

**NVH Consortium Meeting
September 3, 2015
Summary Minutes**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Leigh Guarinello, Education and Prevention Manager at Inova Juniper, announced that the Mid-Atlantic AIDS Education and Training Center had been funded for four more years. Inova is one of their local performance (training) sites.
- Leigh also announced a national PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) training with an “Ask the Doc” component is scheduled for late October. Details will be available soon.

PLWH/A OPEN MIKE

Jan-Hendrik van Leeuwen asked how the policy on specialty medication prescriptions of the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services could be changed. These prescriptions are currently limited to a 30-day supply which is a burden on clients with multiple prescriptions expiring on different dates.

Ron Scheraga suggested that he explore the issue with another pharmacist to see if easier access were available. Michelle Simmons suggested that an insurance navigator or Community Health Worker might be able to assist.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2015

The minutes of August 6, 2015 were approved as submitted.

REPROGRAMMING RESULTS FOR PARTS A AND B AWARDS

Michelle Simmons, Director of Human Services at NVRC, reported that NVRC will be requesting authority from the Planning Council in September to reallocate funds from Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing (HIP). Experience has shown that once VDH has paid medication co-payments and cost sharing for clients on insurance, there is not much need for additional HIP services. These funds could be used for additional Mental Health services, Hepatitis C treatment for additional individuals, and limited inpatient detoxification for Substance Abuse.

The presentations today on Outreach services will demonstrate some of the services funded by unused Part B dollars.

REGIONAL PREVENTION PLAN

Suzanne Dorick, Public Health Nurse in the HIV Unit of the Fairfax County Health Department, presented the Prevention and Education Committee’s report of activities implementing the 2013 plan for prevention of HIV/AIDS in Northern Virginia. She reviewed the key recommendations and selected activities under each of them. The entire plan will be posted on NVRC's website at <http://www.novaregion.org/index.aspx?nid=366>.

Jan-Hendrik van Leeuwen noted the apparently huge impact of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) medication. That impact needs to be studied and may lead to future amendments to the regional prevention plan.

OUTREACH TO PLWH/A IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA – NEW INITIATIVES

Four organizations, Neighborhood Health in Alexandria, Inova, FAHASS, and ARE (AIDS Response Effort) in Winchester, received grants to each hire an outreach worker to find newly diagnosed and out-of-care adult PLWH/As and link them to care and support services. All the organizations are recruiting new staff to assist in these efforts. The unique features of these programs are:

- Farima Camara, Ryan White Program Manager, Neighborhood Health, explained they will develop relationships with testing sites, STI clinics and other community-based organizations. Their outreach worker identify PLWH/A found to be out of care, whether newly diagnosed or not, and will work with those persons to connect them to care and services.
- Anna Reynolds & Tom Decker, Community Health Workers, reported Inova Juniper will focus their outreach efforts in Loudoun County, where few new clients are coming into care. Once identified, current Community Health Workers on staff will then work with these individuals to link them to care and support services.
- MaryBeth Benz, Executive Director of FAHASS in Fredericksburg, described their efforts to develop services in the Culpeper-Orange-Rappahannock- Fauquier area where they are currently serving about 16% of the HIV+ population. They will be hiring a combination Medical Case Manager & outreach worker to identify and serve clients and base him/her in Culpeper.
- Janet Tinkham, Education & Outreach Coordinator at ARE (AIDS Response Effort), told us that their new worker will focus on potential clients, both HIV+ and those at high risk of developing HIV, in Winchester area correctional systems. This will include education and testing and pre- and post-release planning in two regional jails, county jails and those on probation or parole.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Sue Rowland, Chair, reviewed the events that disrupted the Consortium's normal procedure of electing a Vice Chair each September who moves up the following September to become the Chair for the year starting with the October meeting. Last September the newly promoted Chair resigned and Nechelle Terrell, the newly elected Vice Chair, was immediately promoted to the chairmanship.

Michelle Simmons reviewed the rules for voting: Voting is open to agencies or individuals who have applied to be members. Each agency, no matter how many in attendance, gets 1 vote as do individuals members who have attended at least 3 of the last 6 meetings or who the May 2015 orientation session.

Sue announced that Nechelle Terrell had been nominated for Chair and Leigh Guarinello and Wade Menear for Vice-Chair. Each of the candidates introduced themselves and their experience.

PLANNING COUNCIL UPDATES

Ron Scheraga announced that the Planning Council recently amended their procedures to allow representatives from W. Virginia to participate in meetings electronically. The Planning Council is still accepting applications for membership.

Michelle Simmons placed on the table a request from the Metropolitan Washington Regional Ryan White Planning Council for assistance in locating PLWH/A "out-of-care" to participate in the 2015 Unmet Need Survey.

VIRGINIA DEPT. OF HEALTH REPORTS

Logan A. Dickens, HIV Services Coordinator, reported VDH has reached out to the Bureau of Insurance to obtain preliminary information on the private health insurance plans that will be available in 2016 under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Information will be shared with stakeholders and letters sent to clients who should enroll or reenroll in an ACA plan.

The formulary for ADAP has added Gardasil and 3 medications for Hepatitis C: Harvoni, Sovaldi and Viekira Pak.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prevention Committee: Nechelle Terrell, Co-Chair, reported they are co-sponsoring with Inova workshops on HIV in older adults. The presentations will be at the Alexandria Health Dept. on October 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Public Affairs: Sue Rowland, Chair, reminded members that every member of the Virginia General Assembly is up for reelection in November. Now is the time to contact members and those running for office to tell them how legislative issues are affecting your life.

Case Management & Support Services: Cheryl Hockman, Co-Chair, announced that they will meet September 15 and will acquaint their members, most of whom do not attend Consortium meetings, with the new services available in our region.

NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY REPORT

Tylee Smith distributed the Consortium meeting plan adopted at the April meeting. It will be reviewed and possibly amended at our October meeting. Staff will meet with our new Chair and Vice Chair to develop recommendations. Members were encouraged to submit suggestions.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The election was held by written secret ballot and Nechelle Terrell was elected Chair and Wade Menear Vice-Chair. They assume their offices with our October meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Consortium October 1, 2015 at NVRC from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon.

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections

Tylee Smith 10/2/15
Tylee Smith Date