

**HIV Consortium Meeting
September 8, 2011
Summary Minutes**

Debbie Bowers, Chair, called the meeting to order at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) offices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIV and Aging: David Hoover announced that Inova's Consumer Advisory Network will have a presentation on HIV and Aging at their meeting on November 20.

Survey on HIV and Sexual Health: David Hoover distributed a flyer from James Madison University and Virginia Advocates for Sexual Health Options (VAHO) inviting people who were HIV positive and at risk to participate in an anonymous telephone survey. Some people will be invited to a 90 follow-up meeting in Springfield, Arlington, or Dumfries.

The FACTS: HIV Prevention Counseling will be presented Tuesday, October 04, 2011, at 8001 Forbes Place, Springfield, VA 22151. The fee is \$35.00. The day and a half *Fundamentals of HIV Prevention Counseling* will be presented Tuesday, October 18, 2011 and Wednesday, October 19, 2011. The fee is \$50.00. CEU Nursing credits are provided at both trainings.

Karen Berube announced that Inova Juniper has been operating as a chronic disease clinic for the past two and a half months. Diabetes is the most common condition to date, but they also see patients with congestive heart failure, asthma, diabetes, and COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). Patients are referred by Inova hospitals with a goal of avoiding hospital readmissions. IJP's role is to transition patients into Federally Qualified Health Centers like ANHSI (Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.) or Fairfax's three Community Health Center Network (CHCN) clinics. IJP is hiring nurses, nurse practitioners and social workers for the new chronic care clinic.

Glynis LaBorde, Chief Operating Officer for ANHSI, announced that Martha Wooten has begun work as their new Executive Director.

Hunter Robinson of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) announced that he is moving over to a planning position within VDH. Darren Whitfield will be the new Contract Monitor for the Northern region.

David Hoover announced a Quality Training for the NW and Richmond areas on October 20 in Staunton.

OPEN MIKE

Bob Atkins reminded everyone that the political campaign season is getting underway. He encouraged everyone to attend debates, ask questions about HIV services, and educate candidates about HIV issues.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of May 5, 2011 Consortium and the June 20 Executive Committee meetings were approved as submitted.

STATUS OF RYAN WHITE AND HOPWA AWARDS

Michelle Simmons of NVRC announced that DC has received notice of the EMA (Eligible Metropolitan Area, the extended DC metro area) federal grant award from HRSA, the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. This is the Ryan White Part A award for the current year. Virginia has likewise received notice of their Part B award. The EMA award, \$31.4 million, is only \$66,000 less than last year and not the \$3 million less that had been anticipated at one time. NVRC has asked for reconsideration of its award from this grant as a disproportionate share of the \$66,000 reduction was allocated to Northern Virginia. The slight reduction in NVRC funds will not require contract amendments but be handled within our normal contract close-out procedures.

Jim Simpson, NVRC's Federal Grants Monitor for HOPWA, announced that NVRC had received \$2,636,000 for HOPWA for the coming year. This is a small decrease from last year's award but still a substantial increase from two years back. Contract award letters will go out within the week to our current contractors and contracts should be issued before the new program year starts October 1.

In response to a question from Bob Atkins, Michelle Simmons said that DC will be funding some one-time projects from funds carried over from a prior year and recently released by HUD, the federal agency that manages HOPWA. Because of the required allocation between housing and support services in HOPWA, any project in Northern Virginia will probably have to focus on housing services. Email any suggestions to her. If deadlines allow, the Executive Committee meeting on Sept. 19 will discuss ideas.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

There were no nominations from the floor. After statements of interest from the two candidates, Wade Meneer and David Hoover, Debbie Bowers reviewed the Bylaw's rules for voting. Mike Hughes counted and Irma Jones observed the counting of the paper ballots. David Hoover was elected. As provided in the Bylaws, after a one-year term, he will serve a one-year term as Chair of the Consortium.

REPORTS & UPDATES

- Planning Council: Amelia Khalil of NVRC gave the update. The Planning Council has approved release of an RFA (Request for [Grant] Applications) for EIS (Early Intervention Services) with support groups open to everyone in the EMA. Local AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs) will offer training opportunities around working with special populations like seniors and transgender persons. Results will be incorporated into the Planning Council's service directives. Water filters will only be issued if a health department determines that they are medically necessary. Facilitated referrals for new clients to medical care must be made within the first 72 hours and the appointment must occur within 30 days. The Planning Council reserved about \$90,000 for local AIDS Drug Assistance with the funds probably to be directed to 340B pharmacy(ies). The Virginia Dept. of Health was very helpful in establishing the need for these funds. Michelle Simmons encouraged at least one Virginia service provider to participate in planning for these funds.

In response to a question from Bob Atkins, Amelia Khalil confirmed that Part A allocations this year reflected actual numbers of HIV and AIDS cases in DC and suburban Virginia and Maryland, resulting in slight award increases for Virginia and Maryland.

- Committee Reports: Case Management and Support Services will meet Sept. 20 and the Primary Care Alliance will meet Sept. 14.
- Alexandria Health Department/ANHSI Transition Update: Debbie Bowers reported that the two organizations are working closely with good continuity of client services. ANHSI now has extended hours two days a week and two new doctors, one with extensive HIV experience at Unity Healthcare in DC. The two organizations are addressing stubborn issues of reporting and billing.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT

- Darren Whitfield, MSW, introduced himself. He has been with VDH three months. In Des Moines, Iowa he was Director of Prevention and previously Director of Care Services for several years.
- VDH's Part B award, \$27.7 million, is \$900,000 less than last year. They have not been notified of any base supplemental and ADAP emergency funds. 70% of their Ryan White funds have historically supported ADAP, but the need for ADAP is growing significantly. VDH is looking for internal operating efficiencies and will be working with contractors to find additional savings. Priority will go to minimizing disruption to medical care and access to medications.
- VDH has received two Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) grants:
 - "System Linkages and Access to Care for Populations at High Risk of HIV Infection". Funding is \$1 million per year for four years. Like the new national CDC (Centers for Disease Control) emphasis on Prevention for Positives, these efforts will focus on those diagnosed but not yet in care. It will also focus on the SW and central regions of Virginia.
 - The second is \$100,000 for enhanced client level data technology for ADAP.
- VDH has released an RFP for HIV Prevention among Communities of Color for calendar year 2012. It seeks to align strategies with the National AIDS Strategy and will emphasize activities among minorities disproportionately impacted by HIV.
- Medical Monitoring is starting their 2011 data collection cycle. It includes patient interviews at 21 facilities around Virginia.

- Darren Whitfield reported that 950 people are currently on the ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) Waiting List. Centralized client eligibility is rolling out in the central region. VDH offered to try to report quarterly on the number of people from each region on the ADAP Wait List. All people on the wait list are being recertified in order to collect much more detailed information. A report summarizing findings is due to the Governor the end of October. It should be a public document. The report was mandated in the legislation that granted \$3.2 million last year and \$2.6 million this year from state funds to Virginia's ADAP program.
- VDH is monitoring HIV drugs with expiring patents. There may be some opportunities for cost savings as generic versions become available.
- Welvista, a nonprofit mail order pharmacy stocked by pharmaceutical companies, is rolling out for those on Virginia's ADAP Wait List. It provides almost all HIV medications, mailed to the homes of eligible persons. Currently VDH is assessing capacity with a pilot program for those eligible for ADAP and going onto the wait list. Providers must still cover the cost of medication for new clients until they can be screened for eligibility by PSI and certified by VDH (within 48 hours) as eligible for ADAP. These bridge costs may well be lower under this system as drugs can be in people's homes 48 hours after Welvista receives their VDH certification.

David Hoover asked for future updates on the activities of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) in monitoring the growing ADAP crisis across the US and keeping Congress informed.

- VDH is convening a conference call of lead agencies and some service providers on cost-saving ideas that can help address the \$900,000 shortfall in Part B funding. Please share ideas with NVRC staff.

THANK YOU TO THE OUTGOING CHAIR

On behalf of the Consortium, Keith Callahan, the incoming Chair, expressed appreciation to Debbie Bowers, the outgoing Chair, for all her service. Michelle Simmons presented her with a small gift.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ron Scheraga asked the new Vice Chair to consider forming a committee to briefly review the Bylaws. This is a good management practice that aims to avoid the need for extensive revisions.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- September 19, 2011 Executive Committee meeting at 1:00 pm at NVRC
- October 6, 2011 Consortium
- February 1, 2012 AIDS Awareness Day at the Virginia General Assembly

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections

Tylee Smith

Date