

**HIV Consortium Meeting  
December 6, 2012  
Summary Minutes**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Leigh Guarinello, Inova Juniper's Education Program Manager, announced that they had four new staff.

Bob Atkins reminded everyone that some members of the Virginia General Assembly were meeting in Arlington Jan. 4 to seek input from the public on budget priorities for 2013.

Rhonda Mail is the new Intake/Eligibility worker at FAHASS.

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2012**

The minutes of November 1, 2012, were approved as submitted.

**MEDICAID EXPANSION UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN VIRGINIA**

Caressa Cameron, organizer for the Mid Atlantic Region of AIDS United ([www.aidsunited.org](http://www.aidsunited.org)), described some of the ways that the 53% of Virginia's Ryan White clients without insurance could be assisted by an expansion of Medicaid. She also emphasized the need to coordinate closely with other chronic disease groups when educating members of the General Assembly on these impacts, as well as the effects of doing nothing. She also reported that Virginia has until February 17 to submit a blueprint for a Health Insurance Exchange if they wish to operate their own under the Affordable Care Act. Donna Crews, Director of Government Affairs for AIDS United answered a question about possible expansion of eligibility under ACA for undocumented persons. Ms. Crews reported that this would not be addressed now but later under immigration reform.

Some of the ideas suggested for follow-up were:

- Arlington and Fairfax Counties already have Medicaid expansion in their 2013 legislative packages.
- NVRC staff could gather names of natural "partners" allied for Medicaid expansion, such as NAMI, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill; disability groups; local Community Service Boards; and homeless shelters.
- IPHi has received a grant from the M.A.C. AIDS Fund to organize discussions to prepare for implementation of the ACA.
- Definitions of Case Management under Medicaid and Ryan White currently don't agree and should be reconciled so Ryan White's Medical Case Management will be reimbursable by Medicaid.

**PLANNING COUNCIL UPDATES**

- Martha Cameron reported that the Care Strategies and Coordination of Services Committee discussed Medicaid expansion and whether the movement toward funding medical homes with Ryan White funds would work in Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia. With the holidays, there are no updates from the Planning Council itself since the Consortium's November meeting.
- Michelle Simmons was asked to summarize the status of competitive application for Part A funding for the coming year. HAHSTA expects to release the RFA for Ryan White Administrative Agents in March. It may contain language pushing providers of Outpatient Ambulatory Medical Care toward becoming medical homes as defined by the Affordable Care Act. Since no DC contracts could be awarded until after the March 1 start of the new Part A fiscal year, DC HAHSTA will need to execute interim continuation contracts. Michelle clarified that the Virginia Unified (Part A, B & MAI) Application process is moving forward with new contracts expected to be in place before March 1, 2013 for Part A & MAI, and April 1, 2013 for Part B.

**VIRGINIA DEPT. OF HEALTH UPDATE**

- Leonard Recupero, HIV Services Coordinator, announced that Part B budget allocation responses from current contractors and lead agents have been received by VDH. They will be forwarded for final approval once some clarifications have been made. The VDH application to HRSA for 2014-15 Part B funds will be submitted soon.

- The income level for Ryan White Part B in Virginia has been raised to 400% of the federal poverty level
- There will be a public hearing seeking input on HIV prevention and care funding in Fredericksburg December 12.
- Virginia ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) is enrolling about 100 new people per month. Currently 3,872 are enrolled statewide.
- VDH has held webinars to train local Health Dept. staff on PCIP (Pre-existing Conditions Insurance Plans) and PCIP applications. Applications are being mailed out by region, going to Suburban Virginia clients by late January/early February. Anyone currently paying their own PCIP premiums should contact VDH's eligibility hotline at 855-362-0658 to see whether s/he is eligible to have the premiums assumed by VDH. IPHi offered the services of its CHWs in assisting clients in the filing of PCIP applications; training scheduled for December 14.

#### COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Adena Hershkovitz and Marshall Rountree will co-chair the Case Management and Support Services Committee.

#### NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT

- NVRC, on behalf of HAHSTA, has awarded FAHASS an EMA-wide Local AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance contract to cover the remainder of this fiscal year. All parties expect funds to be available for the following fiscal year as well. The grant uses the District of Columbia drug formulary, which was passed around. Disposable medical supplies and nutritional supplements will also be available. Any PLWH needing help obtaining mail order medications, supplies and/or supplements should contact FAHASS. Providers in Suburban Virginia were urged to utilize these funds and to thank the Planning Council for providing them. Application forms will be available very soon.
- This year's Needs Assessment has been completed. The draft Suburban Virginia Service Delivery Plan goals, based on the discussion at the November Consortium meeting, were distributed. The goals will be finalized at the January 3 meeting.
- Michelle Simmons announced that proposals had been received under a unified Request for Proposals for Ryan White Part A, Part A MAI, and Part B funding. All current providers had to reapply. Interested parties submitted only one application for funding consideration re: all three sources; NVRC will decide how to allocate funds from the different parts among selected services and providers. The RFA process has been reopened briefly for providers to apply to serve the Alexandria area.

#### HOPWA UPDATE

- Jim Simpson announced that the HOPWA program will be funded at the same level as last year for the grant period 10/1/12 – 9/30/13. There was no funding cut as had been expected. The federal Dept. of Housing and Urban Development is urging grantees to cut back on funding for support services and to focus on providing housing.
- Most of the support services providers who were switched from Ryan White to HOPWA funding last year will be funded by Ryan White Part B in the coming months into next grant period.
- NVRC has asked for technical assistance on use of HOPWA vouchers for shared units, clients in vocational training, and moving clients through HOPWA into unsupported housing or other forms of housing assistance.
- Until a replacement has been hired for Amelia Khalil, questions about the HOPWA waitlist should be directed to NVRC's receptionist. She will forward questions to other staff if necessary. A number of clients were dropped from the waitlist when they did not respond to the update requests mailed in June. Case Managers should be sure that they are listed for each of their clients


#### TOPICS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Virginia plans on the Health Insurance Exchange under the Affordable Care Act.
- Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans for availability of AIDS medications during a disaster.

#### UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- No Executive Committee meeting in December
- January 3, 2013 Consortium meeting (10:00 AM to 12 noon)
- Executive Committees for January and February will be rescheduled due to holiday conflicts.

Minutes  Approved as Written  With Corrections

  
Tylee Smith

Date