

NVH Consortium
August 7, 2014
Summary Minutes

Karen Cebula, Chair, called the session to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) offices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wade Menear invited friends of John Feaganes, John's mother Gussie Feaganes and his nephew to celebrate their lives at Ryan's Steakhouse in Fredericksburg on August 14, 2014.

Lewis Gelobter announced that Legal Services of No. VA had a new phone number for all intakes: 703-778-6800.

PLWH/A OPEN MIKE

No one asked to speak.

MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2014

The minutes of June 5 were approved without objection.

ANNUAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Julia Hidalgo, ScD, of Positive Outcomes, Inc. and George Washington University and Quality Consultant to NVRC, reviewed four of the most important performance measures submitted by the five Ryan White primary care providers funded by Suburban Virginia: retention in care; CD4 screenings, undetectable viral loads, and cervical cancer screening for women. On the whole, she found our providers having very good scores and continuing to show improvement. It is unclear how the shift in care to private doctors reimbursed by insurance will allow continued measurement of performance when there is no requirement to report outcomes. Several trends point to the importance of educating patients on the importance of disclosing their condition to new medical care providers, getting blood draws prior to visits, and, for women, being screened for cervical cancer.

She also said that with the advent of the Affordable Care Act, HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration, funder of the Ryan White program) & CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) were working to more closely align their measures of performance. Ryan White providers can expect to see revisions and reductions in the numbers of Performance Measures in the coming months.

ALL THINGS REPROGRAMMING

Reprogramming is the formal process of reviewing spending trends and adjusting funds awarded in different categories and among different providers. NVRC discusses reprogramming recommendations with the Consortium and submits recommendations to the Metropolitan Washington Regional Ryan White Planning Council for approval.

Michelle Simmons, Director of the Human Services Division at NVRC, announced that funding for HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) TBRA (Tenant-Based Rental Assistance) will be reduced starting October 1, 2014. NVRC anticipates no new HOPWA services as a result.

Michelle reminded participants of the Consortium's decision to reprogram Ryan White quarterly. This increased frequency is due to drastic shifts from support services to primary care and health insurance premium support adopted this year to adjust to the Affordable Care Act. The first such review was completed in June and moving of \$313,194 from primary care, an increase in the final Ryan White award to NVRC, and restoring \$433,096 among 11 Ryan White services was approved by the Planning Council.

Michelle Simmons summarized Part B spending for the first three months of the grant year. She asked for comments on moving funds from the underspent Oral Health category to allow hiring or contracting with ACA Enrollment Assistors for the upcoming Open Enrollment period. Someone asked why so little of the dental award, \$50K of \$575K had been spent. Slow billing by subcontract dentists was given as one rationale. Mike Hughes was concerned the message he's getting when he seeks dental care is that there is no money, when there appears to be plenty of dental funding currently unused.

After much discussion, the Consortium agreed to have the current dental providers report at the next meeting about actual spending vs. planned spending, actual clients served vs. client service targets, as well as how vendors decide

which clients get served. Julie Mehan then moved to reallocate \$40,000 from Oral Health to retain Health Insurance Assistors. Phillip Bailey seconded. This was approved 13 – 0 with no abstentions.

The next reprogramming will occur in September. NVRC will resume consultations with the Consortium over resulting realignments once full funding has been restored to all cut categories.

IMPACT OF ACA INSURANCE ON OUTPATIENT MEDICAL SERVICES

John Nagley of ARE (AIDS Response Effort in Winchester) reported that many doctors in their coverage area are refusing to take the only ACA policy offered by Optima, the only provider approved by the Virginia Dept. of Health (VDH) for ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) premium assistance. VDH and the State Bureau of Insurance are reviewing this issue. Several ARE clients have lost ACA coverage as a result of jail or job changes. Medical Case Management (MCM) units of service are three times as high when March through June is compared to the same time last year, mostly as a result of helping clients navigate insurance-paid health care.

Stephen Clark of FAHASS (Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Services) stated that they are not getting CD4 counts when they get viral load lab reports. He raised the difficult bind caused by LabCorp's policy of not serving any client with past-due bills. Currently if these bills are not related to HIV care, Ryan White funds cannot be used to pay for them. The chair of the Planning Council has asked their HRSA (federal) Ryan White Project Officer for approval to use Emergency Financial Assistance to pay such bills when they are preventing lab testing that is crucial to appropriate HIV medical care for PLWH/A. FAHASS is also experiencing an increase in MCM services related to insurance.

Barbara Lawrence of the Inova Juniper Program reported that their Outpatient Ambulatory Medical Care (OAMC) work is holding steady but they are seeing an increase in MCM, especially around premium payments and reinstating clients whose insurance has been discontinued when companies are slow to process payments.

Suzanne Hopwood of Mary Washington Healthcare stated that their OAMC caseload has not changed. MWHC enrolled three new patients in July.

Ayantu Gute of Neighborhood Health in Alexandria highlighted the difficulty their newly-insured clients were having in transitioning to private pharmacies, especially when new doctors wrote prescriptions for differing lengths of time requiring multiple pharmacy visits. They, too, are seeing an increased demand for MCM and feel fortunate that their second MCM nurse has just returned from maternity leave. Staff are reviewing patient records and compiling a list of those to contact when ACA enrollment opens November 15, 2014.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIR

A new vice chair will be elected in September when the current Vice Chair automatically becomes the Chair. No one nominated themselves when offered the opportunity. Phillip Bailey and Monte Jones signed up to serve on a nominating committee with Zach Hatcher, the current Vice Chair.

PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT

Keith Callahan reported Maryland and Virginia did well in the recently-completed Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA) for Ryan White funding for the year starting March 1, 2015.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATES

- Jamaal Alston, the new HIV Services Coordinator, reported that VHD is reviewing information on the ACA plans that will be offered for 2015. They should have results well before open enrollment starts November 15.
- Currently 5,186 clients are enrolled in Virginia ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) in Virginia: 2062 Direct (traditional) ADAP; 469 in MPAP (Medicare Part D); 357 in ICAP (Insurance Continuation); and 2298 in ACA ADAP-paid insurance. He will provide a breakdown of ADAP coverage in Northern Virginia via email to Tim Agar.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Clinical Care Committee is temporarily without a chair. Stephen Perez has left Inova. Josephino Paras, MPH, is just been named the new Quality Manager for Inova.
- Ryan White-HOPWA Linkages Group will meet on August 21 at 10 a.m. at SERVE in Manassas.

APPRECIATION OF KAREN CEBULA

This was Karen Ceula's last meeting as Chair of the Consortium. Michelle Simmons presented her with a scrap book and a personal Wordle (word art) along with our thanks for her service. Karen responded with thanks and her regret that family, personal, and educational responsibilities had prevented her from being as active as she had intended.430

NEXT MEETING

September Consortium Meeting Thursday, Sept. 4, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections

_____ Tylee Smith

_____ Date