

**NVH Consortium Meeting  
October 5, 2017  
Summary Minutes**

Wade Menear, Chair, opened the meeting at Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Charlene Leach was introduced as the new Executive Director for FAHASS.

Hugo Delgado distributed invitations to the annual Harvest of Hope breakfast October 25, 2017.

Suzanne Dorick announced that she will retire December 31 from the Fairfax County Dept. of Health, HIV/AIDS section.

**MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2017**

The minutes of June 1, 2017 were approved as presented.

**PLWH/A OPEN MIKE**

No one asked to speak.

**ELECTION OF CONSORTIUM VICE CHAIR**

Doug Fogel spoke of his interest in serving the HIV/AIDS community in this capacity and his experience in the field. There were no nominations from the floor. Ron Scheraga moved and Mike Hughes seconded the motion to elect Doug Fogel as the incoming Vice Chair of the NVH Consortium by acclamation. This was accepted unanimously.

**PART A HUMAN CARE AGREEMENTS (FEE-FOR-SERVICE) UPDATE**

Michelle Simmons, Director of Human Services NVRC, reported that HAHSTA, the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD & TB Administration at the District of Columbia Dept. of Health, had approved Human Care Agreements for six service categories to providers in Suburban Virginia:

- Mental Health
- Non-Medical Case Management
- Oral Healthcare
- Outpatient Ambulatory Health Care
- Substance Abuse Services

The funded providers were:

- FAHASS
- Neighborhood Health
- Mary Washington Healthcare
- VHO (formerly Virginia Health Options)

HAHSTA has reopened the application process for new bidders for 15 days, starting September 20, 2017.

**Plans for Shortened ACA Enrollment Period**

Hunter Robertson, DDP Program Analyst, Virginia Dept. of Health (VDH), reminded the meeting that the enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance plans begins November 1 and ends December 15, 2017. This 45-day period was implemented a year

earlier than envisioned in the authorizing legislation. Criteria to qualify for Special Enrollment Periods have also been tightened. In all cases, premiums are expected to increase.

Approximated 69% of HIV+ persons enrolled in ADAP, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program operated by the Virginia Dept. of Health, are now enrolled in an ACA health insurance plan. The shorter enrollment period is complicated by the fact that some insurance carriers have changed coverage or withdrawn from the ACA marketplace. 1,768 enrolled clients statewide will have to change carriers for 2018; 584 of these are in Suburban Virginia.

Ryan White Providers are urged to take these actions prior to November 1:

- ensure that their agency is in-network for the providers that will be covering the areas where their clients live;
- educate their clients on upcoming changes;
- ensure that the eligibility of their clients is up-to-date; and
- ask their clients to log in to their [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) accounts and update their information, especially contact and income information.

He also warned of programmatic impacts if ACA enrollment decreases or remains level:

- Cost of providing medications directly to clients is greater than our available resources
- Rebates will be directly affected if fewer clients obtain ACA insurance.
  - Less rebates = less/no expansion of current services
  - Fewer/no new services (housing, EIS, substance abuse treatment)
  - Decreased \$\$ for innovations (telemedicine or Positive Links)
- Program income for providers may be reduced

VDH has implemented a more secure way for providers to transmit client enrollment forms via uploads to e2Virginia, a secure VDH website. They have also requested permission from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) to pay out of network costs for outpatient HIV care when a client's long-time medical provider is not within network of any of the ACA insurance policies available in their area of residence. The ACA insurance plan would continue to cover costs of HIV prescriptions.

#### **METROPOLITAN DC RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL**

Tom Decker, member of the Planning Council on the Inova staff, announced that the Planning Council is 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.

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

Diane Allen, the VDH HIV Care Services Coordinator, reported for Ashley Yocum, the Northern Virginia HIV Care Services Coordinator, who was unable to attend. Diane reported that a checklist for ADAP eligibility has been incorporated in a new ADAP application form. The previous form will no longer be accepted.

77 clients across the state have completed Hepatitis-C treatment authorized by VDH; 6 more are now in treatment.

Eligibility for Part B services including ADAP has been tightened. Clients will now receive a letter 90 days and 60 days prior to the expiration of their 6-month eligibility period and a phone call reminder 30 days prior. Recertification no longer requires new CD-4 counts and viral loads, but providers are urged to upload this information when it is available as it is very helpful for tracking service quality. The goal for providers when VDH makes site visits is 92% of eligibility records complete and clients eligible for service. VDH will work with providers on a corrective action plan for those not meeting this standard.

VDH is also updating their listing of providers administering PrEP, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis medications. NVRC will distribute this when it is available.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Suzanne Dorick reported that the Prevention and Education Committee is updating their annual report of prevention activities from August 2016 through August, 2017.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT**

Michelle Simmons reported that HAHSTA, the Recipient of Part A funds for the Washington DC Eligible Metropolitan area, announced a second round of Part A Human Service Care Agreements (Fee-for-Service) to run 15 days from September 20, 2017. Funding will be for the same 6 categories as the original solicitation. This is an attempt to fill in gaps in services left after the original applications were approved.

Michelle also relayed HAHSTA's authorization for NVRC to reallocate any unspent Part A bridge funds (March 1 – September 30, 2017) without prior approval. Planning numbers (estimated awards) for Part B supplemental funds have been communicated to providers eligible for award; subcontracts to follow shortly.

#### **APPRECIATION FOR WADE MENEAR**

Mina Yun presented our outgoing chair, Wade Menear, with a small token of our appreciation for his services and our affection. She conveyed the regrets of Sandra Gallegos, the incoming chair, who was home sick.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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

Minutes  Approved as Written  With Corrections Tylee Smith 11/3/17  
Tylee Smith Date