

**HIV Consortium Meeting
November 6, 2014
Summary Minutes**

Nechelle Terrell, Chair, called the meeting to order at the new office of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Zachary Hatcher, newly elected chair of the Consortium, has resigned as Executive Director of FAHASS (Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services) and as chair of the Consortium. Nechelle Terrell, newly elected Vice Chair, assumed the chairmanship.
- Sue Rowland of VORA (Virginians Organizing in Response to AIDS) is the new part-time interim Executive Director of FAHASS.
- VORA continues to sponsor ADAP Stakeholder meetings. There will be one in November. Please send her comments on ADAP and Marketplace (re)enrollments, especially needed improvements.
- Please notify VDH as Certified Applications Counselors (CAC) are approved or hired so they can be added to the contacts list to receive ADAP updates.
- World AIDS Day is December 1. Both FAHASS and ARE announced they will sponsor activities.
- AIDS Awareness Day, which seeks to educate legislators on HIV/AIDS issues, will be held in Richmond either January 28 or February 4, 2015.
- Phillip Bailey, a member of the Consortium and a Suburban Virginia appointee to the Planning Council, is still out on medical leave.

PLWH/A OPEN MIKE

Jan-Hendrik Van Leeuwen presented two questions:

1. Would the Consortium consider a presentation on HIV and aging? There was such a presentation about three years back. An update may be appropriate as time allows.
2. ~~Has there been solid research into the effectiveness of PrEP, Pre-exposure prophylaxis? What public~~ education efforts are underway? PrEP, is a way for people who do not have HIV but who are at substantial risk of getting it to prevent HIV infection by taking a daily pill (brand name Truvada) that contains two medicines (tenofovir and emtricitabine) that are used in combination with other medicines to treat HIV. When someone is exposed to HIV through sex or injection drug use, these medicines can work to keep the virus from establishing a permanent infection.

Group discussion revealed that the US Centers for Disease Control (the CDC) found that, when taken consistently PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by up to 92%. PrEP is much less effective if it is not taken consistently. The difficulty with public education is funding the cost of the medication and finding providers who will prescribe PrEP.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

The minutes of September 4 and September 30, 2014 were approved as submitted.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ENROLLMENT II

Jan Reitman, CAC with Virginia Health Options, the organization that will be assisting clients of NVRC's Ryan White providers with enrollment and reenrollment in Marketplace health insurance plans, presented an overview of their proposed work. Following the directives of the Virginia Dept. of Health (VDH) the first priority of these three CACs will be reenrolling clients whose costs are currently covered by Virginia ADAP, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. CACs will also assist clients to enroll in ADAP. CACs have contacted all providers and are working out the best ways to assist each. Often they will schedule specific days at a provider's site for client enrollment. The only requirements are a private area for client interviews and access to a computer or the internet via a hot spot.

Enrollments and reenrollments must be completed by December 1, 2014 for coverage to start January 1, 2015. Reenrollments are taking up to two hours, much longer than anticipated, since so many more plans have been approved by Virginia ADAP and since many medications, providers, and costs will change effective January 1.

Tim Agar of NVRC, who oversees the work of the CACs, distributed their contact information and copies of the two letters sent by VDH to those now enrolled in ADAP-paid plans and those deemed eligible to enroll.

Tim also reported that VDH had approved eight plans, three with complete formularies. Medical providers may request a Medication Exemption from a client's insurance provider to cover the cost on medications not on the formulary. Plans must respond within 24 hours in *exigent circumstances* (urgent situations). These include an enrollee suffering from a health condition that may seriously jeopardize the enrollee's life, health, or the ability to regain maximum function, *or when an enrollee is undergoing a current course of treatment using a non-formulary drug.*

REPROGRAMMING PART A FUNDING

Michelle Simmons reminded the Consortium that we planned for quarterly relocation of Ryan White funds this year after the allocations for Northern Virginia Health Insurance Premium and Co-Pay assistance and Outpatient Ambulatory Medical Care services were greatly increased at the expense of other medical and support services. NVRC has been notified by providers that about \$400,000 is available for the second quarterly reprogramming. Rashmi Puranik distributed a chart showing the sources of these funds and the changes that can be made automatically under current Planning Council guidelines. Since a second request will need to be made to the Planning Council's Fiscal Oversight Committee for additional changes, Michelle proposed that final reports on reprogramming would come to Consortium at a later date. Those present concurred.

PLANNING COUNCIL REPORTS

The Planning Council has not yet met following their retreat in September.

VIRGINIA DEPT. OF HEALTH REPORTS

Jamaal Alston, HIV Services Coordinator, reporting on ADAP enrollment asked that he be allowed to confirm that these figures covered the Northern Region defined by VDH and the counties to the south and west that are part of the Consortium's service area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Education and Prevention Committee* –Nechelle Terrell reminded members of the November 14 meeting. The Alexandria AIDS Commission will be sponsoring a World AIDS Day interfaith worship service on November 30.
- *Case Management and Support Services Committee* will meet Tuesday, November 18.

NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT

- Michelle Simmons announced that NVRC had recently been notified by HAHSTA that our HOPWA area had been expanded to include Culpeper and Rappahannock Counties. There is no increase in funding.
- The HOPWA waitlist will be updated soon. It may then be closed to new applicants as at the current rate it will take many, many years to serve those on the list now.

NEW BUSINESS

Ron Scheraga suggested that the PWA Open Mike be moved to the end of the agenda to allow responses to the business considered at each meeting. Participants indicated they felt free to make their comments outside of a structured time period, so the suggestion was not adopted.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tentative November Executive Committee: Monday, November 17, 2014. (Update: this conference call was postponed with a new date to be announced later.)

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections


Tylee Smith

12/4/14
Date