

**NVH Consortium Meeting  
November 2, 2017  
Summary Minutes**

Sandra Gallegos, Chair, opened the meeting at Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

FAHASS has a new program that allows delivery of condoms by mail.

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2017**

The minutes of October 5, 2017 were approved as presented.

**PLWHA OPEN MIKE**

Mike Hughes, contact person for the Suburban Virginia PLWHA (persons Living with HIV/AIDS) Committee, announced their meeting on Tuesday, November 14, at 12 noon here at NVRC. He handed out flyers and asked for help in getting out the word that everyone was welcome and that new voices were needed.

**PREVENTION ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Andrew Torre and Rashaad Banks, Co-Chairs of the NVHC Prevention and Education Committee, presented a brief overview of the *2016-17 Roster of HIV Prevention Activities in the Northern EMA*. It was noted that after a few finishing edits are made, the draft regional prevention plan will be posted on the NVRC website for comments.

**SELECTION OF PREVENTION PRIORITIES FOR 2018 REGIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN**

Michelle Simmons summarized the HIV prevention priorities in Virginia's State Integrated HIV Services Plan. These were based on the *National HIV/AIDS Strategy* adopted in 2015. Tim Agar then led the Consortium in an exercise to identify: priorities in common between the Suburban VA and state plans; hot topics that should be included; and a sub-set of activities that should be included in the Regional Service Delivery Plan required of Consortia by VDH.

Recommendations included:

1. Expand HIV testing targeting persons who inject drugs (PWIDs) and pairing with work to combat the opioid epidemic
2. Expand patient navigation services to those at high risk of HIV to address the steep drop-off between testing and linkage to care
3. Expand access to care by working with community health centers to provide health services to low income/uninsured PLWHA; addressing real and perceived waitlist/delays in access to care/medications; and more cultural competency training for healthcare staff working with Latinos and transgendered
4. Support prevention programs to young MSM of color, especially behavioral interventions; and increase availability of PrEP as a prevention strategy
5. Support public awareness campaigns to help reduce stigma within the African-American community and focus on young (13-24) Black men who have sex with men
6. Monitor VDH and federal epidemiology programs for evidence-based programs that work to reduce incidence rates; advocate for continued funding for these
7. Coordinate a No. Va. Community Calendar of HIV/STI events – the HIV Community Planning Group already has some of it; load onto HIV Resources website; use social media features as well and to teach self-advocacy

4300The 2018 Regional Service Delivery Plan will be reviewed and finalized at the December 7 and January 4 NVH Consortium meetings.

**METROPOLITAN DC RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT**

Jennifer Zoerkler, member of the Planning Council, reiterated that the Planning Council was being reconstituted to incorporate both HIV prevention and Ryan White care programs. Terms of all current members will end and members will have to reapply. Appointments will be made by the office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia and should be effective in March 2018. The new group will have between 37 – 47 members, of whom 33% must be HIV-positive.

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (VDH) UPDATES**

Ashley Yocum, the Northern Virginia HIV Care Services Coordinator, summarized the Virginia ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Plan) enrollments for 2018 as of the previous week:

1,798	Total Northern Virginia Participants, of whom:
618	receive direct ADAP;
125	receive Medicare Part D Assistance Program (MPAP);
217	receive Insurance Continuation Assistance Program (ICAP); and
838	receive Health Insurance Marketplace Assistance Program (HIMAP)

Benalytics has been retained by VDH to assist in enrolling clients in the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace. Benalytics will be reaching out to Ryan White clients, but clients may contact them with questions: 1-855-483-4647. Benalytics will be open on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday around the Thanksgiving holidays when VDH is closed.

There will be two Saturday enrollment outreach events in Northern Virginia: November 18 at the Fairfax SkillSource in Annandale and December 9 at the South Fairfax County Government Center. Clients are urged to make appointments through the VDH website to enroll at these events.

VDH is NOT supporting the Optima Fit Gold plan for 2018. VDH is supporting all other plans offered by ACA insurance carriers in Virginia.

Clients are encouraged to enroll in the insurance plan for which their infectious disease physician is in network. Clients with no other carrier option are encouraged to enroll in the plan available in their locality. Where there is only one carrier in the client's locality and their physician is out of network, VDH is working to receive HRSA approval to reimburse out of network providers for HIV related outpatient ambulatory health services (OAHS) and labs. VDH will have the model in place by January 1, 2018 and will educate providers and clients on how it will work.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- December 7 from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon      NVH Consortium

Minutes     Approved as Written     With Corrections    Tylee Smith    12/7/17  
Tylee Smith    Date