

**NVH Consortium Meeting  
March 3, 2017  
Summary Minutes**

Wade Menear, Chair, called the meeting to order in the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) main conference room.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sharmaine Anyabwile, HOPWA staff with Prince William Dept. of Housing and Community Development, introduced Kim Sigafoo, who will be assuming that position.

Tim Agar of NVRC invited those present to take as many copies as they needed of two new Virginia Dept. of Health (VDH) publications for PLWHA (People Living with HIV/AIDS): a brochure on HIV testing and a wallet fold-out with testing and prevention information. Tim also invited those involved with quality improvement (QI) to attend the DC Quality Collaborative's First Quarter Learning Session here at NVRC of Tuesday, March 28.

Andrew Torres from Neighborhood Health announced that Congressman Don Beyer will be holding a "Know your Rights" forum in Alexandria March 13. He will arrange for information to be sent to the Consortium.

The Planning Council's Consumer Access Committee will meet at an Arlington hotel on Tuesday, March 14. This will replace the PLWHA Committee's usual meeting at NVRC on March 15.

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

The minutes of February 21, 2017 were approved as submitted.

**HIV PREVENTION ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Suzanne Dorick, RN with the Fairfax County Health Dept. and member of the NVHC Prevention & Education Committee, presented a summary of prevention and educational activities in Suburban Virginia from August 1, 2015 to August 1, 2016. She mentioned the HIV testing at 12 Walgreen's pharmacies in No. Virginia has greatly reduced the stigma of getting tested. The report is organized around the goals of the Northern Virginia HIV Prevention Plan, adopted in 2015. Both can be found online at <http://www.novaregion.org>. [*Under Programs and Projects, select HIV/AIDS, then NVH Consortium. The links to the plan and the report are on the left.*]

Members of the Consortium recognized Ms. Dorick's work to compile this report. Michelle Simmons highlighted the impending impact of the move in Ryan White Part A and Part B to unified planning for HIV care and prevention. This unification will be reflected in the evolution of the No. Virginia Prevention Plan currently in progress.

**VHO'S AFFORDABLE CARE ACT FINAL ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Jennifer Zoerkler, Executive Director of Virginia Health Options (VHO) reported that she and her CAC (Certified Application Counselor) staff had appointments with 561 PLWHA during the November 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017 open enrollment period:

- 375 were for renewals of ACA Health Insurance Marketplace policies;
- 101 for new enrollment; and
- 85 were follow-up appointments.

VHO accomplishments include 476 enrollments this year, up from 384 enrollments last year. Enrollment of many other PLWHA throughout the region was assisted directly by their usual Ryan White service providers.

VHO will stay connected with VDH until the next open enrollment period in order to be prepared to assist when any new programs or procedures are established.

#### **VIRGINIA PART B CORE/SUPPORT 75/25 WAIVER PROPOSAL**

Jermaine Connor, HIV Care Services Part B Grants Manager with the Division of Disease Prevention at VDH, explained the state's pending request to HRSA, the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, to spend about 40% of grant funds for core medical services in grant year 2017-2018 instead of the 75% normally required. This will be Virginia's first waiver request and must be resubmitted annually. VDH plans to support most core services with medication rebates already on hand and use up to 60% of their Part B grant to fund support services. If approved, core medical services will be expanded to include:

- Early Intervention Services (EIS)
- (Oral Health will be funded out of Part B Supplemental funds)

New and expanded support services will include:

- Emergency Financial Assistance (emergency rent, utility payment; security deposits, and up to one week in a hotel)
- Additional Health Education and Risk Reduction;
- Housing Support (transitional and long-term [24 months] and housing case management);
- Additional Outreach Services; and
- Substance Abuse (Residential with a goal of 5 beds per region).

The waiver request will be submitted to HRSA on March 16. HRSA's approval rate for Part B waiver requests is currently quite high.

#### **SUBURBAN VIRGINIA NEEDS ASSESSMENT PLANNING**

Michelle Simmons opened a discussion of activities to assess the needs of PLWHA in our part of the EMA (Eligible Metropolitan Area) for the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA) process. The Ryan White Planning Council has begun its needs assessment with a lengthy consumer survey (part of which is designed to be administered by trained persons), a provider survey, and eight focus groups. Traditionally NVRC has had access to the Virginia data from the Planning Council's assessments and has undertaken a supplemental effort analyzing specific patterns of need within Northern Virginia.

Concerns expressed were:

- Overlap with VDH's consumer satisfaction survey;
- Overlap with Arlington County's client satisfaction survey;

- The goal of 500 EMA survey results from Suburban Virginia when there will be no incentives like grocery cards for consumers; and
- Expectation that providers' staff will be available to administer (enter online summaries of some oral questions) these surveys without additional funding.

The major trend identified for further assessment in Northern Virginia was consumers from other countries pulling out of services and care for fear of deportation.

#### **WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT**

Jennifer Zoerkler reported that the Planning Council has adopted standards for Medical Care Management; Medical Nutritional Therapy; and Health Insurance Co-Payments and Cost Sharing. Renate Nnoko, HIV Care Planner from the Virginia Dept. of Health, is being considered for appointment to the Planning Council.

Tom Decker announced that the Council's holding a one-day planning retreat on February 24 at Gallaudet University.

#### **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATES**

Ashley Yocum, HIV Services Coordinator (contract monitor) for Northern Virginia, answered a request for leniency on serving undocumented clients with Part B funds because many are afraid to come in for recertifications. She reiterated HRSA has not allowed VDH any deviation from eligibility determination (re-determination) every six months. However, as part of Case Management funded under Part B, providers can be reimbursed for travel expenses if staff need to meet with clients in their homes or a public place (if agency policies allow for such work outside of their offices).

Ms. Yocum reported that, as of February, 2017, there were 1,775 clients enrolled in Virginia ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) from the Northern Region:

- 965 in Health Insurance Marketplace Assistance Program (HIMAP);
- 485 in Direct ADAP; and
- 194 in Insurance Continuation Assistance Program (ICAP)
- 131 in Medicare Part D Assistance Program (MPAP);

Ms. Yocum thanked everyone for their assistance in enrolling consumers in HIMAP and apologized for VDH's difficulties in processing the high volume of paperwork.

She also reminded the Consortium that when a needed medication is not on the formulary for an insurance policy, the provider has to file a Medication Exception Request. However, VDH had received many reports of ACA insurance plans denying such requests multiple times prior to final approval. All such refusals should be reported to VDH. VDH will insure that alternative arrangements are available for medications until they are available through insurance.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT**

Michelle Simmons reported that NVRC has issued letters of intent to contract with almost all of our Part A vendors. The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the District of

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Columbia is in process but we don't expect it to be final until the results of NVRC's and HAHSTA's recent competitive award processes are known. The 2016-2017 Part A contracts ended February 28 and final expenditures should be available at the next meeting. Part B awards are our next priority with those contracts ending March 31.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Consortium April 6, 2017 at NVRC from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon.

Minutes  X  Approved as Written      With Corrections       Tylee Smith   4/6/17   
Tylee Smith Date