

**HIV Consortium Meeting  
December 5, 2013  
Summary Minutes**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- David Hoover introduced Inova's new bilingual Community Health Worker, Obdulio Alcantara-Molina, who is working out of the Dumfries office.
- Marco Zurita, Outreach Liaison for the National Institutes of Health, Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) invited those whose HIV was controlled and who were infected with Hepatitis-C to enroll in a new clinical trial. It will test a new Hepatitis-C medication for interactions with specific HIV medications.
- Tylee Smith distributed copies of NVRC's 2013-14 *Quick Guide* to Ryan White and HOPWA contractors and to other members of the Consortium.
- AIDS Awareness Day, January 29 in Richmond, will seek to educate legislators on Medicaid expansion.

**PLWH/A OPEN MIKE**

No speakers.

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2013**

The minutes of November 7, 2013, were approved with one correction. The incomplete sentence in the first bullet in the NVRC Administrative Agent Report was changed to read: She has requested training on the forms.

**REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COUNCIL FISCAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**VIRGINIA TASK FORCE**

The FOAC Committee met at NVRC on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Those present from Virginia included Michelle Simmons, David Hoover, Keith Callahan, Rashmi Puranik, and Phillip Bailey. Planning Council representatives included: Steve Bailous, Lora Morrow, Pat Hawkins, Nicolette Solan-Pegler, among others. The meeting produced a resolution to:

1. Continue the Virginia Task Force work into the beginning of the new grant year;
2. Urge immediate disbursement of about \$1 million in possible carry-over funds once they are released by HRSA;
3. Develop triggers for contingency funding;
4. Ask jurisdictions to urge their state Medicaid programs to make Case Management a reimbursable service;
5. Again ask DC, MD, & WV to develop information showing Medicaid and other resources available to Ryan White clients. This may not be possible without MOAs between state Medicaid offices and Ryan White Administrative Agents.

Basically the Task Force asked Virginia to have faith that the Planning Council will not allow PLWH/A in Virginia to go without care.

The Consortium discussed the need to focus on the number of undocumented people who will remain on Ryan White caseloads since they are not eligible for either Medicaid or health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. Discussion also focused on the administrative difficulties of trying to redistribute 2014 funds if the entire amount is awarded at the beginning of the new contract year. How would the Planning Council fund Virginia's PLWH/A services if the dire scenarios expected by NVRC and the Virginia Dept. of Health develop in the middle of the funding cycle? The Chair, Karen Cebula; Vice Chair, Zach Hatcher; and Michelle Simmons of NVRC were delegated to present these concerns to the HRSA Project Officer for the Washington DC EMA. The Consortium further asked David Hoover to informally contact a legislative aide in US Congressman Jim Moran's office for advice on requesting a letter from Virginia legislators to Dr. Michael Kharfen, head of the DC Department of Health HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration (HAHSTA) to reemphasize the Planning Council's regional responsibilities under Ryan White. The advisability of contacting media on this issue was discussed but a decision was delayed pending outcome of the first two initiatives.

In the meantime, background information shared with the Task Force will be shared with the PLWH committee meeting at NVRC on December 10. The Northern Virginia PLWH group will be asked to appoint two or three representatives to brief the EMA Consumer Access Committee on December 12 and to urge that members help educate their peers from DC. [Note: The Virginia PLWH committee was cancelled due to inclement weather;

*briefing of that group has not occurred. No presentation was made on this item at the EMA Consumer Access Committee.]*

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (VDH) REPORT ON ALLOWABLE HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS**

Leonard Recupero, HIV Services Coordinator, reviewed the list of plans available under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that covered sufficient providers and medications to benefit PLWH/A. VDH is now ready to enroll into ACA health insurance plans the clients currently enrolled in PCIP (Pre-Existing Conditions Insurance Plans) and Virginia ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program). Those on PCIP are the first priority for enrollment as their coverage expires December 31, 2013. Lenny also shared the draft letter to be sent to PCIP and ADAP enrollees containing the list of approved plans. Clients should show it to anyone assisting them in enrolling in an ACA plan. He announced that the LPAP program has been renamed the Insurance Continuation Assistance Program (ICAP).

Leonard further reported that VDH expects to have finalized Part B allocations by the end of December.

**RECONSIDERING PART A AND PART B FUNDING PRIORITIES**

Michelle Simmons suggested that in light of all the unsettled issues, it was premature to consider the Planning Council's Fiscal Oversight Virginia Task Force request that the Consortium reconsider the funding priorities adopted for the coming Part A and Part B grant years. These priorities dramatically cut support services in favor of clinical services. The Consortium agreed to consider this issue at a later date.

As background for this discussion, Michelle distributed a chart showing Part A & B expenditures and current plans for funding provider services in the next grant year. There were also two scenarios for handling the announced 50% reduction in Part B funding, including the fact that VDH will no longer allow use of HIP, Health Insurance Premium and cost-sharing assistance, for lab or doctor visit deductibles or co-pays. HIP may still be used for health insurance premiums and medication co-pays.

NVRC will email out Part B planning scenarios based on the 50% reduction in funding for services and try to take an email poll of the Consortium. *[Note: this item did not occur in December.]*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- *Education and Prevention Committee* –Nechelle Terrell reminded members of the December 13 meeting and holiday celebration. Also the Alexandria AIDS Commission sponsored a very successful World AIDS Day interfaith worship service.

**NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT**

- Julie Riddle announced that the annual update of the HOPWA wait list is complete and letters will be going out soon to those on the list giving them their new "number" on the list. The list is now approximately 230 persons.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

No December Executive Committee Consortium	Thurs., January 9, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.
January Executive Committee	Monday, January 27, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.
February Consortium	Thurs., February 6, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.
February Executive Committee	Monday, February 24, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes  Approved as Written  With Corrections

Tylee A. Smith 1/10/14  
Tylee Smith Date