

**HIV Consortium Meeting
May 2, 2013
Summary Minutes**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Roy Berkowitz, HIV Health Educator at Inova Juniper, announced three upcoming trainings: The Facts (\$35) June 11, 2013 from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm; The Fundamentals (\$50) June 19, 2013 from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm and June 20, 2013 – 8:00 am – 12:00 Noon; followed by Waived Rapid HIV Testing the afternoon of June 20 and extending into June 21, 2013. This last class is strictly limited. Call for more information.

David Hoover announced that Inova Juniper had hired Elizabeth Wright for the VHD (Virginia Dept. of Health) CHARLI (Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Resources and Linkages for Inmates) grant. She is bi-lingual, has experience in working in jails, and will provide case management, HIV education, and testing to inmates in the Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax Detention Centers.

Karen Cebula announced that Violetta Montenegro had resigned from the HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) STRMU (Short-Term Rental, Mortgage and Utility) Assistance program at Northern Virginia Family Service. Michelle Reeves and Karen will be handling those requests until a replacement is hired.

Sue Rowland from VORA (Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS) asked if there were any people of color who would consider doing an on-air interview about their experiences. She has been contacted by the producer.

MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2013

The minutes of April 4, 2013, were approved as submitted.

PLWH/A OPEN MIKE

No one asked to speak.

ONE YEAR OF EXPERIENCE WITH EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES – WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Abby Charles, Program Manager, and Courtney Coffey, Program Associate with IPHi, the Institute for Public Health Innovation, summarized the evaluation results of their two Community Health Worker (CHW) programs. They have a grant from NVRC for EIS (Early Intervention Service) and from VDH for Prevention for Positives (P4P). While the first requires Ryan White eligibility assessments, the second can serve clients without regard to income or insurance status. Under both programs, CHWs identify and (re)engage PLWH/A in HIV care; build peer-based trust and knowledge; provide personalized assistance to navigate systems, support PLWH/A throughout the early part of care; and assist accessing other resources to address barriers to care. 63 persons have been recruited into the projects over 10 months (34 in EIS; 29 in P4P). The 12 clients receiving services for at least 6 months reported a decrease in unmet needs. At 3 months, the CD4 count had increased and the viral load had decreased.

In response to the presentation, the Case Management & Support Services Committee was asked to discuss how CHW were/could be utilized. David Hoover mentioned two CHW/Patient Navigator projects funded by VDH:

- A MAI SPNS grant operating in the Central and Southwest regions; and
- A CDC (US Center for Disease Control) CAPUS (Minority AIDS Initiative funding for Care and Prevention in the United States) demonstration grant operating in the Eastern and Northwest regions as well as our region.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA PREVENTION PLAN

Sue Rowland reported that VORA is coordinating work on this plan and will present it to the Prevention and Education Committee and to consumer groups. She asked if we felt it would be appropriate for a Consortium presentation after their comments are incorporated. The group agreed. Two members of the Consortium stated that they thought prevention strategies should focus on young adults and teens, one highlighting the relatively greater increase in HIV among young gay men. The question of the effectiveness of treatment as a prevention strategy was also raised.

VDH has funds for social marketing for the first time in several years. They plan a three-year HIV prevention campaign with billboards, posters, side of buses, etc. targeting first the general public. In the second year they will target gay men and in the third year targeting Latinos.

PLANNING COUNCIL UPDATE

The main topics of discussion recently have been the ACA (Affordable Care Act); HAHSTA's partial-year award of one-third of expected annual funding for Part A; and sequestration. Keith Callahan reported that the Care Strategies Committee hosted a very good roundtable discussion on Case Management Standards under Ryan White and the Care Management functions under the ACA.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (VDH) UPDATE

- The first meeting of the Case Management Standards Task Force met yesterday and included 14 providers and representatives from Chronic Disease and Aging programs. Marshall Rountree attended. Issues and barriers were discussed. The Task Force report and recommendations will be widely disseminated for review and comment.
- A new ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) Data Dashboard (fact sheet) for the year 2012 showing usage by region is now available. It shows that there were 1,052 ADAP clients in the Northern EMA Region last year, 26% of all ADAP clients in Virginia. They received a total of 18,505 30-day prescriptions.
- VDH is not ready to change its requirements for documentation of income, residency, and insurance status at every six-month Ryan White Part B eligibility recertification. They will continue to review the recent federal policy clarification that allows grantees to accept client attestations of no change in these items at an intervening six-month review and require documentation only when a six-month review reveals a change in one of these elements; and otherwise require documentation only once a year. Several of those present spoke of how requiring documentation every six months is a barrier to care and expressed the hope that this requirement would change soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Public Affairs – Sue Rowland stated that the committee was involved in the review of the *Northern Virginia HIV Prevention Plan*. She asked whether any providers were planning to apply for the ACA Health Insurance Exchange Navigator grants. These Navigators will help people select appropriate insurance plans once the Health Insurance Marketplace opens October 1. Michelle Simmons was attending a planning session for a cooperative central Northern Virginia Navigator grant that could serve PLWH along with the general public at the same time as this Consortium meeting.

CMS will be launching new websites in late June with lots of information on the Health Insurance Marketplace/Exchanges that opens October 1. Start now with www.HealthCare.gov and keep up with developments.

- The *Case Management & Support Services Committee*, *Clinical Care Committee*, the *HIV Primary Care Alliance*, and *PLWH Committee* have been asked to plan for the impact of ACA and to identify training needs.
- *Bylaws Committee* – David Hoover reported that Ron Scheraga has resigned as Chair of this ad hoc committee. The Consortium unanimously adopted Sue Rowland's motion that we express our thanks to Ron for his hard work on the Bylaws.

NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT

- Tylee Smith gave the report in the absence of Michelle Simmons.
- Part B Ryan White contracts for the year starting April 1, 2013, have been sent to providers for review and signature. Some have been returned.
- NVRC is meeting personally with each Part A provider approved for funding to discuss their proposed services, operating methods, work plans, budgets, and areas needing improvement. About 75% of these meetings have taken place.
- About \$42,000 in food vouchers is now available to Suburban Virginia as a Part A vendor in DC was unable to utilize them. Contractors will be consulted on whether Giant, Safeway or Shopper's Food Warehouse vouchers would best serve their clients.

- The Planning Council Data Presentation on May 23 will focus on EMA-wide clients and services with basic published epidemiological data and cost per client data.
- The June 17 Data Presentation should have more detailed EMA-wide information.
- This morning's meeting on the potential for developing a regional consortium to apply for the ACA Marketplace Navigator grants is hosted by Northern Virginia Family Service.
- A mandatory Ryan White contractors meeting is scheduled for May 15 at NVRC.
- HAHSTA has made an additional \$800,000 available for Virginia ADAP. NVRC is the conduit for those funds and the transfer is in progress.

CAREWARE REPORT

Tylee Smith also reported that CAREWare, the regional client-level data system hosted by NVRC, was updated with a new build (software version) April 26. Only a few minor glitches have been encountered and Phil Melemed is working on them. The new User Manual to accompany the new build should be available by the end of the week.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Thursday May 23 EMA-Wide Data Presentation at the Planning Council in DC (5:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
- Thursday June 6 Consortium
- Monday June 17 Data Presentation & Priority Setting. This takes the place of the Executive Committee session usually held on this day.
- Thursday July 11 Consortium
- Monday July 15 Resource Allocations. This takes the place of the Executive Committee session usually held on this day.

Minutes ___ Approved as Written ___ With Corrections

Tylee Smith

Date