



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

Committee Members Present: Banks, Cooper, Lynn, Manley, Newell, Scherich

Committee Members Absent: Penagos

Other Council Members Present: Mabry, Siron

Others Present: Christopher Gartner (SF DPH HHS)

Council Support Staff Present: Jack Newby, Ray West, Joe Lynn and Sally Frye

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by CM Newell at 5:33 p.m and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Review/Approve Agenda

The current Agenda was reviewed by all present and approved by consensus.

3. Review/Approve August 8th, 2007 Minutes

The Minutes of August 8, 2007 were reviewed but not approved. This item will be added to the next Committee meeting agenda.

It was noted that a quorum was not reached in the previous meeting, and Stachia Scherich's name was missing as absent.

4. Announcements

CM Manley announced an on-line support group for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

CM Newell spoke about a new 12-step program for those with HIV.

CM Banks made an announcement that individuals with HIV ought to have a sense of support from the various organizations, but also be provided information/news about the political process. It is incumbent upon the Committee to ensure this gets done. Newby states that these activities may fall under "education". It was decided to table this discussion until the next meeting (see item 9 in these Minutes).

CM Banks also brought up funding issues, with the overall background of Ryan White CARE and other cuts. CM Cooper talked about the voucher system and how this is rarer now. This was discussed briefly.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Steering Committee Update

There was no Steering Committee update.

7. Advocacy Project Report

The Committee received and reviewed the monthly report from the Consumer Rights Advocacy Project.

Mr. Lynn described a case where the individual was unduly punished – his rights to have visitors were taken away, as well as a threat made to evict the client. The client's original grievances concerned financial irregularities and being disrespected by staff.

Also discussed was a grievance involving the University of Pacific Dental School. This incident involved a lack of sanitation in the scope of performing oral procedures. The advocate is pursuing this with the client further on September 13, 2007.

The third case relates to a prior incidence reported to the CARE Council earlier in the year regarding housing assistance and the Marin AIDS Project, where there was a failure to assist with a dying roommate. The advocate has received a release from the father of the deceased and is currently investigating the matter further.

An issue regarding perceived hate speech that resulted in the suspension of services by Project Open Hand has been suspended because the client moved out of the EMA recently. However, Mr. Lynn is planning to meet with a member of the ACLU to help define the parameters of what is allowed and not allowed in this matter.

The report also discussed issues related to eight residents at Peter Claver House.

8. Discussion Regarding the Next Priority Population 2007 Community Meeting

- Incarcerated Client(s)
 - Establish Location/Date – To be set up before the next CO&A Committee meeting, on October 10, 2007.

Discussion included:

- telephone logistics
- prior notice to be sent out before the community meeting.
- preparation of a questionnaire for incarcerated individuals.

9. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

Community education in the HIV/AIDS service environment is to be discussed in depth at the next COA Committee meeting.

The November meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 7, 2007.

The next Community Outreach and Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 10th, 2007 from 5:30 until 7:30 at SF DPH, 25 Van Ness, Room 330B, San Francisco.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Newell at 6:20 p.m.