

**HIV Consortium Meeting
October 1, 2009
Summary Minutes**

Carol Jameson, Chair, called the meeting to order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NOVAM distributed invitations to their Oct. 17 wine-tasting fund-raiser.
- NVRC is recruiting for an AIDS Section Chief and looking for professional associations that could advertise the position.
- Tylee Smith will be the NVRC contact for Consortium business for the next few weeks. Phone: 703.642.4638; email: tylee@novaregion.org
- Dana Condemni is the contact for the HIV Resources website www.novaregion.org/hiv; Phone: 703.642.4627; email: hivresources@novaregion.org
- Inova Juniper training sessions at the Springfield office include:
 - Working with Interpreters Oct. 15, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- Inova Alexandria Hospital Emergency Dept. begins rapid testing all patients for HIV/AIDS on Tuesday, October 6. Testing will be opt-out from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., 4 days a week.
- The library at Inova Juniper will be dedicated to Ed Cavanaugh at a New Orleans-style celebration on October 19, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- There will be a town hall meeting coming to DC in the next few months to begin developing a national AIDS strategy. It will be important to participate.
- Inova Juniper is recruiting for a nurse and a Social Worker for the new Arlington clinic.
- GLBT march on DC the weekend of October 9-11 with a rally around AIDS Saturday night.

OPEN MIKE

Mike Hughes spoke via the conference call, requesting that the Consortium be mindful of the impact of H1N1 virus on people living with HIV/AIDS. The Chair assured him that it would be part of the VDH update.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of September 3 were approved as written.

PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Nechelle Terrell from the Alexandria Health Dept. and Chair of the Prevention and Education Committee of the Consortium, described how this committee works despite little funding for prevention. They contribute time to each other's special events as schedules allow and solicit local event sponsors. She mentioned the active participation and several programs of the Planned Parenthood clinic in Falls Church. Prevention and Education events in Alexandria are often co-sponsored by the Health Department, Commission on HIV/AIDS, and the Consortium's HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education Committee. Sponsored events have included: National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, National HIV Testing Day, The Mayors' Campaign Against HIV/AIDS, and World AIDS Day.

Ms. Terrell handed out a list of Confidential HIV Testing Sites in Northern Virginia and several pages of descriptions about prevention programs of organizations in Northern Virginia. The next meeting of the committee is Friday, Oct. 9, at 10 a.m. at NOVAM. A conference call will be available. Those wishing to participate should contact Carol Jameson. Since meetings rotate among members, the committee will be adopting a six-month schedule in 2010.

Ron Scheraga asked about the program that brought PWAs (People with HIV/AIDS) into local schools to talk. This is NOVAM's "Face to Face" effort that currently has over 30 speakers and has expanded into some middle schools. Rev. Brown of Wholistic Agape Family Ministries reported that the Alexandria Baptist Ministers' Conference has a committee on HIV/AIDS and uses peer speakers in its teen pregnancy prevention program, TAPP. He continues to try to interest the Northern Virginia Baptist Association with 120 churches. Karen Berube mentioned the gap in prevention in Arlington with the closing of Whitman-Walker.

VENDOR PROFILES:

ARE (AIDS Response Effort)

John Nagley, Executive Director, described the growing services of A.R.E. in Winchester (www.aidsresponseeffort.org). They receive Ryan White Part A funding from this consortium for services in Clarke & Warren Counties, part of the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. They also receive some grants for prevention work directly from the Virginia Dept. of Health and Part B funding through the Northwestern Virginia Consortium administered through James Madison University. Overall they serve Winchester, and the Counties of Frederick, Clarke, Warren, Shenandoah, and a portion of Page. They attribute their caseload growth from 30 clients to about 95 to very actively reaching out to medical providers and other groups to collaborate on AIDS services. They urge connection to their case managers and PWA support groups and try to bring PWAs back into care. They are currently trying to expand the pool of medical providers by seeking general practitioners who are interested in receiving training to provide HIV/AIDS treatment.

Questions were raised about services to minorities. Collaboration with black churches is slow. Hispanics are the fastest growing client segment with many migrant workers.

PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT

- David Hoover reported that DC HAA (Dept. of Health, HIV/AIDS Administration) will be changing their name to the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD & TB Administration (HAHSTA).
- The recent client satisfaction survey of 1,000 clients rated HAA and its administrative agents. Twenty-eight percent of respondents were from Northern Virginia, thanks to the efforts of client advocates encouraging participation. Detailed results will be released as soon, but the results were generally positive.
- David Hoover also reported that Congress is taking action to continue funding Ryan White services as the program was set to expire Sept. 30, 2009. A continuing resolution, passed by both the House and the Senate, authorizes level funding for the month of October. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has passed an authorization for a four-year extension of Ryan White incorporating many of the recommendations of a broad-based national group of AIDS Service Providers. No action has been taken in the House.
- The Planning Council awarded \$300,000 in carryover funding to the District of Columbia as they lost the greatest amount of Ryan White funding under the current year's allocation formula. Michelle Simmons argued that there didn't seem to be sufficient opportunity for discussion on this as the only use of the carryover award. She felt faulty logic was at work to suggest a jurisdiction where the number of cases decreased needed more money. She encouraged Planning Council members to advocate strongly for funding for Virginia. Planning Council members reminded the Consortium that they work on behalf of the entire region. The Consortium did not appear to have a consensus opinion on this topic.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Primary Care Committee

Debbie Bowers handed out the new CDC (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) fact sheet for H1N1 and HIV/AIDS. Current plans for H1N1 and seasonal flu are for priority groups, including PWAs, to receive H1N1 vaccine in October. By November there should be enough for anyone who wants it. There will not be any charge for the H1N1 vaccine at public clinics and no citizenship requirement. It is generally OK to get a pneumonia vaccination at the same time. Susan Carr, Virginia Dept. of Health, added that PWAs are advised NOT to use the live virus nasal vaccine.

The Committee will meet again this month and will be looking into allocation of Ryan White funds for health insurance co-payments and possible ways improving the rate of returns by clients for TB test readings. Contact Debbie Bowers for details.

Case Management & Support Services

Jane Beddoe reported that Rosalyn Courser, the co-chair, has resigned from Inova Juniper and they are looking for a new Co-Chair. The September 15th Conference was very successful. Evaluations will be shared after the Committee meets October 13.

Incarceration Issues/ Discharge Planning Committee

Phillip Bailey reported that he will be receiving new contact info for local Adult Detention Facilities (jails) from KI Services immediately after this meeting. He expects that the password-protected contact sheet can be available to Case Managers and other professionals by the end of the month. He was asked about a seamless transition effort with these local facilities like is being done with state prisons. This has not yet been addressed as frequent early releases and late night releases make this much more difficult in local facilities. VDH does plan to develop a program that funds transition medications from sources other than ADAPT, where it is forbidden.

VDH UPDATES

- See Primary Care Committee above.

NEW BUSINESS – POSSIBLE ON-SITE TRAINING

Beth Robinson asked about a memo that appeared to offer onsite fiscal management training. Nicole Clopton will check on this.

NEW BUSINESS – ORIENTATION TO THE CONSORTIUM

Phillip Bailey reminded the group of the requirement in the Bylaws that orientation be offered periodically so new Consortium members can qualify to vote. The Chair and NVRC staff will bring a recommendation to the next Consortium meeting outlining a possible schedule and assigning responsibility.

NEW BUSINESS – RYAN WHITE REPROGRAMMING AND FUNDING

Michelle Simmons reported that \$45,000 was available from Part A for the current year for insurance co-payment assistance. Two vendors were awarded a portion of the Part B funds to start. Since negotiations to “ride” on the VDH state contract with P.S.I. have not been successful, the remainder of Part B and all Part A funds will be awarded as soon as present spending patterns are reviewed. Initial estimates are that at least \$10,000 of the unawarded funds may be available for reprogramming.

The \$80,000 carryover funding under MAI (Minority AIDS Assistance) was awarded to Wholistic Agape Ministries and the Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services for approximately 2 months of case finding. About 20 people lost to care were reconnected. Because of the short turn-around, about one-third of the funds were used and all but \$3,000 reprogrammed into other MAI activities.

NEW BUSINESS – SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

Bob Atkins asked for a briefing in January or February on service implications of new 2010 poverty guidelines; of no cost-of-living increases for Social Security and other programs; and of the rise in health care premiums for Medicare and other health programs.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- October 19 Executive Committee
- November 5 Consortium – A speaker on Peer Advocacy programs will be invited.

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections

Tylee Smith

Date