

**HIV Consortium Meeting
March 4, 2010
Summary Minutes**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 6 - Food and Friends will participate in a National Black HIV/AIDS Day event in the Ft. Totten area from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- March 6 - Susan Fay of the Fairfax County Health Dept. reported that the Northern Virginia Clergy Council to Prevent HIV will meet on March 6 at the Vienna First Baptist Church, 450 Orchard St. They will focus on African-American men.
- March 18 - David Hoover announced that a FACTS training will be held at Inova Juniper (IJP) in Springfield
- April 26 and 27 - AIDS Watch will be in Washington, DC. Monday will be an all-day training on HIV/AIDS issues and Tuesday will be spent visiting members of Congress and their staffs.
- Karen Berube announced that the renovation of the IJP Arlington clinic has been completed and a new LPN and Social Worker hired. The Manassas clinic nurse has also been hired. They still need a clinic nurse in Springfield.
- May 18 – IJP will host seven hours of training on SSI/SSDI (federal Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance) disability determination.

OPEN MIKE

No one asked to speak.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of February 4, 2010, were amended to show AIDS Watch would be April 26 and 27. The minutes were then approved.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

2009 Changes to Virginia's Healthcare Decisions Act

Rhonda Thissen, HIV Services Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Health, described several changes resulting from the Commission on Mental Health Law Reform. There are additional legal protections for those with mental illness or dementia, including advance psychiatric care directives. Many different types of health care decisions are now covered, not just end-of-life issues.

Legal Services of Northern Virginia assisted with some of the discussion and invited anyone wanting further information to attend one of their monthly clinics on wills presented by Exxon-Mobil attorneys. They will also present to the PWA Committee here on March 17.

VENDOR PROFILES:

Legal Services of Northern Virginia

Rhonda Mail, Outreach Paralegal for LSNV presented an overview of their services. They do not take criminal or contingency award cases, but provide legal assistance to families and individuals who face the loss of food, shelter, medical care, income, education, family stability or personal safety. They have a very good record of getting disability benefits for those they assist with filing. Their HIV/AIDS assistance, funded by HOPWA and Ryan White, is available to anyone with the diagnosis.

LSNV has funding from several sources with varying eligibility requirements and an extensive network of volunteer attorneys. They prefer to get referrals from anyone needing legal assistance as they may be able to match the person with an outside source of help if they cannot take the case themselves.

Mary Washington Healthcare (formerly MediCorp)

Brinda Ross-Lee, Project Coordinator, described the medical staff and services of Infectious Disease Associates, the practice that administers Ryan White grants for medical services to people living with HIV/AIDS. They currently

have 267 HIV clients, ranging in age from 18 – 72. Their patients can access some assistance for co-payments and for transportation through Mary Washington Hospital.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT REPORT

Michelle Simmons of NVRC, asked for reconsideration of some of the spending allocations made last year for the coming year. She reported that a review of preliminary financial information at the end of the Part A grant year showed rapid and dramatic growth spending in pharmaceutical assistance and co-payment assistance. Rhonda Thissen reported that the SPAP, the State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, has been cut in the upcoming Virginia budget, resulting in the transfer of 65 SPAP clients to ADAP. This is the time of the year that the Planning Council expects adjustments to allocations.

Motion #1:

David Hoover moved that the sense of this meeting was that funds should be reallocated into co-payment assistance and that the Consortium empowers the Executive Committee to make the detailed and final decisions. Bob Atkins seconded. The motion as passed with one abstention and no negative votes.

Michelle also reported that requests to vendors for estimated year-end financial needs resulted in requests for an additional \$750,000 but anticipated returns of only \$250,000. The final budget reallocation request must be reported to HAHSTA, DC's HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and TB Administration by March 15.

The contractors meeting to consider CAREWare software, cancelled due to snow February 15, has not been rescheduled. The Virginia Department of Health will be requesting Technical Assistance from HRSA through their Project Officer. The contractors meeting will be rescheduled once we know when that site visit will take place.

PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT

David Hoover recognized the other members from Northern Virginia: Wade MeNear, Keith Callahan, and Robert Smith. Laurence Smith is the new chair of the Planning Council. There was a new member orientation all day this past Saturday. Jurisdictions are no longer allocated seats. People from Virginia are welcome to apply, but formal appointments are made by the DC Mayor's office. Standards for Primary Care, citing sources of national standards, were adopted although some revisions will be submitted. Medical Case Management standards will be considered next. Michelle Simmons will send out the preliminary guidance again. The Northern Virginia vendors offering Medical Case Management will be asked to work with Julia Hidalgo, our Quality Consultant, to compare these to Virginia's Part B Medical Case Management standards.

Carol Jameson asked for a discussion at the next Consortium meeting on how to support their work so more Virginia input goes into Planning Council decisions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Primary Care Committee

Beth Robinson, the new Chair, will discuss with Jane Beddoe the possibility of a joint meeting with Case Management.

Incarceration Committee

Dave Coman, Chair, announced that they will meet immediately after the Consortium.

PWA Committee

Robert Smith, Chair, requested all providers to help invite women to join this committee. There are currently no female members.

Motion #2:

Ron Scheraga submitted the committee's motion "Amend the Bylaws in all respects to replace "PWA" (People with AIDS) in the name of the committee be changed to "PLWH" (People Living with HIV)." Since notice of changes to the Bylaws must be given in the call to any meeting where such changes will be considered, this item will be placed on the agenda of the April 1 meeting of the Consortium.

VDH UPDATES

- Rhonda Thissen, MSW, the contract monitor for Northern Virginia; reported that SPAP, the State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, has been cut in the upcoming Virginia budget, resulting in the transfer of 63 SPAP clients to ADAP. There may be a waiting list for ADAP in the future.
- VDH submitted their application for next year's Part B funding. It includes more emphasis on prevention, outreach and testing.
- Arlington's transition to centralized eligibility for ADAP, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, is going well.
- Cuts in Medicaid will have a major impact on Ryan White services.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- March 15 at 1 p.m. Executive Committee – returning to our regular schedule of the 3rd Monday of the month.
- April 1 at 10:00 a.m. Consortium. The upcoming planning process for priorities and allocation of funding will be the primary topic of discussion.

Minutes ___ Approved as Written ___ With Corrections

Tylee Smith

Date