



**HIV Health Services Planning Council
Steering Committee
Tuesday, February 17, 2009
1 South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor, Room 5080
5:00 - 7:00pm**

Committee Members Present: Allgaier, Andrews, Hart, Hicks, Jewell, Manley, Molnar, Penagos, Philip, Soto, Thomas

Committee Members Absent: Antonetty, Frazier

Others Present: CM Scherich, CM Siron, Mike Smith (AIDS Emergency Fund), Dean Goodwin (DPH-HHS), Matthew Miller (Applicant)

Support Staff Present: Lee, Zhovreboff

Draft Minutes

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 pm by Co-Chair Molnar. Everyone introduced themselves and quorum was established.

2. Review/Approve Agenda - VOTE

The agenda was reviewed and approved by consensus.

3. Review/Approve January 20, 2009 Minutes – VOTE

The January 20, 2009 Minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.

4. Announcements

There were none.

5. Public Comment

There was none.

6. Council Support Update

The Steering Committee received an update from Council Director, Greg Zhovreboff. He announced that the next meeting of the Special Membership Committee will convene tomorrow, Tuesday, February 18th at 4:30pm at 25 Van Ness.

He also updated the Committee on the Consumer Advocacy Projects ongoing work with University of the Pacific Dental School, which has about six or seven cases still pending. He noted that Joe Lynn has a meeting next week to discuss these issues.

7. Committee Reports

The Committee discussed any issues coming up at the different Committees and Work Groups, communication between Committee Co-chairs, and ensured linkage of Committee activities to the Full Council.

- *Government and Provider Affairs Update*
 - CM Soto noted that the committee spent half of their time updating the presentation schedule, which should be available for review at the Steering Retreat on Friday, February 20, 2009.
 - He announced that the second half of the meeting was spent reviewing and discussing the motion that came from CMA regarding the General Fund budget cuts.

- *Consumer and Minority Affairs Update*
 - CM Allgaier updated the Committee on issues that the CMA committee have been working on, including updating the presentation schedule as well as discussing General Fund recommendation issues.
 - He noted that the Committee is working closely with the Long Term Care Coordinating Council and are thinking about creating a joint work group to prepare a presentation for the Council.
 - He also noted that they are having some trouble getting in contact with the Co-Chairs of the HPPC, and that they are working on creating a focus group Needs Assessment targeting stigma. Co-Chair Manley noted that the HPPC Co-Chairs have been in contact with the HHSPC Co-Chairs and that they will have a meeting later this month.
- *Membership Committee Update*
 - As neither Co-Chair was present, CM Andrews provided the update. He announced that two applicants were voted favorably for, and they will be up for vote at the Full Council on February 23rd. He also announced that two more applicants will be interviewed at the March 9th Membership meeting.
 - CM Andrews noted that attendance has been great for the last quarter, and they did not have to send out any warning letters.
 - He also announced that the CMRR Work Group has been disbanded, and that the Membership Committee has decided to take on all unfinished tasks.
- *PoI (Points of Integration) Update*
 - CM Philip announced that the EPI Chapter Outline Draft is being worked on for an April presentation date. She noted that Maree Kay Parisi suggested using the 2007 numbers until the new numbers become available in late summer.
- *Council Members' Rights and Responsibilities Work Group Update*
 - There was none.

8. HIV Health Services Update

There was nothing to update.

9. Planning Council and General Fund Discussion – VOTE

The Committee discussed the motion from the Consumer and Minority Affairs Committee regarding how the Planning Council should deal with General Fund issues in the future. Dean Goodwin presented funding scenarios for proportional reductions to all categories in General Fund and Ryan White Funding to reach a target reduction of 12.5%.

Co-Chair Thomas mentioned a discussion she included the Council Co-Chairs, Barbara Garcia (the Deputy Director of DPH) and the HAPN Executive Committee. She noted that Garcia would like community input, but pointed out that there is no guarantee that she will be able to follow those recommendations. Co-Chair Thomas noted that she is open to cutting some services, if it means preserving the quality of care that clients need and deserve.

CM Jewell mentioned that he had just attended a client advisory meeting at POH, and that many clients still complain of missing transportation that used to be provided. He is worried that if more support services are cut, they will fall the way of transportation, and never be reinstated.

Matthew Miller, an applicant to the Council noted that there is a large amount of redundancy in programs and services in San Francisco. He believes that if these were consolidated, there could be a huge amount of money saved by the city.

CM Allgaier asked what the Council's basic values are. He is wondering if they are able to support a broad system of care or if in this financial situation that is not possible. He agrees with Miller that consolidation could be a great time and money saver, but that the initial investment to do that is extremely large. He also noted that he is loathe to make huge changes, and believes that the Council should err on the side of caution.

Co-Chair Manley said that the Council should be prepared to be in a continuing downward spiral for an indefinite period of time. Because of this, he believes that the Council should take full advantage of any flexibility they have, such as using the waiver from HRSA.

CM Hart believes that DPH and the Council should take a hard look at services, as some may not be capable of doing anymore what they were set out to do in the first place.

Mike Smith from the AIDS Emergency Fund agreed with CM Allgaier that there are a tremendous amount of unknowns out there right now, but what is known, is that there is still a 12.5% cut pending from DPH. He thanked Michelle Long and her staff for making the initial 12.5% cut as painless as possible by searching for creative ways to come up with the money, but he fears that this second one won't be as easy. He agreed that some services may need to be looked in to, to see if they are doing the jobs they were set out to do.

CM Penagos suggested looking back at to the philosophy of the Council instead of automatically going in to crisis mode. CMs Allgaier and Jewell agreed.

CM Siron refused to agree to any sort of cut at any time.

CM Andrews stated that this discussion needs to be brought forth to the Full Council in very clear language so that everyone can understand what is going on. He question whether the Maintenance of Effort was something that could still be used for leverage, but Co-Chair Molnar answered that there are many EMAs that are not in compliance, and that in these challenging times, the MOE won't make a difference.

CM Hicks asked what the deadline is for this decision, and Co-Chair Molnar answered that Barbara Garcia would like suggestions by the end of the month. He reminded the Committee that they are giving suggestions in a solely advisory capacity. She also asked for Barbara Garcia to come in to the next Full Council meeting to give the Council and idea of what exactly is going on, and what is to be expected from these cuts. She also noted that the Council needs to start thinking differently in terms of medical care. She feels that many believe that medical care will always be there, but the only reason that it is there and runs so efficiently is because it is fully funded at all times. If things weren't that way, the standard of medical care could go down.

CM Siron questioned if Barbara Garcia will actually follow the recommendations that the Council makes as that has not been done in the past. Michelle Long noted that the Garcia will be at the next Full Council meeting to answer any questions about the budget.

CM Hicks, Andrews and Allgaier pointed out the Council should make more use of the documents and needs assessments that are given to them as resources.

Mike Smith from the AIDS Emergency Fund stated that he is worried about have two proposals brought forward to the Full Council and not having a targeted versus proportional approach. He noted that it is difficult to get other ideas out when there are already two options on the table.

Co-Chair Molnar again announced that he is against any categories being cut, while Co-Chair Thomas noted that the primary function of the Council is to prioritize service categories and make decisions what are the most important services to preserve.

Co-Chair Molnar recommended moving the motion to the Full Council, and that any alternate scenarios that involve the reduction or elimination of categories could come up again at the Full Council meeting.

CM Andrews questioned how these would be presented to the Council, and Co-Chair Molnar noted that it would be a free form discussion, with the presentation of the two scenarios and a discussion of any others that may come up. He also suggested adding in a third scenario where half of the money comes from cutting or reducing services, and the other half come from administrative costs.

CM Siron made a motion to have a scenario with proportional and targeted cuts instead of just numbers, but Co-Chair Molnar pointed out that there was no need for that because of the motions that are already on the table. The motion was not seconded.

CM Allgaier questioned why the Committee was spending such a large amount of time and effort over what is a relatively small amount of money (\$380,000). Co-Chair Manley said that he believes that it's because the Council has continuously been facing cut after cut, and with each cut, the dollars matter more.

Co-Chair Molnar led a discussion on the motion from the CMA committee, suggesting that the Council use their waiver from HRSA to move money from RW to fully fund GF Tier 2 services. He believes that if this is done, it will eliminate the need to delete categories at all. The exact motion is as follows:

MOTION: Co-Chair Allgaier/Co-Chair Jewell to recommend to the Government & Provider Affairs Committee and the Steering Committee to reduce Ryan White Part A funds proportionally from Core Services (Tier 1), to Support Services (Tier 2) so that the Ryan White Part A amount allocated to each support service category is equal to the total amount of RW Part A and General HHS funds as of a date yet to be determined.

CM Molnar reminded the Committee that by bringing a motion to the Full Council it is no way to mean that they have to do it, it merely that it is an idea worthy of consideration. This motion passed at CMA and at GPA and straw poll was taken and the Committee was split half and half. He noted that he has a conflict of interest by working at Shanti, which does non-medical case management and psychosocial support. Because of this, he feels that the entire system of care is extremely important.

CM Hicks and Penagos spoke against the motion, as they both feel that it would leave medical care open to large cuts.

Mike Smith from AEF spoke in favor of the motion, as he believes that support services are essential to San Francisco's model of care, and he believes that these services are dangerously close to being cut for good.

CM Allgaier spoke for the motion, as one of the original people who put the motion on the table, noting that it really reflects the Council's core values by sustaining as much additional care as possible. He believes that when the time comes, they can have a thoughtful conversation about which services to cut, but if they don't protect them now, those services will be lost.

Co-Chair Molnar stated that he believes that DPH should not be allowed to make this decision regarding cuts, as complementary therapy has already been cut, proving that they don't see support services as essential services.

CM Hart noted that even though this motion leaves primary medical care open for cuts, it is much easier to get the community to rally around and work to save that rather than support services.

CM Allgaier also noted that it is important to keep those support services that get people into and keep them in care, otherwise there would be no need for primary medical care.

MOTION: CM Siron/Co-Chair Manley to call the question. Passed by unanimous decision.

MOTION to forward the motion from CMA to the Full Council.

VOTE-Ayes: 12

Nays: 0

10. Discussion of Steering Retreat

Council Support Staff & the Co-Chairs provided an update on the February 20, Steering Retreat. The Committee reviewed the agenda and approved it as is.

11. Development of February Council Agenda – VOTE

The Committee reviewed and developed the agenda for the February Full Council meeting.

Monday, February 23, 2009, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Rooms 330 A & B, San Francisco from 4:30 until 7:30 p.m.

12. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

- *The next Steering Committee Meeting is the RETREAT and is scheduled for Friday, February 20, 2009 from 10:00am until 4:00 p.m. at the Zen Center, 300 Page Street, San Francisco.*

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm by Co-Chair Molnar.