



HIV HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL

Bayanihan Community Center
Barangay Hall
1010 Mission Street (6th and Mission)
San Francisco, CA 94103
Monday, February 23, 2009
4:30 - 7:30 PM

Council Members Present: Allgaier, Andrews, Antonetty, Briones, Byers, Cooper, Hart, Heath, Hicks, Jewell, Manley, Molnar, Newell, Pearce, Penagos, Philip, Russo, Ramos, Scherich, Siron, Soto, Spaeth, Sweetin, Thomas

Council Members Absent: Banks, Flores, Frazier, Harrison (LoA), Margolis, Pillatzke, Simmons

Others Present: Barbara Garcia (Deputy Director of DPH), Bill Blum (DPH-HHS), Dean Goodwin (DPH-HHS), Michelle Long (DPH-HHS), Aaron Chandler (Applicant), Jesus Guillen (Applicant), Matthew Miller (Applicant), Terry Young (Applicant), Mike Smith (AIDS Emergency Fund), Bill Hirsch (AIDS Legal Referral Panel), Charlotte Brown (Public)

Support Staff Present: Asis, Bryson, Lee, Lynn, Zhovreboff

Minutes

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm by Co-Chair Manley.

2. **Roll Call**

Roll was called and quorum was established.

3. **Review and Approval of Agenda—VOTE**

The agenda was reviewed and approved by consensus. Co-Chair Thomas noted that Barbara Garcia will be in attendance to answer any questions the Council may have about budgetary issues.

4. **Review and Approval of January 26, 2009 Minutes—VOTE**

The January 26th, 2009 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.

5. **General Announcements**

- CM Harris announced that the annual public hearings on HOPWA will be on Wednesday, March 4th and Wednesday, March 11th. She noted that there won't be much new to talk about as there will be no new HOPWA dollars, but feedback is welcome about current services.
- CM Newell announced that she has been accepted in to AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families Leadership Corps Training Program.
- CM Hart announced that from March 25th to 29th there will be a 5 day march from San Francisco to Sacramento going through communities to educate and build bridges in the effort to repeal Proposition 8. For more information, go to www.onestruggleonefight.com.
- CM Soto apologized that he would have to leave early.

- CM Thomas mentioned that she is working to get a Hepatitis C task force running to develop recommendations for the city. She is looking for people that are interested in participating on the task force, and wants to represent people who are co-infected, as well as providers. Anyone who is interested can contact Laura Thomas.

6. Public Comment

There was none.

7. Council Support Update

Council Director Zhovreboff updated the Council on goings-on with Council Support. He asked that Council Members provide feedback on the new space. He also noted that he brought scholarship applications for the US Conference on AIDS. He also updated the Council surrounding ongoing issues with the Yahoo! Group, namely that some meeting notices were not being posted in a timely manner due to server glitches. He also noted that Shanti is undergoing a massive intranet overhaul, but that IT issues should be resolved by the end of the week. He also announced that the next Special Membership Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 25th from 4-6pm at Derek Silva Community, 20 Franklin Street. He also noted that he attended an HPPC meeting as a sort of meet and greet

Zhovreboff updated the Council on the Steering Retreat, where cultural humility, the Three-Year plan and monitoring guide were discussed. He noted that CAEAR Coalition membership will be discussed at next planning council meeting in March.

Co-Chair Manley also noted that at the Steering Retreat, a grid was completed to track the Three-Year plan.

To finish, Zhovreboff gave certificates of appreciation to all three Co-Chairs.

8. Update from the Deputy Director of DPH

Barbara Garcia, the Deputy Director of the Department of Public Health updated the Council on impending budget cuts. She noted that today all components of the Ryan White program received an increase from the stimulus bill (a total increase of 71.63 million) which directs that 10.9 million in Part A be used as “stop-gap” dollars—or, supplemental grants. She noted that there is a need to make a plan to cut dollars in the best way that they can, and one of those ways is efficiency and reorganization. She said that DPH is working on cutting down on administrative costs as well as services. She noted that this will be done in cascades so that no one program is cut. Garcia also hopes to reduce the number of contracts by managing them better and streamlining. She acknowledged that there are difficult decisions ahead and that she would like recommendations from the Council. She noted that DPH is contemplating major reorganization and a possible merge of the Prevention and Care offices.

Co-Chair Molnar thanked her for all of her hard work and how she has reached out to the community in this process. CM Byers questioned the issue of the maintenance of effort. Michelle Long from DPH-HHS noted that almost every EMA is out of compliance with the MoE due to increasing federal and state budgetary concerns. CM Andrews asked for advice on how to get out of “react” mode and to work more effectively with the DPH. Garcia suggested looking at already established recommendations and keeping the Council’s long term vision but using short term processes. CM Pearce questioned why there are so many cuts involving mental health, and Garcia noted that is mainly had to do with the fact that there was just such a large reduction in general fund dollars. CM Harris questioned whether the money from the stimulus package would

fill the four month gap that was expected in some contracts, and Michelle Long noted that she thinks money should be able to cover. CM Siron questioned if Barbara Garcia will be the Council's advocate. She noted that she will try, but can't always just protect the interests of one group.

9. Membership Committee Update—VOTE

- *The Membership Committee recommended that the HHSPC approve **Aaron Chandler** for membership on the council.*

Aaron Chandler was voted on to the Council unanimously.

- *The Membership Committee recommended that the HHSPC approve **Jesus Guillen** for membership on the council.*

Jesus Guillen was voted on to the Council unanimously.

There was no public comment on this item.

10. Dinner

Dinner began at 5:53 pm and ended at 6:05.

11. Motion from Steering Committee re: Reallocation – VOTE

This agenda item was moved to after dinner.

“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 Thomas noted that this motion is not about cutting funds, it is about moving dollars around and reallocating funds. This proposal seeks to take dollars out of Ryan White Core Services and using it to fully fill Support Services. The background to this, she noted is that the Council is facing severe general fund cuts, and it is generally Tier 2 (support services) that are cut. She feels that it would better protect support services, but recognized that it would leave core services more vulnerable to cuts. She noted that support services are extremely important to the Council and are not as so to DPH. She also noted that she supports this motion and that is has gone through two Committees and Steering to get to the Council.

Co-Chair Manley noted that he also supports this motion, as General Fund dollars are much more at risk than Federal Ryan White dollars.

CM Jewell and CM Allgaier both noted their support for the motion.

CM Hicks spoke against the motion for fear that medical care could be come a very different type of service without reliable dollars there to support it.

CM Soto noted that the Government & Provider Affairs Committee did a straw poll on this motion and were divided.

CM Molnar spoke in favor, discussing the “San Francisco model of Care,” and noted clients' need for support services.

CM Harris noted that there is not a reduced need and there is not an increase of money on the horizon and is worried about losing core services.

CM Newell and CM Hart noted that support services need to be kept as they are, as they are some of the primary reasons that severe needs clients stay in care.

CM Thomas clarified, noting that its not that people need less medical care, it's that the Council is trying to protect as many services as possible.

CM Penagos spoke against the motion, noting that she doesn't believe that primary medical care is going to be held harmless if this motion passes.

CM Allgaier noted that this decision can be reversed at the P & A summit in August, and that this motion would protect services in the short term during the impending budget cuts.

CM Antonetty spoke against the motion, noting that this would affect contracts and thus, services.

CM Pearce noted that he was not comfortable with the motion as is.

CM Siron wanted to state, on the record, that he will no longer cut funds for people living with AIDS.

CM Heath spoke in favor of the motion, stating that she believes that support services are equally as important as core services.

CM Jewell noted that the support services need to stay funded, because once a category is defunded, agencies close and it extremely hard, if not impossible, for them to reopen.

CM Hart believes that this is the most logical way to save all services that are prioritized by the Council.

CM Long questioned when this motion would be implemented and asked whether this had been discussed in a collaborative environment with Barbara Garcia, the Deputy Director of the Department of Public Health. CM Manley noted that there are no time limitations on the motion, as they would like time to work with the Department of Public Health, although they would like to implement it as soon as possible.

Public Comment:

Bill Hirsch, ALRP: He noted that he has been with ALRP for 10 years, and has been dealing with budget cuts like this for a long time. He feels that it is extremely important to keep the system of care as intact as possible, as that is what is most important for those with HIV and AIDS.

Matthew Miller, Applicant: He discussed how it already takes him a long time to get all sorts of support services, and that if these services are cut, he's worried that things will get even worse if. He noted that in the past, support services are the only things that kept him in care and in the system. He is wondering how many services need to be cut before some essential support services are saved.

Mike Smith, AIDS Emergency Fund: He began by reminding the Council of the budget cuts that took place two years ago, when the CARE award was reduced by \$4 million. He noted that DPH did a great job of trying to cover those funds with government money, but services have slowly been disappearing. He noted that the support services that are left are the pieces that DPH was

not able to save. What he is most worried about is the AIDS Emergency Fund, as it could be an enticing place to pull money from, as it is 35% of the government money in the support services category. He would like to see the Emergency Fund saved, as he feels that it is an extremely important service.

Terry Young Applicant: Discussed his issues surrounding the U of P dental clinic, and how the defunding of that has affected him and those close to him. He noted that this is just one support services, but it has been necessary one; one that saved his life, while his close friend died due to lack of access.

VOTE-Ayes: 16

Nayes: 8

11. Planning Council and General Fund Discussion – VOTE

The Committee discussed motion(s) from different committees regarding how the Planning Council should deal with General Fund issues in the future.

MOTION: CM Penagos/CM Molnar that general fund cuts be shared equally between administration and direct services. Furthermore, it is recommended that HIV Health Services find the direct service cuts via contract efficiencies, consolidations and underutilizations. There will be no elimination of service categories in relation to this approximately \$200,000 cut.

The Committee discussed better ways to engage DPH in budget cuts in a way that doesn't drive them crazy, but also leaves the Care Council's values intact.

VOTE-Ayes: 24

Nayes: 0

There was no public comment on this item.

12. Comprehensive Plan Review—VOTE

This agenda item was moved to next month's meeting.

There was no public comment on this item.

13. Presentation Schedule Review—VOTE

The Committee reviewed the updated 2009 Presentation Schedule.

MOTION: CM Pearce/CM Siron to pass the presentation schedule as-is.

Passed by unanimous decision.

There was no public comment on this item.

14. New Business/Next Agenda

The next full council meeting date is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 23rd, 2009, 4:30-7:30 p.m. with location TBA.

There was no public comment on this item.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm by Co-Chair Thomas.
