

**HIV Consortium Meeting  
November 3, 2011  
Summary Minutes**

David Hoover, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) offices.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Inova Fall Conference:** David Hoover announced that Inova's Clinical Fall Conference will be held on November 10 at their Springfield building. Presentations will include HIV and TB, low level viremia, and cancers. Some presenters will be from NIH (National Institutes of Health).

**Study of HIV in Women:** David Hoover distributed a flyer from Georgetown University and Women's Interagency HIV study (WIHS) inviting women, both HIV positive and negative, to become part of a long-term, observational study. Participants will be compensated. For more information, call 703-321-2674.

**World AIDS Day December 1:** City of Alexandria and IJP will show the movie, *The Other City*, at 6:30 p.m. at the Inova Alexandria Hospital.

**RISE (Rewriting Inner Scripts):** The No. Va. RISE steering group will use a modified Maryland Dept. of Health RISE curriculum during a two-Saturday retreat focused on helping MSMs to explore and make good decisions, on Nov. 19 and Dec. 3. Contact Bryan Collins at NOVAM.

Karen Berube announced that Inova Juniper's Herndon clinic has a new, larger location, and is operating as a chronic disease clinic. The address is 1175 Herndon Parkway, Ste., 850. IJP is looking to hire a nurse practitioner to replace Melody Wilkinson who will only see patients one day a week while she also teaches at Georgetown U.

Ladreya Ingram was introduced as the Community Health Specialist with the Fairfax Health Dept.'s faith-based HIV prevention initiative.

**AIDS Awareness Day at the Virginia General Assembly:** Sue Rowland of VORA (Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS) announced that February 1, 2012, will be AIDS Awareness Day in Richmond. Sue is coordinating HIV issues with those of other disability-oriented groups.

**OPEN MIKE**

No one asked to speak.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of October 6, 2011 Consortium were approved with one correction on the last line of page 3.

**IN+CARE CAMPAIGN, IMPROVING RETENTION IN HIV CARE**

Amelia Khalil, Senior Contract Officer/Quality Manager at NVRC summarized the efforts of this new national campaign focusing on improving retention in HIV primary care. It is a collaboration between HRSA HAB and the National Quality Center (NQC) and is a no-cost, voluntary quality improvement effort. Research shows that when patients stay in care they are more likely to be medication adherent, have undetectable viral load, less opportunistic infections, and fewer HIV transmissions. The effort will collect data on four measures of retention:

1. patients with no visits to a provider within 12 months
2. patients with at least 1 visit in the first 6 months and 1 visit in the second 6 months
3. patients new to care with at least 1 visit to a provider each quarter for the first year
4. viral suppression

The national effort is being coordinated with the Virginia Lost to Care initiative and Cross-Part Collaborative. Amelia suggested that No. Virginia consider joining as a region, rather than as individual providers.

**FOOD AND FRIENDS**

Brandon Nichols, Community Relations Coordinator for this Ryan White vendor, explained that F&F has two programs: food delivery and nutrition education. Their food program expects to deliver 1.2 million meals to 2,800 clients in 2011. They serve not only people with AIDS but those with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

Their food program has fresh and frozen meals and groceries to go. They have over 60 clients in Fairfax and Alexandria.

#### **REPORTS & UPDATES**

- Planning Council: David Hoover gave the update. The Planning Council has approved new dental services standards for Part A that accommodate both contract dentists and dental clinics. Administration of travel vouchers and food vouchers across the EMA will be reviewed by a task group. Wallace Corbett from the Planning Council is on the planning committee for next year's World AIDS Conference in DC. Expect requests for abstracts of possible presentations soon. It would be nice to have some from our area.

The Membership Committee reported the best panel of candidates for the Planning Council for several years. They have made their recommendations and are awaiting action from DC Mayor's panel on Boards and Commissions. Current members have not been interviewed.

#### **HIV OR AGING – WHICH IS MAKING YOU SICK?**

Chocoma DaRocha, P.A. with the Inova Juniper Program, reviewed a number of research findings. She began with the fact that not only are PLWHs living longer, but 15% of all new cases under the new testing guidelines are over the age of 50. She cautioned that because HIV is a slow-developing disease, much of the research now being published studied those who were treated with the early, and much harsher, medications. In many areas there is simply not enough research to lead to clinical guidelines specifically for older people with HIV. Research does show that there are higher incidents of cancer among PLWH. A real need to educate older PLWH about the importance of maintaining their general health and that dealing aggressively with the other conditions that accompany aging will greatly improve their quality and length of life.

#### **REPORTS & UPDATES (CONTINUED)**

- Committee Reports: Lucy Lawrence reported that the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee is trying to reorganize in order to increase attendance. They are considering piggy-backing on another meeting, offering call-in access, and/or meeting at NVRC. Potential members should contact the co-chairs listed on the back of each agenda.
- Public Affairs: Sue Rowland reminded everyone of the importance of voting in the Nov. 8 election for state and local offices. VORA will be co-sponsoring with the Virginia Dept. of Health, another webinar on Virginia's plans for Pre-existing Conditions Insurance Programs (PCIP) in late November. The committee will be meeting again soon to plan to meet with newly elected legislators to educate them about HIV/AIDS issues. All Consortium members are invited to participate.
- Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee needs some additional members. Those interested should contact Keith Callahan.

#### **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT**

- Darren Whitfield, MSW, announced that Dr. Keri Hall, MD, Director of the Office of Epidemiology, is resigning. Dr. Laurie Forlano, DO, MPH, will be the acting director as well as acting State Health Epidemiologist.
- VDH's full Part B contract with NVRC is awaiting signature by VDH management and should be released soon.
- HRSA's Funding Opportunity Announcement for Ryan White Part B for 2012 has been released. The application from VDH is due to HRSA on January 3. There is a very large section on EIHA (Early Identification of HIV/AIDS) in keeping with national HIV/AIDS Strategy.
- Darren also reported that 1,078 people are currently on the ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) Waiting List. Those on the waiting list are being offered the opportunity to enroll in PAPs and Welvista, a nonprofit mail order pharmacy. ADAP update calls are happening throughout the day today, region by region.
- Virginia, and particularly the Ryan White program, is exploring the options for using the Pre-existing Conditions Insurance Programs (PCIP) under the federal Affordable Care Act. He asked for time on our December agenda to present detailed information on PCIPs, also known as high-risk insurance pools. General information is available at [www.geha.gov](http://www.geha.gov)

In response to Wade Menear's question, Darren said the next quarterly ADAP Dashboard would be issued in December and would cover July – September.

**NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT**

- Michelle Simmons indicated the Part A award has been announced but the distribution between regular Part A and Part A MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) is different from the expected distribution. HAHSTA, the Part A administrator for the region, is reexamining the formula used. Otherwise a new IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) will be required. Meanwhile, NVRC has asked all its contracted service providers to report back with spending projections for the remainder of the year. She expects to report to the Planning Council's Fiscal Oversight and Accountability Committee next week. Service providers can expect contract amendments in early December.
- NVRC contributed to the metro area application to the feds for next year's Ryan White Part A funds.
- Michelle suggested that the Consortium consider whether to use any of the unawarded Local Pharmacy Assistance funds for a pilot program to purchase health insurance for a few clients under PCIP (Pre-existing Conditions Insurance Program). This will be considered after the VDH presentation of Virginia's PCIP options next month.
- A contractor's meeting was announced for Monday, November 7. Eligibility determination, data collection forms, and CAREWare topics will be covered.
- Ron Scheraga asked about the status of NVRC's request to use carryover HOPWA funds for three one-time efforts: 1) housing counseling training for more service providers and peers; 2) expanding the regional CAREWare client data system to HOPWA contractors; and 3) offering a pre-development loan to a public or non-profit entity building lower cost housing to obtain subsidy and priority for HOPWA clients in that facility. Michelle reported she expects HAHSTA to consider this application now that the annual report (CAPER), Part A application and HUD site visit are completed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Karen Berube shared an alert from the AIDS Alliance that all Part D funds may be put out for competitive bid, even those recently awarded under competitive bid. She will keep us informed.

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

- November 21, 2011 Executive Committee Cancelled
- December 8, 2011 Consortium at 10 AM at NVRC
- December 19, 2011 Executive Committee Cancelled
- February 1, 2012 AIDS Awareness Day at the Virginia General Assembly

Minutes       Approved as Written      X   With Corrections

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Tylee Smith

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Date