

**HIV Consortium Meeting
February 7, 2013
Summary Minutes**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Freddie Zambrano was introduced at IPHi's newest Community Health Worker.

ARE is holding a Mardi Gras fundraiser Saturday evening.

Zach Hatcher relayed the request from the Public Affairs Committee that members contact members of the Virginia Senate to express their support for expansion of Virginia Medicaid as allowed under the Affordable Care Act. He and several others commented on the good turn-out (40-50 people) who attended the AIDS Awareness Day at the Virginia General Assembly organized by VORA. Many other organizations were there at the same time supporting Medicaid expansion.

Yantu Gute is the new RN HIV coordinator for Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services Inc. (ANHSI). Douglass Jaeger, their new Chief Operating Officer, was unable to make this meeting but will attend in the future.

Debbie Bowers from the Alexandria Health Dept. invited everyone to attend Saturday's National Black HIV/AIDS Symposium in Alexandria. The program will focus on testing & linkage to services. A flyer will be distributed to the consortium later today.

Hilda Leva is the new Ryan White paralegal at Legal Services of Northern Virginia.

Martha Cameron announced the presentations in DC on Tuesday on the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion in Virginia, Maryland, and DC. The session is a meeting of the Care Strategy, Coordination & Standards committee of the Metropolitan Washington Regional Ryan White Planning Council.

Michelle Simmons announced that NVRC is recruiting for three jobs in the HIV/AIDS division:

- A full-time senior contract officer
- A part-time Quality Manager
- A part-time Resources Specialist

Details are posted on the www.novaregion.org/hiv website. Resumes must be submitted by February 28. Phone calls will not be accepted.

Tom Suydam, Chair of the Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS, announced a community viewing of the film "Gospel of Healing" March 14 at Aline AME Zion church near the King Street Metro station.

Barb Lawrence is the new Executive Director of the Inova Juniper Program, promoted from Interim E.D. this week.

Two HIV training sessions have been scheduled at Inova Juniper: The Facts on March 5 and The Fundamentals on March 20 and 21. Contact JoAnn Nelson-Hooks, Registrar, at (703) 321-2615.

PLWH OPEN MIKE

Jan-Hendrik Van Leeuwen asked for a report on or consideration of:

- A transportation services work group
- A strategy on how to include young adults in needs assessments
- Whether there was a need for capacity-building among the community-based organizations that have historically served PLWHs
- Whether the current emphasis on treatment as prevention to the apparent exclusion of outreach is the proper approach for prevention programs

MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2013

The minutes of January 3, 2013, were approved as submitted.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE OUTER SUBURBS

Bob Martin of FAHASS and Janet Tinkham of ARE described several such programs their organizations operate: M4M, Community Promise, PCC, Safe Spaces (new in 2013 for local youth) and responses to online requests for information on prevention and testing. Both will be expanding their HIV testing and counseling and linkage to care efforts to new sites in 2013, starting with Community Health Centers. ARE has the use of the Valley Health System bus-based mobile clinic and visits the regional jail twice a month. In response to questions, they explained that presently Medicaid does not reimburse non-medical facilities for testing, nor does it cover transportation to get tested. When FAHASS and/or ARE test those who may have contracted HIV, or encounter those who are newly diagnosed, they are ready to refer the individual to a Community Health Worker and care management services provided by the agency. Although the numbers of newly diagnosed or out-of-care individuals to be found in more rural areas is much smaller than in urban, both organizations have significantly increased the numbers they have found.

2012-13 HIV/AIDS SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN

Michelle Simmons of Northern Virginia Regional Commission presented the goals of the proposed plan for adoption. After a change in the timeline for Goal 3.3, Barb Lawrence moved & Blaine Sheffer seconded the motion and the plan was adopted unanimously. Bob Atkins then suggested that each Consortium committee review the goals and report back on their part in accomplishing them.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES FOR 2013 RYAN WHITE PLANNING CYCLE

Michelle Simmons led this discussion on possible information to be gathered in Northern Virginia to benefit the planning process. Those present seemed to agree that while focus groups can give insight into barriers to care for particular population groups, a survey has a better chance of finding trends among many more issues among many more population groups.

Past Needs Assessment activities include:

- Client surveys
- Focus Groups
- Town Hall meeting
- Facilitated discussions
- Public Hearing

(All can easily fall into the trap of hearing only from the same 15 PLWH who like to participate)

Suggestions from those present include:

- Use Community Health Workers to reach a broader range of participants, especially those with complex or multiple needs
- Request Case Managers to ask their clients to take part
- Involve Community Health Workers in writing the survey in order to use appropriate language
- Use exit surveys (hard copy or online) at clinic days
- Use different in-depth surveys aimed at several client populations that have been underrepresented in the past
- Use on-line surveys to reach younger people along with a paper survey for those with less technology

Among the issues identified for exploration were:

- How to link people to the new health care options, particularly Health Insurance exchanges and subsidies
- Transportation
- SafeLink phones running out of minutes as a barrier to care
- How comfortable are clients in navigating in an insurance environment?
- How are non-AIDS-related medications paid for in this new health care environment?
- Issues identified in Massachusetts and California roll-outs of insurance coverage for low-income persons including those with HIV.

SAFELINK COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM FOR LOW INCOME PERSONS

Phillip Bailey and Marshall Rountree reported that the Virginia SafeLink free phone service now has a plan with the provider Cricket for unlimited minutes and texting. There is a modest monthly cost for this service, but services from other providers and/or with less minutes are available without cost. SafeLink phone service is available to

anyone in Virginia participating in at least one of 8-10 common public benefit programs including SNAP (Food Stamps.)

The group agreed that a conference call was needed to complete work on plans for assessing client needs since the normal Executive Committee meeting day is a federal holiday.

PLANNING COUNCIL UPDATES

- Administrative Agents should plan for initial Ryan White Part A allocations for four months given the uncertainty around federal funding.
- The big issue facing Ryan White is relevancy when it is no longer the major payer for HIV medical care.
- The Planning Council has set the Virginia 2013 Part A planning cycle meetings, coinciding with the new 2nd Monday meeting dates for the PLWH Committee:

June 10: Data Presentation
July 8: Resource Allocation

The entire Consortium should participate on these planning sessions. We may need to cancel or change some of our normal Consortium meetings (1st Thursday) and/or Executive Committee meetings (3rd Monday) for those months. The planned Executive Committee conference call will cover calendaring to accommodate the planning cycle along with other business the Consortium may need to conduct.

VIRGINIA DEPT. OF HEALTH REPORT

- Leonard Recupero, HIV Services Coordinator, told us that ADAP clients in Northern Virginia will be getting their PCIP (Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan) enrollment letter within the next two weeks. It includes the pre-filled application form to be signed and returned to VDH. Providers should be prepared for questions from clients.
- HRSA has not yet awarded the 2013-14 Part B allocation to Virginia, so budget guidance is not yet available for providers.
- Part B Case Management Standards are currently under review.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- The Bylaws committee will meet today immediately after the Consortium.
- The Clinical Care Committee will also meet following the Consortium.
- The Public Policy Committee reminded members that AIDS Watch, sponsored by AIDS United to educate members of Congress on HIV/AIDS issues, will be held February 25 and 26 in DC. The first day covers training in discussing these issues.

NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT

- Michelle Simmons reviewed contracting actions taken to provide transportation services now that NOVAM is no longer a transportation provider for the region. Inova has received funds for taxis and Metro farecards for its clients. FAHASS has received the two vans and funds for maintenance and a driver to be used in the more rural parts of its service area. IPHi now has funds to purchase liability insurance for CHW who are willing and able to drive clients in their own vehicles. NOVAM continues to have, under non-Ryan White contracts, Metro farecards for PLWH living in Alexandria and Arlington.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- The February Executive Committee will meet by conference call at a day and time to be decided as the third Monday is a federal holiday. (Later set for February 14, 2013.)
- March 7, 2013 Consortium meeting (10:00 AM to 12 noon)

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections

Tylee Smith
Tylee Smith

3/7/13
Date