

**Ryan White Planning Council of the Philadelphia Part A EMA  
Positive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 2015  
12:00-2:00p.m.**

Office of HIV Planning, 340 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

**Present:** PH (20), PA (2), NJ (1)

**Guests:** Evelyn Torres (AACO), Shoshanna Santos (AACO)

**Staff:** Nicole Johns, Jennifer Hayes

**Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Introductions:** D. Gana called the meeting to order at 12:10p.m. He read the mission statement.<sup>1</sup> A moment of silence followed. Those present then introduced themselves and participated in an icebreaker activity.

**Approval of Agenda:** D. Gana presented the agenda for approval. **Motion:** M. White moved, L. Way seconded to approve the agenda. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes** (*August 10, 2015*): D. Gana presented the minutes for approval. **Motion:** J.M. moved, G.M. seconded to approve the minutes. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

**Report of Chair:**

D. Gana announced that his term as Positive Committee Co-Chair was ending today. He stated that nominations for the position would be held toward the end of today's meeting.

- **Participation Acknowledgments**

D. Gana acknowledged participants who were attending their first Positive Committee meeting. He presented them with a token of their participation.

**Report of Staff:**

N. Johns stated that the October Positive Committee meeting would be rescheduled to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of October.

**Special Presentations:**

- **DEFA Overview (Evelyn Torres, AACO)**

E. Torres noted that she worked at the AIDS Activities Coordinating Office (AACO). She stated that many AACO programs were designed to help consumers. She said she'd be reviewing the Direct Emergency Financial Assistance (DEFA) program today, and welcomed all participants to ask questions. She added that she'd be distributing Client Services Unit cards and DEFA applications in English and Spanish. She noted that Johanna Santos, the supervisor of the AACO Client Services Unit (CSU), was in attendance at today's meeting and spoke English and Spanish. She added that F. Brown, another guest at today's meeting, administered the DEFA program as part of PHMC.

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<sup>1</sup> Mission statement: The Positive Committee supports and enhances the role of people living with HIV/AIDS to empower their participation in the decision-making process of the Ryan White Part A Planning Council and the HIV Prevention Planning Group.

E. Torres announced that she would provide an overview of DEFA, food vouchers, transportation, permanent rental assistance, and emergency medications. She explained that DEFA was only available in Philadelphia and the PA counties, but was not available in NJ due to the way services were prioritized in the state of NJ. She noted that DEFA paid for first and last month's rent, back rent, mortgages, utilities, heating oil, and HIV medications. She explained that DEFA was an emergency program, and that individuals who needed permanent housing assistance would need to apply for a separate housing program (HOPWA or Section 8). She stated that the wait time for housing through HOPWA was about 7 years or 1 year for individuals who were homeless. She noted that the HOPWA program paid for 70% of housing and required individuals to meet medical qualifications. She said DEFA and the HOWPA program did not have emergency housing available.

E. Torres reiterated that DEFA was an emergency program. She said case managers would assess consumers for emergencies and assist them in applying for DEFA if circumstances warranted. She encouraged participants to ensure that case managers filled out DEFA applications completely and correctly. She stated that DEFA would pay back rent for individuals who were in danger of being evicted and for utilities in the event of a shutoff notice.

E. Torres stated that consumers could apply for DEFA assistance up to \$2000 per household of 1-2 persons within a 12 month period. She said that the limit was \$2500 per households of 3 or more persons within a 12 month period. She noted that DEFA money could be used for more than one need, but was limited to the stated maximums per year (a year past first use, not a calendar year). She explained that individuals in subsidized housing programs or receiving outside rental insurance were not eligible for DEFA housing assistance. She stated that Ryan White was a payer of last resort; thus, it could not cover expenses that were payable through other programs.

E. Torres stated that turnover for processing and receiving DEFA funding took about 2-3 weeks. She explained that checks were mailed directly to landlords or utility companies. She encouraged individuals applying for DEFA to ensure that their landlords actually owned the property. K. Carter asked if DEFA assistance was available for subleases. E. Torres replied that it was, but informed the group that only property owners could sublease dwellings and receive DEFA subsidies.

N.S. asked if DEFA could be used to pay for 2 utility bills at the same time. E. Torres responded that it could, as long as the consumer had a shutoff notice for both companies. J.G. asked if DEFA could be used to pay rent immediately following move-in (e.g. second or third month's rent). E. Torres said it could not. She explained that consumers could only apply for first and last month's rent or security deposits. K. Carter asked if DEFA could be used to pay for property damages. F. Brown responded that repairing damages was between consumers and their landlords.

J.G. asked, in the event that he owed back rent as well as utilities, if he could use DEFA to pay both costs. E. Torres said he could, as long as the cost was under the limit and he had shutoff/eviction notices as relevant. E. Torres stated that food vouchers were available in NJ, Philadelphia, and the PA counties in the amount of up to \$300 annually. She stated that an additional \$50 was available for each additional household member up to a maximum of \$600. She said that agencies had food vouchers available in their offices. She emphasized that DEFA was a payer of last resort for food vouchers. She explained that it was only designed for emergencies and not to provide assistance on a regular basis. She noted that case managers may refer clients to food banks. C.S. noted that he was staying at an institution that did not provide vegetarian meals. He asked if he'd be able to obtain additional funding to satisfy his nutritional needs through DEFA. E. Torres replied that he likely would not, as he was being served meals at an institution. J.G. noted that he was diabetic. He asked if

he would be eligible for DEFA assistance to meet his nutritional needs. E. Torres said he likely would. M. White explained that ShopRite and the Fresh Grocer, two stores that accepted food vouchers, had recently merged, and both now accepted food vouchers. E. Torres explained that MANNA was a home delivery program that provided meals to individuals with a medical need for the service. J.M. stated that individuals who attended nutritional classes at MANNA received gift certificates for food after they completed the class.

J.G. noted that he was receiving \$80 in food vouchers. He asked if he could receive the rest of the \$300 maximum. E. Torres reiterated that the amount of emergency food assistance was based on individual need, which was determined by the initial assessment with a case manager.

E. Torres noted that PHMC provided transportation assistance through Ryan White. She stated that transportation was available to medical case management appointments, outpatient mental health and drug and alcohol treatment, and support groups, along with any other Ryan White funded services. She said transportation could not be provided to the grocery store or court dates. She noted that transportation services required 48 hour advance notice and included tokens, cab vouchers, and mileage reimbursement. A community member asked if she could get a copy of today's presentation. She noted that her case manager was not aware of some services that were available in the community. E. Torres said she'd get her a copy of the presentation, and encouraged participants to provide their case managers with more information about DEFA. K. Carter asked if they could ask case managers about why they were denied for DEFA assistance. E. Torres said they could.

R.B. said he was unhappy with his case manager. E. Torres suggested he change case managers. She said she would also provide more information on how individuals could file complaints about their case managers. She stated that individuals who felt they were being discriminated against for services should file a complaint. She encouraged individuals to call the AACO Healthcare Information Helpline if they did not have a proper redress policy at their agency. A community member asserted that some agencies stated that they had run out of food vouchers. E. Torres said sometimes agencies did run out of food vouchers, based on the amount of time required for reconciliation with PHMC.

J.M. asked how food vouchers were distributed. F. Brown stated that gift card distribution and denominations varied based on the agencies. M. Coleman asked if all funded agencies issued food vouchers. E. Torres replied that they did not. She remarked that individuals should get case managers to make sure they were receiving all services they were eligible for. She noted that consumers were able to get quick referrals for case management.

E. Torres stated that access to Ryan White transportation services was also based on need. M. Coleman said that other programs were also available that provided transportation. E. Torres concurred, and stated that clients who were eligible for programs like Logisticare were required to use those services prior to utilizing Ryan White services. A community member noted that using Logisticare services required 7 days notice. She added that consumers had some issues utilizing Logisticare. E. Torres noted that Logisticare was not a Ryan White program. She encouraged individuals to become familiar with Logisticare requirements. A community member said that Logisticare had to be approved through doctors. E. Torres stated that Ryan White transportation was available for transporting clients to any Ryan White services not covered by Logisticare. She reiterated that using Ryan White transportation was available pending an assessment of individual needs and emergency situations.

E. Torres explained that DEFA, food vouchers, and transportation were administered by the Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC). She stated that the three programs had separate applications and guidelines. She noted that individuals who wished to use these services needed to be Ryan White certified and present their certification cards. She stated that individuals who wished to apply for these services should go through their medical case managers or the AACO Client Services Unit (CSU). She stated that the CSU employed many Spanish-speaking staff members. She noted that each agency had its own process for filing complaints and those who needed to make additional complaints could do so through the AACO CSU.

M. Coleman asked if individuals needing legal assistance could get help through Ryan White. E. Torres replied that they could. She said that Ryan White legal assistance covered benefits assistance and discrimination claims, but did not cover criminal cases.

- **Housing Overview (Gary Tumolo, OHCD)**

G. Tumolo stated that he'd write his email address on the board for anyone who had additional questions following his presentation<sup>2</sup>. He said he worked for the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) and had formerly been employed as a case manager at ActionAIDS. A community member asked if he could write G. Tumolo an email in Spanish, and G. Tumolo replied that he could. G. Tumolo passed around a paper for participants to write their email addresses if they wanted to receive future updates about housing. He said he'd send more information to these individuals. E.C. noted that he had no email address. M. White stated that anyone could get an email address through FIGHT or the public library.

G. Tumolo reported that the current HOPWA wait time was 7 years, or 1 year for consumers who were homeless. He said that 340 individuals and households were on the waiting list for HOPWA. He noted that funding for the program had been cut and rents had risen in recent years. He added that utilities allowances had not been adjusted since 2001. He stated that the Section 8 waiting list was closed. J.M. stated that clients who received Section 8 also had to wait long periods to move into their new dwellings. G. Tumolo encouraged anyone who had problems moving into a new HOWPA unit to email him.

J.M. stated that many landlords did not participate in Section 8 housing. G. Tumolo concurred. He noted that landlords had to go through a difficult process to participate in Section 8. G. Tumolo said that it was easier for landlords to participate in HOPWA. C.S. stated that those with a mental health diagnosis who were HIV positive and homeless could participate in the KOMAR, Casa, and Compass programs. G. Tumolo stated that the KOMAR program had been transferred to the Mazzoni Center. He reiterated that anyone who wanted additional information following the program could email him or call his office<sup>3</sup>. He encouraged attendees to get on the HOPWA waiting list but also pursue other options for housing. He stated that phfa.org was a website that provided information about housing resources. He said that housing was available for seniors and disabled individuals. He said affordable housing options were also available through programs listed on the website.

G. Tumolo stated that Project HOME had started building apartments that anyone could apply to. He said applicants did not have to be homeless. He stated that individuals who wanted to learn more

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<sup>2</sup> gary.tumolo@phila.gov

<sup>3</sup> 215-686-9741

about Project HOME could call them at 215-232-7272. He said Project HOME also had a homeless outreach number<sup>4</sup>.

G. Tumolo stated that HUD was changing the formula for how much funding an area received. He explained that the Philadelphia area was currently funded based on cumulative number of AIDS cases from the beginning of the epidemic. He said this was being switched to the total number of current HIV cases. He stated that the effect of the shift was still uncertain. He explained that decreased funding for housing and higher rent totals meant less housing was available, and turnover rates were lower. He added that deaths from AIDS were much more frequent when the HOPWA program was established, but were now rare, resulting in lower turnover rates. He noted that PHFA options (as listed on the website above) did not require individuals to be HIV-positive.

G. Tumolo asked C.S. if vegetarian meals were available through MANNA. C.S. replied that they were not. A separate community member noted that MANNA was undergoing transitions in their program at this time. M. Coleman asserted that a large number of LGBT youth were homeless, particular transgender individuals. G. Tumolo stated that he'd spoken with Planning Council colleagues about the need for housing for transgender people and youth. He said that they planned to follow up in the future about the issue. E. Torres emphasized that housing was limited in the city of Philadelphia. She stated that research indicated that 30,000 units would have to be built in Philadelphia to meet the affordable housing needs. She encouraged Latino individuals to check with APM about housing resources.

J.M. stated that many people lost their housing. He said the loss of housing was a major problem. He stated that housing regulations became more stringent when people lost their housing. K. Carter noted that some individuals were required to prove they paid their rent in order to receive transportation services. E. Torres commented that AACO did not require medical case managers to ask clients for rent receipts in order to receive non-housing services. She stated that these issues should be handled by housing counselors.

K. Carter asked if agencies had housing coordinators. G. Tumolo stated that housing counselors worked with individuals who received housing subsidies. K. Carter said participants in a CAB he was part of complained about overly stringent requirements that acted as a barrier to services. E. Torres noted that agencies had some leeway regarding their own regulations. G. Tumolo said he'd speak with providers about loosening stringent requirements.

G. Tumolo stated that DEFA was funded by Ryan White, as was HOPWA. He said HOPWA was funded for permanent housing placement rather than just short-term rental, utilities, mortgages. He said that HOPWA funding could be used for up to 2 months security in units that were not going to be subsidized. He said the program also funded utility turn on (though large back utilities bills were not paid). M. Coleman asked what kind of programs were funded for transitional housing. G. Tumolo stated that OHCD did not receive funding for transitional housing, which typically operated through OSH.

J.G. stated that he'd been on the Section 8 waiting list for 10 years. G. Tumolo explained that he had difficulty establishing contact with PHA to follow up on individual housing issues. E. Torres stated that the PHA periodically verified client addresses. She encouraged individuals on the waiting list to ensure their addresses were current. She said she could provide a phone number for making these

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<sup>4</sup> 215-232-1984

contacts. M. Coleman asked if HOPWA assistance was available in the PA counties. G. Tumolo noted that HOWPA no longer funded Bucks, Montgomery, or Chester County through the EMA.

G. Tumolo stated that the HIV Housing Advisory Committee would be meeting next Tuesday (September 22<sup>nd</sup>) at 2:00p.m. at the OHCD offices in the SEPTA building. He said the meeting was held at 1234 Market St. on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor. He noted that tokens and food were not provided for these meetings.

**Old Business:**

**Co-Chair Nominations**

D. Gana stated that his 2-year term as Positive Committee Co-Chair would end next month. He stated that Co-Chairs needed to be available for a 2-year commitment. He asked if there were any questions about Co-Chairs' responsibilities. Seeing none, he opened the floor for nominations.

**Motion:** G.T. nominated herself for the Co-Chair position. J.M. seconded. **Motion passed:** all in favor. **Motion:** M. Coleman nominated C.S. for the position, M. White seconded. **Motion passed:** all in favor. **Motion:** M. Coleman nominated J.M. for the position, and she declined the nomination. **Motion failed.**

N. Johns stated that nominees would be accepted leading up to the next meeting. **Motion:** R.J. nominated himself, J.M. seconded. **Motion passed:** all in favor.

**Motion:** J.G. nominated N.S. for the position. M. Coleman seconded. **Motion passed:** all in favor.

D. Gana asked all nominees to prepare a short speech to present at the Positive Committee next meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:** None.

**Announcements:** N. Johns stated that she'd be out of the office for several weeks from late September through October 8<sup>th</sup>. She stated that any questions during that time should be directed to the general office phone number.

D. Gana stated that October 11<sup>th</sup> was Outfest. He said there would be a Mr. Friendly booth at the event. He explained that Mr. Friendly was directed at breaking down the stigma of HIV through open non-judgmental conversations.

M. Coleman asked when the next HPG meeting would be held. D. Gana stated that the HPG had been rescheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>, which was listed incorrectly on the calendar.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by general consensus at 1:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer Hayes, Staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda

- August 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- OHP Calendar

**Monday, September 14, 2015**

**12:00-2:00pm**

Office of HIV Planning 340 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 203  
Philadelphia, PA

**Mission Statement-** The Positive Committee supports and enhances the role of people living with HIV/AIDS to empower their participation in the decision-making process of the Ryan White Part A Planning Council and the HIV Prevention Planning Group.

- Call to Order/Moment of Silence
- Introductions
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Report of Chair
  - Participation
  - Acknowledgements
- Report of Staff
- Special Presentations
  - DEFA Overview (Evelyn Torres, AACO)
  - Housing Overview (Gary Tumolo, OHCD)
- Old Business
- New Business
- Announcements
- Adjournment

## AGENDA

**PLEASE TURN ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS TO SILENT OR VIBRATE.**

*The next meeting of the Positive Committee is October 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-2:00PM at 340 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 203, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Please refer to the Office of HIV Planning calendar of events for committee meetings & updates ([www.hivphilly.org](http://www.hivphilly.org)). If you require any special assistance, please contact the office at least 5 days in advance.*

POSITIVE COMMITTEE

**Ryan White Planning Council of the Philadelphia Part A EMA  
Positive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 10, 2015  
12:00-2:00p.m.**

Office of HIV Planning, 340 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

**Present:** PH (31), PA (7), NJ (1)

**Staff:** Mari Ross-Russell, Jennifer Hayes

**Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Introductions:** D. Gana called the meeting to order at 12:05p.m. He read the mission statement.<sup>1</sup> A moment of silence followed. Those present then introduced themselves.

**Approval of Agenda:** D. Gana presented the agenda for approval. **Motion:** J.V. moved, D.W. seconded to approve the agenda. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes (July 13, 2015):** D. Gana presented the minutes for approval. **Motion:** S.B. moved, D.W. seconded to approve the minutes. **Motion passed:** All in favor.

**Report of Chair:**

- **Participation Acknowledgments**

D. Gana welcomed participants who were attending their first meeting of the Positive Committee.

D. Gana announced that his term as Co-Chair would be ending in October. He stated that nominations for the next Co-Chair would be held in September. He stated an election would be held the following month. He explained that there was a 2 year commitment for the position. He stated that all nominees would be asked to speak to the group about themselves and their qualifications for the position.

**Report of Staff:**

None.

**Discussion Item:**

- **Allocations Overview (Mari Ross-Russell, OHP Staff)**

M. Ross-Russell reminded the group that they had reviewed the Ryan White grant allocations process at their last meeting. She stated that the allocations process was held every summer. She explained that, each year, the Ryan White Planning Council determined where money would be put for services. She stated that the allocations decisions were based on documented need and data for the 9-county area of the EMA. She noted that Philadelphia represented 75% of the epidemic in the EMA, and regional allocations meetings were also held for the PA counties (Bucks, Chester, Montgomery, and Delaware) and the NJ counties (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem). She stated that funding for these two regions was determined by their percentage share of the epidemic.

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<sup>1</sup> Mission statement: The Positive Committee supports and enhances the role of people living with HIV/AIDS to empower their participation in the decision-making process of the Ryan White Part A Planning Council and the HIV Prevention Planning Group.

M. Ross-Russell explained that HIV services were listed on a chart in the front of the room. She stated that the services were broken into core and supportive services, as defined by HRSA (the Human Resources and Services Administration). She listed the fundable services according to HRSA, noting that the EMA did not currently fund each of the services.

M. Ross-Russell explained that 75% of Ryan White funding for the EMA had to be dedicated to core services, whereas up to 25% could be used on supportive services. A community member noted that he had a need for housing services. M. Ross-Russell replied that she would discuss housing services after she completed her description of allocations. A separate community member asked if Ryan White Part A funding for the EMA encompassed Delaware County, and M. Ross-Russell replied that it did. A community member asked what DEFA funding could be used for. M. Ross-Russell responded that DEFA was emergency funding that could pay for first and last month's rent for individuals moving into a new residence, along with utilities, in the case of an emergency. She stated that requests for DEFA funding had to go through case managers. She explained that case managers submitted applications for DEFA to the Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC), who oversaw the DEFA program. Then, a check was paid directly to the utility company or landlord. She noted that this was not a comprehensive list of covered services. The community member clarified that the money didn't go directly to consumers, and M. Ross-Russell replied that it did not. The community member noted that she had lost her housing due to an issue with inspections and a lack of legal representation. D. Gana noted that the AIDS Law Project was able to help with housing issues. The community member asked where the AIDS Law Project was located, and D. Gana replied it was located at 1211 Chestnut Street, on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. M. Ross-Russell invited the community member to speak with her after the meeting.

Another community member asked if DEFA assistance could be obtained again after it was used once. K. Carter replied that DEFA funding was available throughout the year, up to a set limit. The community member asked, if part of the \$2000<sup>2</sup> limit was used, and another emergency occurred, could DEFA funds be obtained again? M. Ross-Russell reiterated that they could, up to the annual limit. She pointed out that clients had to apply through their primary case manager each time they wished to obtain DEFA funds. A community member noted that he was a homeowner. He stated that he needed help with maintenance for his home. He asked if this kind of assistance was available through DEFA or Ryan White, and M. Ross-Russell replied that it was not. M. Ross-Russell stated that she would return to the housing discussion after she finished her summary of the allocations process.

A community member inquired about DEFA food vouchers. He explained that some food voucher consumers were sent to a food center that did not provide sufficient services. M. Ross-Russell reiterated that she would follow-up on issues with obtaining services later in the meeting.

M. Ross-Russell reiterated that the allocations groups had finished the process of allocating the Ryan White grant based on documented consumer needs within each region. She noted that these needs differed from region-to-region, so each group made their allocations decisions based on facts relevant to their areas. She noted that each area funded different services. She stated that each region also had the opportunity to make instructions to the grantee (AACO). She stated that, in the Philadelphia region, concerns had arisen about transportation. She explained that the grantee was asked to follow up with case managers and consumers to assess needs and barriers to transportation. She added that NJ had just begun funding food bank, so the grantee had been asked to follow up on delivery of the

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<sup>2</sup> The \$2000 figure is incorrect. A maximum of \$2500 is available from DEFA annually.

service and then report back to the Planning Council. She explained that the allocations would be submitted to the RWPC for approval at this month's meeting. She noted that each regional allocations group had made 4 budgets reflecting different funding scenarios, which would be submitted to AACO and included in the upcoming year's Ryan White grant application.

A community member asked how the Ryan White grant was administered. M. Ross-Russell reiterated that each region specified where they wanted the grant money to go based on data and information that they were provided. A community member asked why only 5% of the grant was allocated to housing services. M. Ross-Russell replied that the HOPWA program (housing opportunities for PLWHA) was separate from Ryan White funding. She noted that Ryan White housing was funding of last resort. Thus, Ryan White funding was unable to be used when other funding sources were available for a given service. Therefore, Ryan White was able to pay for transitional housing (not long-term housing), first and last month's rent, and housing counselors. N.S. asked if Ryan White could be used to pay for mortgages and M. Ross-Russell replied that it could not.

N.S. asked if a list was available of services Ryan White could and could not pay for. M. Ross-Russell replied that the list was available at HRSA.gov in English and Spanish. She suggested that participants look for documents concerning use of funds for Ryan White Part A.

G.T. asked if AACO was providing gift cards for consumers in need of financial assistance. M. Ross-Russell stated that to the best of her knowledge AACO did not provide gift cards. A community member asked if there was a time limit for applying for DEFA. M. Ross-Russell said there was not. The community member asked how long in advance consumers had to apply for DEFA assistance in order to obtain timely rent or utilities assistance. M. Ross-Russell noted that this timeframe varied. She stated that turnaround was supposed to go quickly if paperwork was completed correctly. She noted that a limited number of staff members were available to process applications, and follow up was often required for individual applications. She explained it was her understanding that PHMC often contacted utility companies when applications were still in process so clients would not be subject to shutoffs.

S.B. asked if grants were available for utilities assistance from other agencies. M. Ross-Russell said that individuals with HOPWA vouchers also receive utilities assistance as part of the voucher. Therefore, these clients were not eligible for utilities assistance through DEFA.

A community member stated that she had been asked to pay \$45 to apply for Section 8 housing. M. Ross-Russell said that there was typically no financial requirement for submitting a Section 8 application. She noted that the Ryan White program was distinct from Section 8.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Ryan White FAQ Brochure**

D. Gana reported that the group had been developing a Ryan White consumer education brochure. M. Ross-Russell explained that the brochure had been in development for around 4 months. M. White asked if a Spanish version of the brochure was available. M. Ross-Russell replied that the brochure had to be finalized and approved by AACO before a Spanish version could be produced. She noted that the brochure had now been finalized and would be translated in the near future. She stated that the brochure would be widely distributed and posted on the OHP website.

K. Carter thanked participants for their contributions to the Ryan White brochure. He asked if there were any questions from the group.

A community member if the brochures would include pictures of individuals of different races and cultural groups. D. Gana stated that 4 brochures had been produced with different pictures on each.

**Old Business:**

D. Gana reported that the Positive Committee would host seminars on HIV/AIDS and Aging later in the year, tentatively beginning in October.

A community member asked if life insurance policies were available for PLWHA. D. Gana encouraged the individual to search the internet for "HIV and Life Insurance." D. Gana reported that he had obtained a life insurance policy. He noted that his life insurance policy offered partial payouts during the first 2 years of the policy. He added that he was able to take a loan out against the policy. He stated that cheaper policies may be available. He noted that life insurance companies asked if applicants had HIV and charged higher rates for PLWHA.

**New Business:**

None.

**Announcements:**

M. Coleman stated that SILOAM was hosting a retreat in October. A community member added that SILOAM would be hosting a BBQ on September 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-4:30 at SILOAM's location on 12<sup>th</sup> and Spring Garden.

D. Gana stated that FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together) would be hosting a Bingo event on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-10:30 at the Eagle Firehouse in New Hope, PA. He explained that the FACT program offered financial assistance for PLWHA. He encouraged individuals who were interested in applying for assistance through the FACT program to contact their case managers.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by general consensus at 1:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer Hayes, Staff

Handouts distributed at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- July 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Ryan White Consumer Education Brochure
- OHP Calendar