

**HIV Consortium Meeting
January 8, 2015
Summary Minutes**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lewis Gelobter announced that Legal Services of Northern Virginia is hiring a new attorney for HIV/AIDS legal issues.
- NVRC placed on the table a new brochure listing Ryan White and HOPWA services available, with contact information for provider agencies. Provider agencies may pick up copies, along with new CAREWare User Manuals, after the meeting.
- Farima Camara of Neighborhood Health announced that they had hired a new Ryan White Case Manager, Messay Zerga. Messay speaks Amharic.

PLWH/A OPEN MIKE

No one asked to speak.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2014

The minutes of December 4, 2014 were approved as submitted.

HIV-RELATED ISSUES IN THE 2015 SESSION OF THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sue Rowland, Executive Director of VORA (Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS) identified two issues of top importance to people living with HIV/AIDS: state funding of ADAP and costs of medications covered by health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act. We need to monitor the response of insurance companies and the Bureau of Insurance to requests for waivers of formulary restrictions. The gap in health care payment coverage due to Virginia's lack of expansion of Medicaid is still a big problem that is unlikely to see any resolution in this session. AIDS Awareness Day will be Wednesday, January 28, starting at 8:00 a.m. It is important for people to come to let legislators know the importance of these issues in the lives of their constituents.

APPOINTMENT OF A NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR CONSORTIUM VICE-CHAIR

Nechelle Terrell, Chair, circulated a sign-up sheet. Nechelle's assumption of the chairmanship upon the resignation of Zach Hatcher created a vacancy in the position of Vice-Chair (Chairman Elect).

PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT

The newly elected Mayor of the District of Columbia has yet to appoint a chair for the Metropolitan Washington Regional Ryan White Planning Council.

VIRGINIA DEPT. OF HEALTH REPORTS

Jamaal Alston, HIV Services Coordinator, reported that many ADAP clients were automatically enrolled by their insurance companies for 2015 into plans similar to their 2014 coverage. However, ADAP cannot pay premiums and other cost-sharing unless the new plans meet ADAP requirements and ADAP is sent a bill for the premium. CACs (Certified Application Counselors) should be consulted.

- There are 1,506 Northern EMA clients enrolled in Virginia ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program):
 - 556 Direct (traditional) ADAP;
 - 102 in MPAP (Medicare Part D);
 - 156 in ICAP (Insurance Continuation); and
 - 692 in HIMAP (Health Insurance Marketplace Assistance Program aka ACA--Affordable Care Act insurance paid for ADAP clients by VDH).
- Enrollment in HIMAP by insurance carrier in the Northern EMA is currently:

○ 1 in Aetna,	○ 44 in Kaiser-Permanente;
○ 208 in CareFirst,	○ 90 in Optima; and
○ 302 in Innovation,	○ 47 in HealthKeepers

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Education and Prevention Committee* --Nechelle Terrell invited members to the February 7 National Black AIDS Awareness Day symposium at Oakland Baptist Church.

NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT

- Michelle Simmons announced that NVRC is soliciting applications from qualified organizations to provide non-medical case management and health insurance premium and co-pay assistance (HIPS). The intent is to maximize insurance usage, and to link and coordinate care for income-eligible Virginia Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) being seen for HIV/AIDS medical care at private infectious disease offices throughout Metro Washington. Services will be focused on those PLWHA who require extra assistance (1) to understand and navigate insurance systems, and (2) who have difficulty affording their out-of-pocket insurance costs. The work will emphasize finding new low-income people in need to Ryan White services, including those being released from correctional facilities and other institutions.
- Tylee Smith reported for Julie Riddle, Contract Monitor & Resource Specialist at NVRC, that about one-third of the 123 clients currently on the HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) waiting list had not yet renewed their applications. 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 January 30. NO applications will be accepted after January 30, 2015, from either new or newly dropped clients.

Providers were asked to remind their staff of the urgency of returning applications. NVRC has done some follow-up but needs written permission and a valid second contact in order to do so. Providers should urge clients to list an agency as a permitted contact, not just a staff person.

- Tim Agar of NVRC, who oversees the work of the Certified Application Counselors with Virginia Health Options, distributed their revised contact information. Virginia Health Options is under contract to NVRC to assist clients of Ryan White providers with enrollment and reenrollment in Marketplace health insurance plans.

NEW BUSINESS

Ron Scheraga raised the issue of HIV outreach to those being discharged from mental health facilities.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Consortium March 5, 2015 10a.m. to 12 noon at NVRC

No Executive Committee is scheduled for February. If a decision(s) is required, NVRC will host a conference call, but not on the 3rd Monday of February since it is a holiday.

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections

Tylee Smith
Tylee Smith

4/2/15
Date