

**HIV Consortium Meeting
December 3, 2009
Summary Minutes**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- David Hoover announced that Inova Juniper (IJP) will offer a one-day training on HIV/AIDS, The Facts, on December 9, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at their Springfield Training Room.
- 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.
- The toy drive for NOVAM and IJP clients will be handled by IJP this year.
- Bob Atkins announced a H1N1 flu clinic this afternoon in Arlington. It is open to anyone in the priority categories.
- Karen Berube announced that Care First is funding expansion of IJP's Arlington clinic, doubling its size. They are still hiring an LPN for Arlington and one for Manassas.
- Liesl Browne-Hancock announced that she is taking a different position within the Fairfax-Falls Church CSB. Her PWA clients are all being transferred to other therapists.
- Committees were reminded to plan for any specific needs assessment activities they needed to undertake prior to setting priorities and allocations in the next funding cycle.

OPEN MIKE

Robert Kahn spoke of the World AIDS Day activities in Washington, DC, where he participated.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of November 5, 2009, were approved as written.

VENDOR PROFILES:

Zach Hatcher will present information on the Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services January 7.

PANEL PRESENTATION:

Barriers to HIV/AIDS Care for Special Populations

Jeanne Tshibungu, Health Educator with the Ethiopian Community Development Council/ACC; Jane Beddoe, Director of Client Services, NOVAM; and Lori McLean, RN for the Homeless Healthcare Program of the Fairfax County Health Department described the experiences of African immigrants, women and the homeless, respectively, in finding health care and complying with treatment requirements. Handouts from Ms. Tshibungu and Ms. Beddoe were distributed.

Jeanne Tshibungu, Health Educator with the Ethiopian Community Development Council/ACC; described the reluctance of immigrants from Africa, to seek care or even translation help from others of their same nationality or language. The immigrant communities are very tight-knit and often attach great stigma to a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. Traditional healers and medicines are also seen as spiritual ties while the U.S. health care system is seen as cold, impersonal and bureaucratic. Poverty also creates its own barriers to medical adherence.

Jane Beddoe, Director of Client Services, for N. Virginia AIDS Ministry, reported that poverty and domestic violence lead to a high incidence of HIV/AIDS among women of color. Lack of health insurance and jobs with no sick leave contribute to a lack of adherence to medication guidelines. HIV/AIDS among women impacts the many children and older adults for whom they provide care.

Lori McLean, RN, described the work of the 4 outreach and treatment teams of the Fairfax Health Department's Homeless Healthcare Program. While they deal with many diseases and conditions, each team has from 1 to 6 patients with HIV/AIDS. They work in the homeless shelters, hypothermia centers and daytime drop-in centers in

each region of the county, establishing rapport and finding medical homes for regular care for clients. Staff often go to soup kitchens and on meal delivery vans and will go near encampment sites if invited or escorted. The Homeless Healthcare staff are particularly proud of the success of SOAR, Virginia's pilot SSI/SSDI Outreach Access project, through which 70% of applicants for financial assistance for permanent disabilities are approved within 70 days (vs. months for all applicants). SOAR is gradually expanding to other parts of the state.

Follow-up questions included:

- How does Fairfax retain the chronically homeless in care?

It is very difficult to engage them in any care until they are really sick. They will reach out to trusted health care workers at that point.

- Does Fairfax offer testing and treatment at point of contact?

Staff strongly prefer to use regular testing sites. They try not to test in the outdoors or other unsanitary conditions, but will occasionally draw blood samples.

- How does ECDC transition African immigrants into more umbrella HIV/AIDS service organizations?

Usually they will escort clients after they are willing to change providers.

- What percentage of African immigrants in the US has HIV/AIDS?

Statistics are not available. The CDC does not collect data on incidence by ethnicity, only on the larger group of African Americans or Black Americans.

Phillip Bailey asked agencies to encourage female clients to become part of the Consortium and the PWA Committee. He will try to arrange mentoring and transportation if they are within suburban Virginia.

PROFILES PROJECT FOR THE METRO AREA:

Emily Gantz McKay of Mosaica reported on the data they had gathered on the HIV/AIDS education, prevention, testing, and care structures, funding and service delivery in local health districts in No. Virginia (Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William) and Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland. This data will document the extent of variation among jurisdictions and be used by local advocates in public health policy work.

Key findings include:

- Insufficient prevention and community testing;
- Inconsistent, often timid school-based HIV prevention education
- Very little parity, choice, or portability of care across jurisdictions
- Lack of coordination between safety net clinics and HIV-medical providers
- Medical care and medications are quickly available – high quality but limited choice
- HIV/AIDS is now a chronic disease – across the US, 56,000 people are infected every year while 14,500 die; some of the remaining 41,500 infected will need care for 30 years.

The Regional Primary Care Coalition, one of the profiles funders, will follow up with a regional meeting unveiling findings by county and region and placing them on websites early in 2010. They are also expected to make grants available to two nonprofits for continued policy work.

Follow-up questions included:

- What are HRSA's thoughts on peer advocacy in the new Ryan White extension act under consideration in Congress?

Community health care workers will be essential to delivering chronic care to people with HIV/AIDS. There is greatly renewed interest. Mosaica has funding to help local planning bodies adopt models of integrating HIV-positive peers into all levels of care from Early Intervention to clinical medical care.

- Increasing numbers of people are getting information from 2-1-1 information and referral services. What are you doing to insure that 2-1-1 staff have good continuity of care and prevention information?

Mosaica will have to look into this.

PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT

David Hoover reported that the application for the next year of Ryan White funding has been sent to HRSA, the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, by the DC HIV/AIDS Administration.

VDH UPDATES

- Two new staff were introduced: Rhonda Thissen, MSW, the new contract Monitor for Northern Virginia; and Mary Browder, the new contract Monitor for the Northwest Virginia Consortium. Jennifer Flannigan, who was unable to attend, is new to the ADAP program. VDH is hiring three new Service Coordinators.
- 2010 – 2011 application for funding is being prepared and the public hearings have been completed.
- Centralized eligibility for ADAP is now operating in Prince William, Henrico County, Lynchburg, Hampton and the peninsula.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs Committee

AIDS Awareness Day at the Virginia General Assembly will be Wednesday, Feb. 3 starting with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Susan Carr will check into getting a discount rate at a Richmond hotel. Sue Rowland will see if this event can be coordinated with the Virginia Nurses Association's Nurses' Day.

Ad Hoc Orientation

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

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Lucy Lawrence introduced their new Co-Chair, Rene Prior Johnson of IJP.

OLD BUSINESS – WORLD AIDS DAY DECEMBER 1, 2009

- George Mason University hosted over 800 panels of the AIDS Quilt and tested over 100 individuals. Many students attended to be reminded of, and educated about, the impact of HIV/AIDS.
- FAHASS sponsored an interfaith worship service with six congregations; 50 people attended.
- A.R.E. co-sponsored two events in Winchester: one with the Shenandoah Arts Council (50 people) and one with Shenandoah University (about 250 attended).
- Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS Recognition awards that day went to Jane Beddoe of NOVAM; Sue Rowland of VORA; Roy Berkowitz of INOVA; and Roger Pollard of the Alexandria Parks and Rec. Dept.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- January and February Executive Committee meetings will be rescheduled as they fall on federal holidays
- January 7 Consortium
- February 4 Orientation to the Consortium and planning for HIV/AIDS services in Suburban Virginia. The session will be held at NVRC following the Consortium meeting. Lunch plans TBD.

Minutes Approved as Written With Corrections

Tylee Smith

Date