

**NVH Consortium Meeting
February 1, 2018
Summary Minutes**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two events were announced in observance of National Black AIDS Awareness Day

- An *Iron Sharpens Iron* workshop the evening of Feb. 7 at FAHASS; and
- An *Awareness Day Symposium* Feb. 10 at the Alleyne AME Zion Church in Alexandria

FAHASS will also be showing the PBS Special *Wilhemina's War*, a film about fighting HIV in South Carolina, on March 10.

Jermaine Connor, HIV Services Grant Manager, at the Virginia Dept. of Health, was introduced.

Michelle Simmons announced that Jan-Hendrik Van Leeuwen was recovering at home following hospitalization.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2018

The minutes were approved as submitted.

PLWHA OPEN MIKE

No one asked to speak

VIRGINIA DEPT. OF HEALTH'S (VDH'S) PLAN TO DIRECT CONTRACT WITH PART B PROVIDERS IN 2018-19

Kimberly A. Scott, Director, VDH HIV Care Services, started by thanking everyone for the very successful effort to enroll clients into ADAP and the 2018 Affordable Care Act insurance plans. Twenty-six Ryan White agencies around Virginia were part of this effort. As of January 19, 2018, 3,800 low-income PLWHA were enrolled, compared to 3,233 at the end of 2017.

Ms. Scott also apologized for a few lapses in getting insurance premiums paid in time to start coverage on January 1. VDH will soon hold a stakeholder debriefing to solicit suggestions for improving procedures next year. Accurate and timely reporting of premiums paid was urged by several of those present. Clients as well as their ACA counselors/assisters need this data.

Ms. Scott then began an explanation of VDH plans to discontinue funding Ryan White providers through Consortia, starting April 1, 2018, with the start of the next Part B grant year. This decision was the result of a 2017 site visit from HRSA, the federal Ryan White funder. HRSA has been recommending direct contracting of Part B funds to Part B recipients across the U.S. Among the findings of the site visit to VDH were the inefficiencies of maintaining dual funding systems: contracting directly and through Consortia.

Ms. Scott emphasized that VDH is committed to work through the challenges of both new funding procedures and new relationships in Northern Virginia. She expressed a desire to not lose the valued assets of the working relationships within the Northern Virginia HIV Consortium. She also told the group that VDH has envisioned new roles for NVRC HIV staff in the direct funding environment, including:

- Conducting regional needs assessment(s);
- Technical assistance to providers on CAREWare;
- Technical assistance to providers, especially community-based organizations, on:
 - Preparing for site visits; and
 - Establishing linkages with other providers to increase client retention and viral suppression.
- Producing an HIV/AIDS housing conference;
- Researching the use of telemedicine and telemonitoring to increase and record HIV treatment adherence;
- Soliciting consumer input;
- Writing an RFP for Ryan White housing services and evaluating proposals.

Among the questions and comments raised by those present were:

- The feasibility of establishing a new funding mechanism by April 1;
- The impact of this decision on NVRC's role and that of the Consortium in Part A funding and program administration; and
- The mechanisms for consumer input in these new relationships.

John Nagley of ARE reported that the impact of direct Part B funding in Northwest has been almost entirely positive.

Leigh Guarinello offered the resources of Inova Juniper's branch of the Mid-Atlantic AIDS Education Training Center.

Ms. Scott explained that this was an especially good time to make this type of transition. VDH's funding is strong through mid-2019 and may offer opportunities to support additional services. She also indicated there is a new Virginia Consumer Advisory Board and that the e2Virginia online reporting system continues to develop new modules to increase its usefulness (e.g. PrEP, online needs assessment, and a resource module for HIV testing and care services currently in the planning stages).

NEW ROLES FOR THE NVH CONSORTIUM

Michelle Simmons, Director of the Human Services section at NVRC, outlined some changes and possible roles for the Consortium going forward:

- Rather than coming together routinely most every month meetings can now be issue-focused and convened when there is a need;
- Planning for HOPWA services (June) and participation in the Part A Planning Services and Resource Allocation process (July or August) needs to continue.
- Committees will set their own agendas; NVRC space and conference call phone will continue to be available for meetings.

Quarterly RW Part A and periodic HOPWA contractor meetings will continue. Reimbursement for consumers attending new issue focused meetings will continue.

METROPOLITAN DC RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Zoerkler, member of the Planning Council, reported that the Planning Council finalized new standards for Emergency Financial Assistance at its last meeting. The new Washington, DC

Regional Planning Commission on Health and HIV, the integrated care and prevention planning group, should be sworn in for the March meeting. Three Virginia members of the present Council have applied for membership on the new body: Jennifer Zoerkler, Tom Decker, and Doug Fogel. The legal requirement for 33% representation from unaffiliated consumers has not yet been met.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (VDH) UPDATES

Ashley Yocum, the Northern Virginia HIV Care Services Coordinator, reported that

1. Northern Virginia ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Plan) 2018 enrollments as of February 1, 2018, were:
 - 1,830 Total Northern Virginia Participants, of whom:
 - 445 receive direct ADAP;
 - 131 receive Medicare Part D Assistance Program (MPAP);
 - 229 receive Insurance Continuation Assistance Program (ICAP); and
 - 1,025 receive Health Insurance Marketplace Assistance Program (HIMAP)
2. Total ADAP enrollment throughout Virginia was 6,623. Only 5.5% have not yet had their 2018 premiums paid after submitting all required information.
3. VDH Combined Prevention and Care Services Quarterly Contractors' Meeting is on Wednesday, March 7 in Richmond. Exact location and agenda will be sent out soon. Please note that attendance at this meeting is a contractual requirement for all HIV Prevention and VDH directly funded Care Service providers.
4. QMAC Quarterly Mtg. will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at Delta Hotels Richmond Downtown, 555 East Canal Street, Richmond, VA 2321.9
5. VDH has approved the use of Ryan White Part B funds to cover the cost or co-pays of the Meningococcal vaccination for clients in order to prevent meningococcal meningitis in PLWHA. It is anticipated that the ADAP Advisory Council will discuss adding the meningococcal vaccine to the ADAP formulary in February.
6. The 2017 Ryan White Services Report (RSR) must be submitted by March 5, 2018.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Case Management and Support Services will have a special learning session for all Ryan White and HOPWA case managers and support staff (aka the Meet & Greet) on March 13. Registration is required. Contact Julie Riddle or Tylee Smith at NVRC for details.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- March 1, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon NVH Consortium at NVRC

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections Tylee Smith 2/1/18
Tylee Smith Date

