the data is that some members do not feel fully valued or that they have a working voice and there are issues of mistrust.
- The two sub themes that come forth are themes of multi-cultural accessibility and developing trust and value
- Individuals on the council who have historically been marginalized and disenfranchised are not able to feel fully part of the current structure of the council
- For example some one who is coming into the council who brings experiences such as substance abuse, multiple diagnoses, people of color do not feel that their experiences are assets to the work on the council or that they are taken seriously. There are feelings of mistrust from these members who don't feel valued or that the perception that they are merely wanted here but are not encouraged to participate fully

- How fully can a new member participate if they are unfamiliar with Robert's Rules and does this increase the feelings of mistrust and disempowerment? There were calls for additional and ongoing training on Robert's Rules.
- Another issue that came forth in the focus group data analysis was whether members are really clear on what their responsibilities are and how is the information that is given to be read and analyzed. There are issues of mistrust between agencies and resentments when information is presented late and without ample time to properly digest the data and be prepared to discuss it logically at the meetings.
- One of the principal findings was that people are committed to the cause and the mission statement and are glad to be here. Members feel very passionate about these issues and do not feel that everything is broken, some things do work and it is more about improving how things work than completely deleting the whole system.
- CM Siron questioned Ms. Neal about her opinion as to whether or not the council needed restructuring. She answered yes and wanted to clarify that although that may seem to contradict the data but that as a diversity educator, she finds that the structure is not culturally competent.
- CM Allgaier clarified about the mistrust among various layers of the council between the DPH and the council and among the various layers of the council.
- CM Banks asked about the different committee structures and what the different committees do. Ms Neal answered that Robert's Rules needs to be adjusted so that more cultural styles are represented and as far as the different committees people are not trusting of this process because people feel that decisions are being made "behind closed doors" without proper input from all members.
- Ms. Neal explained that there are always racial, sexist, classist, dynamics and that the mistrust works both ways with the marginalized person feeling not trusted or not valued and the advantaged person feeling mistrust due to the social dynamic of certain people not being able to be trusted.
- Other points that came up were:
 - How do we build trust?
 - What are some of the things we can do about communications dynamics?
 - How do we have the sensitive conversations about race, class, economics, education level, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity without bruising feelings and egos?

- CM Allgaier suggested that a group of people gather before the next meeting to take the data presented this evening, the restructuring proposal of CM Allgaier, and the proposal of CM Banks and come up with some solid recommendations to bring to the next committee meeting.
 - There were questions as to whether or not this constituted an off-line or back door meeting and would it further increase the feelings of mistrust or isolationism.
 - It was decided by consensus that this off-line meeting would be held and that anyone who chose to participate was welcome to do so.
- Co-Chair Allgaier's Reorganization Proposal
 - This item was not discussed.

8. Committee will Discuss How to Update CARE Council on Progress

This item was not discussed.

9. Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items

- *The next meeting will be 4:30 – 6:30, Thursday, February 7th, 2008, 25 Van Ness, Room 330B, San Francisco.*

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.