

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Whitfield announced that he has resigned from the Virginia Dept. of Health as of Dec. 21. He will be working for the Kansas City Free Health Clinic, directing their young African-American MSM program.

Hunter Robertson, Health Planner with the Virginia Dept. of Health, announced that Virginia's ADAP eligibility has been expanded to include PLWH with a CD4 count of 200 or less.

OPEN MIKE

No one asked to speak.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of November 3, 2011 Consortium were approved with two corrections on page 1.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITION INSURANCE PLAN (PCIP) AND HIV IN VIRGINIA

Hunter Robertson, Health Planner with the Virginia Dept. of Health, summarized VDH plans to begin enrolling ADAP clients in the new federal PCIP. PCIP was established under last year's health care reform law and provides comprehensive health insurance, not just prescriptions, for those excluded from health insurance by a pre-existing condition. As a bridge to the new state health insurance exchanges opening in 2014, PCIP will only be available for two years. However, VDH estimates that full insurance coverage under PCIP will cost Ryan White about \$8,000 per person, including \$4,000 in co-payments. This is cheaper than the \$12,000 per person per year for ADAP. There will be no cost to those enrolled and they will have a choice of participating providers and pharmacies. Enrollment will start in 2012 after VDH selects a contractor to manage the program. Approximately 80% of those receiving ADAP are expected to be eligible and many of those on the wait list will then be .

Implications for care include: many clients are not used to managing insurance coverage and will need education. Ryan White will continue to provide medical case management and transportation. Medical providers will have to be recruited to participate in OneNet, the provider network for PCIP.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA OPTIONS FOR PCIP

Michelle Simmons, Director of Human Services overseeing the Ryan White program, shared an analysis of the Infectious Disease specialists (ID docs) in selected zip codes in suburban Virginia so define the potential pool of providers. As with any insurance program, the more rural the area, the further PLWH will have to travel to receive care. About 40% of the known ID docs, 9 of the 12 hospitals; and many pharmacies in suburban Virginia already participate in OneNet.

Michelle asked if the Consortium thought it would be a good use of left-over Part A funds to buy about 5 slots in the state program for suburban Virginia Ryan White clients and then planning to use next year's Part B to continue their support. In any case, the implementation of PCIP in Virginia will lead the Consortium to rethink Part B funding priorities for the coming grant year. The Consortium agreed that NVRC should continue to explore PCIP vigorously.

There was an educational presentation to the DC CSCS Committee this week as a first step to alerting the Planning Council to this additional possibility for dealing with the ADAP crisis in Virginia sine PCIP could also be covered through Part A Local Pharmaceutical Assistance and a potential off-the-top set-aside.

The Primary Care Committee will review the list of local providers identified by NVRC to find providers not currently participating in OneNet who should be encouraged to do so. Additional issues are the reimbursement rate under PCIP and reallocation of funds to preserve the 75% primary care requirement for Ryan White funds.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER (AHEC) INTERPRETER SERVICES

Dent Farr, Chief Financial Officer for this Ryan White vendor, and Julia Wills, who works with the new online database scheduling system developer, gave an overview of their interpreter services for about 140 interpreters for

46 languages, including sign languages. They orient their interpreters through a required 40-hour course in health care interpretation as well as continuing education in HIV. NVAHEC interpreters now cover about 1,500 – 2,000 sessions per month for all sources of funding.

They demonstrated the pilot version of the new online system for requesting interpreter services. Prior requests from providers are stored in a linked database so much of the information for a new request automatically appears. Providers are able to download a history of referrals in a spreadsheet, including how referrals have been handled and any cancellations. NVAHEC gets referrals in real time and assigns and tracks translators using the same linked database.

Once the pilot has been completed, an announcement will be issued and individual providers will be trained in the new system. Requests for customizations will be considered. NVAHEC was invited back to a contractors meeting at that time.

REPORTS & UPDATES

- **PRIMARY MEDICAL COMMITTEE AND MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE**
Karen Berube announced that these two committees will be considering combining into a Clinical Committee. A sign-up sheet was distributed and a joint meeting will be arranged very soon. Tylee Smith will

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT

- Darren Whitfield, contract officer for Northern Virginia, announced that Steve Bailey is the new Director of HIV Services. VDH is recruiting for an Assistant Director.
- Darren also reported that 1,104 people on the ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) waiting list as of December 1. Those on the waiting list are being offered the opportunity to enroll in PAPs and Welvista, a nonprofit mail order pharmacy.
- Virginia's Community Planning Group (CPG) is looking for new members. The CPG involves HIV-affected communities and populations in decision-making about HIV Prevention and Care programming. The CPG is composed of education and service providers, people living with HIV, state agency representatives, the clergy, and private citizens who work cooperatively to develop a comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan and inform HIV Care planning for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Contact Elaine Martin, Elaine G. Martin, Director, HIV Prevention Services at VDH, for additional information.

NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT

- Michelle Simmons indicated the Part A EIS (Early Intervention Services) Request for Proposals is out. Applications are due December 21. One of the main components will be training Peer Navigators to bring people into care. The approved applicant will receive funds for the four remaining months in this grant year and for the twelve months of the coming grant year if they are performing satisfactorily.

NEW BUSINESS – WORLD AIDS DAY DECEMBER 1 AND OTHER HIV NEWS

- City of Alexandria HIV/AIDS Commission and Inova Alexandria Hospital sponsored the movie, *The Other City*, at 6:30 p.m. at the Inova Alexandria Hospital. Martha Cameron reported that it focused on the AIDS epidemic in DC and the work of Joseph House in offering compassionate end-of-life care for homeless men and women.
- The HIV Congressional Caucus Reception displayed several panels from the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Ron Scheraga reported that the Ryan White quilt panel was there. Wallace Corbitt of the AIDS 2012 D.C. Community Coalition (DCC) attended.
- The A.R.E. observation in Winchester included a candlelight march at Shenandoah University. Marshall Rountree attended.
- F.A.H.A.S.S.' interdenominational observation at St. George Episcopal Church included a rabbi and a Muslim Imam. Clifford Sturgill reported.
- Howard University offered a day-long conference on stigma with excellent speakers. Suzanne Dorick attended.
- December 6 would have been Ryan White's 40th birthday.
- HIV Law Project is suing the Milton Hersey School for refusing to admit a foreign student because of he is HIV positive.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- December 19, 2011 Executive Committee Cancelled
- January 5, 2012 Consortium at 10 AM at NVRC
- January 16, 2012 Martin Luther King Day observed; Executive Committee will be rescheduled
- February 1, 2012 AIDS Awareness Day at the Virginia General Assembly
- February 2, 2012 Consortium at 10 AM at NVRC
- February 20, 2012 Presidents Day observed; Executive Committee will be rescheduled

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections

Tylee Smith

Date