

**NVH Consortium Meeting  
Via Conference Call  
November 16, 2015  
Summary Minutes**

Nechelle Terrell, Chair, asked Michelle Simmons of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), to conduct the call as her laryngitis prevented her from speaking.

**PLWH/A OPEN MIKE**

There were no requests to speak.

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2015**

The minutes of October 1, 2015 were approved as submitted.

**AFFORDABLE CARE ACT & ADAP UPDATE FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPT. OF HEALTH**

Carrie E. Rhodes, AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Coordinator, reported that the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is updating information on its website: [www.vdh.virginia.gov/ADAP](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/ADAP); sending weekly newsletters; and convening stakeholder conference calls during open enrollment for 2016 Affordable Care Act health insurance plans. Enrollment will be open from November 1, 2015 – January 31, 2016.

**Summary of changes:**

- Plans at all levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum; have been included in Virginia's ADAP-approved plans for 2016
- Clients should carefully compare different levels and plans for out-of-pocket costs and the coverage of all their medical conditions. In some gold and platinum clients may not meet the total out-of-pocket costs to qualify for ADAP to pay their co-payments and deductibles. Clients may apply for Health Insurance Cost-Sharing Program (HIP) assistance for HIV-related out-of-pocket expenses. This service is available for Ryan White clients in suburban Virginia through ARE, FAHASS, Inova, Mary Washington Healthcare, and Northern Virginia Family Service.

**Unchanged policies:**

- The toll-free Medication Eligibility hotline, 855-362-0658, is one place for more information. VDH will staff the hotline for extended hours during open enrollment:
  - Monday – Thursday ..... 7 AM – 7 PM
  - Friday ..... 7 AM – 6 PM
  - Saturday ..... 10 AM – 2 PM
- HIV positive (HIV+) persons within 101% - 250% of the federal poverty level must apply for a Silver level plan;
- In families, ADAP will only cover the costs of the person who is HIV+

**Additional information from those in attendance:**

- Virginia Health Options (VHO) has been retained to assist Ryan White clients in Affordable Care Act health insurance plans. Make appointments through your Ryan White care provider.
- A plan is being developed for lower-income HIV+ persons in suburban Virginia who need assistance in applying for ACA insurance but who are not affiliated with a Ryan White provider.

**SUBURBAN VIRGINIA HIV/AIDS SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN**

Michelle Simmons, Director of Human Services for NVRC, presented the need to update the 2012-2013 regional HIV/AIDS Service Delivery Plan. The new 2020 National HIV/AIDS Strategy calls for even better integration of all HIV/AIDS services funded through the Ryan White CARE Act Parts A, B, C, D, and MIA; HUD's (federal Department of Housing and Urban Development) HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) program; and US Centers for Disease Control for prevention activities; and public health epidemiology.

The goals in our region's service delivery plan, with a status update column, were distributed to all members by email after the meeting. Molly Astudillo of Inova, Suzanne Dorick of the Fairfax County Health Department, and Ondrea McIntyre-Hall of Northern Virginia Family Service volunteered for a small committee to review the goals. VDH epidemiologists will be invited to contribute.

**PLANNING COUNCIL UPDATES**


New Virginia appointees to the Metropolitan Washington Regional Ryan White Planning Council are: Betelhem Mekonnen, a Nurse Practitioner; Brittney Nash, a youth associated with IPHI; Martha Cameron with the Women's Collective; Miriam Mikre, formerly with VDH and now with a federal rural health program at HRSA; and Tom Decker, Community Health Worker with A.R.E. in Winchester. Two vacant seats are reserved for Virginia, with one of those for a PLWH/A (person living with HIV/AIDS).

All Planning Council Committees will meet during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the month. There will be a single PLWH/A Committee. Regional sub-committees are being discontinued.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Consortium December 3, 2015 at NVRC from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon.

Minutes  Approved as Written  With Corrections

  
Tyler Smith Date