

**HIV Consortium Meeting
January 7, 2010
Summary Minutes**

Carol Jameson, Chair, called the meeting to order at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission offices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sympathy cards were circulated for the family of Stacie Balderson, former staff member at NVRC.
- David Hoover announced that Inova Juniper (IJP), in cooperation with federal and state Ryan White training programs, will offer one-day trainings demonstrating quality improvement principles in Harrisonburg on January 15 and in Springfield on January 29, 2010. This training is mandatory for Ryan White contractors.
- Michelle Simmons announced a shorter quality improvement training session with Julia Hidalgo for those who had taken the previous quality improvement training.
- David Hoover also announced several staff changes at IJP: Angela Clements has been hired as the health educator to replace Ros Cousar; Andy Wheeler from the front desk is now registrar for the education team.
- Irma Jones reported that Potomac Legal Services in Fredericksburg had merged with Legal Services of Northern Virginia as of January 1.
- Lyanne Trumbull, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board - Mental Health Services, announced that they were recruiting for a Mental Health Therapist to replace Liesl Hancock-Brown. Recruitment closes on January 15.
- Karen Berube announced that Inova is looking for larger clinic space in the Reston / Herndon area.
- Sue Rowland of VORA, Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS, reminded everyone that AIDS Awareness Day at the Virginia General Assembly is Wednesday, Feb. 3. The breakfast starts at 8:30.
- Bob Atkins announced that the Metro Washington Public Health Association was offering free workshops on HIV/AIDS issues on Jan. 23.

OPEN MIKE

No one asked to speak. Phillip Bailey reviewed the purpose of the “open microphone”, a period at every regular meeting of the Consortium available to the first three PWAs or their caregivers who sign up. This is an opportunity or for people living with HIV/AIDS to make comments that will be received by the Consortium for a later response. “Open Mike” is not a forum to air a grievance against a specific service provider.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of December 3, 2009, were approved as written.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Jails, Prisons & HIV/AIDS Care Challenges

David Coman, Chair of the Incarceration Issues/Discharge Planning Committee and head of the King George effort to reduce recidivism among released state prisoners, described some of the difficulties facing inmates released with \$25; 30 days of medication; no driver’s license; no job; and no housing. In the past two years, 70 of 300 inmates released in their area were HIV/AIDS positive. The King George effort receives no funding but involves 60 people meeting quarterly including representatives of the Virginia Department of Corrections, Employment Commission, local Department of Social Services, local churches, Project Faith (housing), and Boys & Girls Clubs. Similar efforts are underway in Culpeper and in SW Virginia where the HIV/AIDS Consortium is beginning to work with local jails in their 15 jurisdictions. In Northern Virginia, KI Services has agreements with several local jails to allow prevention education and, within a few days of scheduled releases, testing of inmates. Alexandria and Fairfax Health Departments were cited for their efforts in their respective jails. Prisoner transition from local and regional jails is much more difficult than from prisons as releases often happen without much notice and after office hours.

The Consortium’s Incarceration Issues/Discharge Planning Committee has recently focused on compiling contact information for local and regional jails and making that available to AIDS Service Organizations working there. The information is kept in a password-protected website.

VENDOR PROFILES:

Zach Hatcher, Executive Director, presented information on Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services (FAHASS). They began in 1989 as a support group and now serve 145 clients in Fredericksburg and ten surrounding counties, some outside the Consortium's service area. 80 of their clients receive primary medical care from MediCorp IDA. They have funding from several grants, including one for prevention from the Virginia Department of Health where they are working in cooperation with ARE in Winchester. The FAHASS outreach worker at the Fauquier County Health System, Maria Pedroza, is bilingual. They have a new HOPWA housing counselor. They provide medical transportation to doctors, clinics, mental health and substance abuse services, either directly or sometimes through fuel vouchers.

PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT

Wade Menear reported that the Planning Council's Fiscal Oversight and Accountability Committee will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 10:30. A revised formula for distributing Ryan White funds throughout the greater Washington Eligible Metropolitan Area will be presented. If adopted, it could take effect for the 2010 – 2011 funding cycle.

Keith Callahan has been accepted as a new member of the Planning Council from Virginia.

NVRC UPDATES

- Michelle Simmons announced that NVRC is reallocating funds within service categories and among providers in order to most effectively use them. Since the end of the grant period for Part A is less than two months away, the Planning Council is now informed of changes rather than approving them ahead of time.
- Huston's quality assessment site visits on behalf of the Planning Council are focused on providers of Primary Medical Care and Medical Case Management as these are the first two areas with the U.S. Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) quality standards.
- In response to a question, Michelle Simmons clarified that the Planning Council plays no role in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program. The lifetime limit on housing assistance that is the source of controversy in the District of Columbia applies to a Ryan White funding category not used in Northern Virginia.

VDH UPDATES

- Susan Carr, Rhonda Thissen's supervisor, reported that VDH has received HRSA's guidance on Part B services for the coming contract year. They have been told to expect delays in federal funding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prevention Committee

National Black AIDS Day is on Feb 7. The International Foundation for Gender Education will hold its Capital (transgender) Conference April 22 – 24 in DC.

Public Affairs Committee

The committee will meet by conference call on January 13.

Ad Hoc Orientation

David Hoover announced that the Committee will offer training and lunch after the February Consortium meeting.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- February Executive Committee will meet at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb.18 as the 3rd Monday is a federal holiday
- February 4 at 10:00 a.m. Consortium
- February 4 Orientation to the Consortium and planning for HIV/AIDS services in Suburban Virginia, immediately following the Consortium meeting. Lunch will be provided.

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections

Tylee Smith

Date