

**HIV Consortium Meeting
December 4, 2014
Summary Minutes**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Julie Riddle, Contract Monitor & Resource Specialist at NVRC, announced that the HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) waiting list will close indefinitely at the end of January. NO applications will be accepted after January 30, 2015.

PLWH/A OPEN MIKE

No one asked to speak.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2014

The minutes of November 6, 2014 were approved as submitted.

HIV RELATEDNESS MEDICAL PANEL

Leigh Guarinello, MPH and Local Performance Site Director for the Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center at Inova Juniper introduced the two panel members:

- Linda Dean, MSN, ANP at the Christiana Wellness Clinic in Georgetown, Delaware and a nationally recognized trainer on HIV medical issues; and
- Michael Serlin, MD, the new Medical Director with Inova Juniper

Linda Dean discussed several cases with various co-occurring medical conditions and discussed how many different factors can affect the medical professional's decision on whether each condition is HIV-related or not. Dr. Serlin reviewed the Virginia Dept. of Health guidelines on HIV-relatedness and shared his experiences serving PLWHA at a public teaching hospital in New York City. When there is robust state/local support for health care, as Dr. Serlin described in NY, the "relatedness" question becomes less important as there are a variety of other sources to support general medical care. Here in Virginia where Ryan White is the main payer for HIV patients, the relatedness question becomes much more problematic. Speakers answered a number of questions from the floor. Leigh indicated that it is always a medical professional who decides the relatedness question, not an administrator.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ENROLLMENT II

Jan Reitman, CAC with Virginia Health Options, the organization that will be assisting clients of Ryan White providers (under contract to NVRC) 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 the three VHO 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 who were unable to do so during last open season. 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 clients 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. A second request to the Planning Council's Fiscal Oversight Committee must be made to authorize additional requests for nutrition and/or food services.

The EMA-wide Local AIDS Drug Assistance program expects spending to increase once the effect of the 2015 medication formularies under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is better known and the process for requesting exceptions to ACA insurance policy formularies is clearer. Presently \$75,000 of the \$90,000 award remains available for use.

The \$210,000 in carry-over funds from last year's Ryan White grant that are now available to Virginia will be used to increase access to oral health services and to perform outreach to PLWHA who are not in care and to offer introduction to health insurance co-pay assistance to insured PLWHA who could use a little co-pay assistance to remain medically compliant.

VIRGINIA DEPT. OF HEALTH REPORTS

Jamaal Alston, HIV Services Coordinator, reported that:

- There are 1,499 Northern EMA clients enrolled in Virginia ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program):
 - 650 Direct (traditional) ADAP;
 - 103 in MPAP (Medicare Part D);
 - 153 in ICAP (Insurance Continuation); and
 - 593 in HIMAP (Health Insurance Marketplace Assistance Program aka ACA--Affordable Care Act insurance paid for ADAP clients by VDH).
- Numbers of those enrolled for 2015 will not be available until after December 31, 2014.
- Enrollment in HIMAP by insurance carrier in the Northern EMA is currently:
 - 1 in Aetna,
 - 196 in CareFirst,
 - 273 in Innovation,
 - 38 in Kaiser-Permanente; and
 - 85 in Optima.
- As of December 1, statewide 176 clients have been reenrolled in ACA insurance along with 7 new clients.
- Due to savings in ADAP, VDH is making additional Ryan White Part B funds available for services and has requested contractors' and consortiums' input on service needs.
- Beginning December 1, 2014, ADAP staff will begin working extended hours:
 - Monday through Friday: 8AM – 7PM
 - Saturday: 10AM – 4PM
- Sandra Dineen, Clinical Manager with the Inova Juniper Program, has been appointed to the Virginia ADAP Advisory Committee.
- Weekly ACA Certified Application Counselor and stakeholder calls occur every Monday from 11:00-12:00. The call in information for these calls is: Dial-in toll free (866) 842-5779 / Enter conference code #8048648065 when prompted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Education and Prevention Committee* –Nechelle Terrell reminded members of the December 12 meeting.

NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT

- Michelle Simmons announced that NVRC had recently been notified by HAHSTA that the Suburban Virginia HOPWA area had been expanded to include Culpeper and Rappahannock Counties. There is no increase in funding.
- Julie Riddle, Contract Monitor & Resource Specialist at NVRC, announced that the letters asking everyone currently on the HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) waiting list to reapply were sent this

week. Anyone not submitting a new application by Jan. 15 will be dropped and must reapply to be placed at the bottom of the list. The list will close indefinitely at the end of January. NO applications will be accepted after January 30, 2015, from either new or newly dropped clients.

NEW BUSINESS

Suzanne Dorick asked for a method of measuring stigma to include in the regional HIV Prevention Plan. This was specifically requested and is the last piece needed to complete the plan.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Consortium January 8, 2015 10a.m. to 12 noon at NVRC

No Executive Committee is scheduled for December, January, or February. If a decision(s) is required, NVRC will host a conference call, but not on the 3rd Monday of either January or February since both are holidays.

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections

Tylee Smith 1/8/2015
Tylee Smith Date