

**HIV Consortium Meeting
April 2, 2015
Summary Minutes**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nechelle Terrell announced that the Alexandria Commission on AIDS is sponsoring a screening of the film ‘Virgin Cure’ on April 13.
- Barb Lawrence announced that Inova Juniper’s Arlington clinic is moving from 5501 Lee Highway to 500 N. Washington St. The new location, with more space, will open April 8. Although the street address is Falls Church, the new office is very close to the former location.
- Lewis Gelobter announced that Legal Services of Northern Virginia has hired Linda D’Jassebi as an attorney for HIV/AIDS legal issues.
- Anita Singh announced that FAHASS was recruiting for a new part-time outreach worker.
- Mary Beth Benz, the new Executive Director of FAHASS, introduced herself.
- Leigh Guarinello reported that the Gay Men’s Health Collaborative was sponsoring a community event, *Shamed Stereotypes in the Gay Community*, in the Juniper lobby.
- Food & Fiends will be offering cooking classes with Metro passes for those who attend. Their *Dining Out for Life* fundraiser will be April 23 at various restaurants.
- Leigh Guarinello also reminded everyone that *AIDS Watch*, the annual effort to educate members of Congress on HIV and AIDS issues will be April 13 – 14 in Washington, DC.

PLWH/A OPEN MIKE

No one asked to speak.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2015

The minutes of January 8, 2015 were approved as submitted.

HIV VACCINE RESEARCH

Bryan Collins, Clinical Trials Recruitment and Community Outreach worker for the Vaccine Research Center of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (VRC/NIAID) at NIH, described some promising results. Currently they are recruiting for both preventive and therapeutic vaccine trials and need both HIV-infected and non-infected adults as well as those lost to care. If interested, the intake procedure is to call 1-866-833-LIFE (5433) or fill out a confidential eligibility questionnaire at <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/volunteer/layouts/niaid.internet.forms.secure/clinicalvolunteers.aspx>. Volunteers will be asked a few questions about his/her health. If the volunteer meets certain criteria, a screening visit is scheduled which will include a blood draw and physical examination to determine her/his eligibility for a vaccine study.

Volunteers will receive a consent form that explains the study in detail and in non-technical language. By signing the consent form, a volunteer is indicating that s/he understands the study and volunteers to participate. Volunteers are free to withdraw from the study at any time.

All volunteers are paid for their participation. Their travel costs are also paid.

CONSORTIUM MEETING SCHEDULE

The newly revised schedule for the Consortium (one side) and its committees (reverse) was distributed. This most current version is dated April 1, 2015 at the bottom of each page.

REASSESSMENT OF FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR RYAN WHITE AND HOPWA

Michelle Simmons led the discussion of possible funding scenarios. She reminded Consortium members and guests that the cost burden anticipated with more insured clients for medical visit and lab co-pays had not been very great for 2014. Consequently, funding was restored to various support and core services during three reprogramming processes in 2014. It took a while to understand that in some cases the insurance billings were very slow, but in

other cases there would be no need for co-pay support because AIDS pharmaceutical co-pays had drawn down the whole "out of pocket" requirements for many clients.

Consortium participants and Northern Virginia RW service providers have discussed this situation at several previous meetings, and committed to working to find additional clients and making our existing service continuum less bare bones.

Because last year's allocations priorities were decided before we had enough experience with insurance-based care funding to know a lot, they take us in the wrong direction to fund care system improvements and modernization. Therefore, we start the year with the need to ask Planning Council's Fiscal Oversight committee for permission to reprogram dollars where they are more needed and can be better used.

NVRC already exercised its Planning Council granted authority to move up to 15% of the annual value of a category in developing the initial awards to Part A grantees. The amount of funds reduction needed in OAMC and Health insurance based on our cost history last year exceeded that level of authority. So today we would like suggestions from the floor for areas of most significant need to grow the RW caseload and round out services as per our previous discussions.

Consortium members suggested the following when asked for ideas on offering a more robust selection of Ryan White services in Suburban Virginia:

- o Include psychiatry in Mental Health services;
- o Use Medical Care Management to facilitate interface between consumers, non-Ryan White medical providers, and Ryan White wrap-around services;
- o Support housing and employment training;
- o Add Medical Nutrition as a funded service; and
- o Applying a more liberal definition of HIV-relatedness for Outpatient Ambulatory Medical Care;

The group reviewed a spreadsheet showing where funds had already been awarded, and what funds were left to be assigned to a service category.

A motion was made and duly seconded as follows: \$100,000 for dental services, \$200,000 for mental health services, \$100,000 for outreach, and \$75,000 for non-medical case management, \$37,500 for emergency food, and \$37,500 for linguistics. The motion passed 11 for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT

Ron Scheraga reported that 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 125 ADAP clients from the Northern EMA were automatically enrolled by their insurance companies for 2015 into plans similar to their 2014 coverage. 460 Northern EMA ADAP clients have submitted new financial verification and been reenrolled into covered plans.

- There are 1,492 Northern EMA clients enrolled in Virginia ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program):
 - o 359 Direct (traditional) ADAP;
 - o 110 in MPAP (Medicare Part D);
 - o 175 in ICAP (Insurance Continuation); and
 - o 848 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:
 - o 1 in Aetna,
 - o 250 in CareFirst,
 - o 1 in Coventry
 - o 346 in Innovation,
 - o 56 in Kaiser-Permanente;
 - o 89 in Optima; and
 - o 103 in HealthKeepers
 - o 2 in Piedmont

The Virginia Dept. of Health (VDH) is making plans for usage of \$1.7 million in supplemental Part B funds which must be expended by September 2015. VDH is considering piloting several new services and changes to existing services:

- Removing caps on Oral Health per client expenditures
- Expanding Oral Health services to allow occlusal guards & perhaps other services
- Using Emergency Financial Assistance to buy eyeglasses and ophthalmology services
- Expanding Medical Nutrition Therapy to allow purchase of food related to nutritional deficiencies

VDH is now completing preliminary estimates of the costs of various options and will release details of the selected pilot programs as quickly as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Public Affairs Committee* –Sue Rowland reminded the Consortium that this committee will report to the Consortium on November 5. Contact Sue (see back side of agenda) if you have legislative issues or concerns.

NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT

- Julie Mehan reported on her work with providers on their Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs) and on VDH's QMAC activities.
- Tim Agar of NVRC reported on the recent Ryan White/HOPWA Meet, Greet & Learn session sponsored by the Linkages Group. Provider agencies were well-represented and participant evaluations were enthusiastic. NVRC will try to offer such opportunities for front-line staff every one or two years.
- Michelle Simmons announced that NVRC awarded \$19,000 in unspent Part B Oral Health funds to Balance-of-State providers once it was apparent that Northern EMA providers could not use all their allocation before the Part B grant year ended. VAN, the Valley AIDS Network in Harrisonburg, and Carilion Clinic (infectious disease care) in Roanoke will be able to offer dental services to an additional 9 clients. Each had previously expended their entire Part B award.
- *Dental Defender Flyer* – Tim Agar distributed these and explained that NVRC had produced them in order to educate consumers and providers on the HIV/AIDS oral health services offered by Ryan White.
- *2015 Quick Guide* to human services in Northern Virginia & beyond – Tylee Smith distributed these to each person present with additional copies available for providers.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR VICE CHAIR

- Nechelle Terrell announced that Sue Rowland was heading this committee.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Consortium May 7, 2015 10a.m. to 12 noon at NVRC

No Executive Committee is scheduled for either April or May. If a decision(s) is required, NVRC will host a conference call on the 3rd Monday of a month.

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections

Tylee Smith 5/7/15
Tylee Smith Date