



**HIV Health Services Planning Council  
Community Outreach & Advocacy Committee  
DRAFT Minutes  
Wednesday, December 12th, 2007  
25 Van Ness Avenue Room 330B  
5:30-7:30pm**

---

**Committee Members Present:** Banks, Newell (Co-Chair), Navarro, Manley, Penagos, Mabry, Cooper, Scherich

**Committee Members Absent:** Flores

**Other Council Members Present:** Siron

**Others Present:** Christopher Gortner (SF DPH HHS)

**Council Support Present:** Jack Newby, Dennis Wheeler, Channing Wayne

---

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Co-Chair Newell and everyone introduced themselves. Quorum was established.

### **2. Review/Approve Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and unanimously.

### **3. Review/Approve November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Minutes**

The November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Minutes were reviewed and it was noted that the Women and Minority Affairs Caucus was discussed and was supposed to be included on tonight's agenda. The Minutes will be updated to reflect this oversight. The Minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

### **4. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **5. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **6. Steering Committee Update**

There was no Steering Committee update.

### **7. Advocacy Project Report**

- Introduction of HIV Consumer Rights Advocate, Dennis Wheeler
- The Committee received and reviewed the monthly report from the Consumer Rights Advocacy Project.
  - Client who was evicted from his housing had been receiving housing assistance from the San Francisco AIDS agency was assisted by Mr. Wheeler. He had lost

credibility due to violent outbursts of temper and has exhausted his financial options thereby losing his subsidy. Mr. Wheeler says that he will continue working with this client. Client has been offered \$500 to move out by December 15<sup>th</sup> 2007, and it will not show up on his record as an eviction. He will more than likely need to move into an SRO.

- New complaint against Native American Health Center by a client who has learning disabilities. Client was not receiving what he thought was appropriate level of care. Client needs counseling, case management and after sitting down with the director of NAHC, Mr. Wheeler and the client, was able to be referred into counseling due to the efforts of the director of the NAHC.
- CM Penagos offered the idea that the NAHC dental part did not receive Ryan White Part A & B funds and wondered how the Planning Council was able to intervene on the client's behalf although she thought it was great that Mr. Wheeler advocated on his behalf.
- Mr. Newby replied that what we have done is to help clients and the agency. Although they may not receive Ryan White Part A & B funding if the agency agrees to have the Advocacy Office intervene, we are eager to do so.
- There have been major complaints about noise levels at Peter Claver House. Most of the ones complaining would like to be moved although with limited availability, it is difficult to move clients en masse. One of the clients is moving to Derek Silva to get away from the noise levels and dealing with this while battling an illness.
- Reporting about the 5 month old case regarding the client in Marin who had the dying roommate, the decedent's father has given permission to access the deceased's medical records to more fully give an accurate picture of what happened so that the Advocacy Office can better assist the complainant. Mr. Wheeler stated that Mr. Lynn had done a lot of work on behalf of this client and that he is attempting to continue on the path that Mr. Lynn had lain.
- Reporting about the client with bedbugs. Technically we do not have the jurisdiction to advocate on his behalf as the subsidy is from the Housing Authority. Client has been displaced until the 2 cycles of treatment. He is considering legal options with ALRP.

Mr. Newby thanked Mr. Wheeler for jumping in and doing a really great job. He also thanked Richard Bargetto for stepping up to the plate and help train Mr. Wheeler. Council Member Siron suggested a Thank you card for Mr. Bargetto. Mr. Newby will send.

## **8. Discussion/Determination of PLWHA Caucus Meeting Procedures and Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

- PLWHA Caucus Meeting Procedures – **VOTE**
  - Mr. Newby stated that if there is a desire to hold a meeting, Council Support will set it up. Originally it was suggested that Mr. Newby would chair the meeting, however he is not comfortable with that role.
  - CM Manley suggested that the meeting be postponed until January 2008 and that he would gladly offer a suggested agenda. He also felt that the first thing to do would be to elect a chair. He offered to accept any ideas for the agenda.

- CM Banks suggested that this has not been taken up at the Full Council Meeting. Further discussion included that it was only announced at the meeting but that the restructuring of the Council was never taken on. Several members decided that last year it was more of a social group or support group not an official working group.
- There was discussion as to whether it should be an informal working group rather than a formal business committee. If the Caucus is going to get together as a group as a policy making mode then it should be formalized and have minutes.
- Council Member Manley will bring this item to Policy and Evaluation tomorrow to get further clarity.

**Action: Call the question (Penagos/Scherich)**

**Vote:**

**Ayes: 8**

**Nays: 1 (Banks)**

**Motion passes.**

**Action: Set up a PLWHA caucus for January and that CM Manley take it to Policy and Evaluation Committee on December 13, 2007. (Siron/Cooper)**

**Vote:**

**Ayes: 8**

**Nays: 1 (Banks)**

**Motion passes.**

- Establish PLWHA Next Meeting/Date and Location – **VOTE**
  - This item was tabled until it went through Policy and Evaluation

## **9. Discussion/Potential Recommendations to Include Previously Incarcerated, and Other Priority Populations as determined, as part of the upcoming Needs Assessment**

- The Committee had the opportunity to discuss and make potential recommendations to include previously incarcerated and other priority populations as determined, as part of the upcoming needs assessment. Discussion included:
  - Co-Chair Newell announced that Luther Brock has offered his services to help to reach out to these underserved populations.
  - CM Penagos stated that she feels this to be a wonderful opportunity to reach out to these.
  - CM Banks suggests that because of the disproportionate amount of people of color, especially African-Americans.
  - Mr. Banks also suggested that Council reach out to the transgender community due to high infection due to sharing needles for hormone injection.
  - It was stated that a needs assessment had been done for people of color and transgenders this year.
  - CM Cooper announced that she had been part of a transgender conference in October and that there are statistics from Transforming Justice.org that do not

suggest that there is a higher rate of sero-conversion among the transgender community from sharing needles.

- Mr. Gortner strongly recommends that we do a need assessment of people over 50 as this is a growing population of people living with HIV.

**Action: To do a needs assessment for formerly incarcerated and people over 50 (Siron, Penagos)**

**Vote:**

**Ayes: 8**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

## **10. Update Status of San Francisco EMA HIV/AIDS Resource Guide**

- The Committee was updated on the current status of the San Francisco EMA HIV/AIDS Resource Guide
- Mr. Gortner (SF DPH HHS) stated that this will be a contractual item and that it would be a lengthy process.
- CM Manley asked if the guide would be paper or electronically. Mr. Gortner answered that the plan was to do a print version and then do a pdf so that it could be downloaded to the Council's website.
- CM Siron asked if the guide could have links such as a transgender link.

## **11. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items**

The next Community Outreach and Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9th, 2008 from 5:30 until 7:30 at SF DPH, 25 Van Ness, Room 330B, San Francisco.

- Women and Minority Affairs Caucus

## **12. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at by Co-Chair Newell at 7:30 p.m.

---

### **Action Items:**

- **Set up a PLWHA caucus for January and that Council Member Manley take it to Policy and Evaluation Committee (Siron/Cooper)**

**Vote:**

**Ayes: 8**

**Nays: 1 (Banks)**

**Motion passes.**

- **Motion to do a needs assessment for formerly incarcerated and people over 50 (Siron, Penagos).**

**Vote:**

**Ayes: 8**

**Motion passes unanimously.**