

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Jameson asked that we join NOVAM's moment of silence at 12 noon today in memory of Tyler Clementi, the Rutgers University freshman who killed himself after an intimate encounter was video streamed over the internet without his prior knowledge or consent.

Bob Atkins reported that Sue Rowland of VORA (Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS) and Kathie Hafford, of the Virginia Department of Health, testified before the Virginia Legislature's Joint Commission on Health Care yesterday. Their report will be emailed to Consortium members and the Joint Commission's request for further comments will be posted on NVRC's HIV/AIDS Resources website

Karen Berube announced that Inova Juniper (IJP) had openings for a Social Worker at the Arlington clinic and a Nurse Case Manager at the Springfield clinic.

Phillip Bailey reported that Laird Peterson, head of the Fan Free Clinic in Richmond and Chair of the Central Virginia HIV/AIDS Consortium, died this week.

David Hoover announced that Roy Berkowitz is returning to work at IJP.

OPEN MIKE

Mike Hughes commented on recent research showing that PLWH (people living with HIV) over age 50 had much more severe health issues than younger PLWH.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of September 2010 were approved as submitted.

OVERVIEW OF THE CONSORTIUM

At the request of the incoming chair, David Hoover described the purposes and operations of the Consortium. He also described the relationship between the Ryan White Part A, MAI, and Part B and HOPWA programs and the grantees for these programs: the HIV Care Services (HCS) Unit of the Virginia Department of Health for Part B and HAHSTA in the District of Columbia Dept. of Health for all the other programs. The Consortium advises NVRC and the Virginia Department of Health on HIV/AIDS services in Suburban Virginia. It operates under *Robert's Rules of Order*. A formal orientation to the Consortium is held annually. As questions arise in the interim, members may consult the Consortium's Orientation Manual online at www.novaregion.org/nvhcmanual. The times, dates, and places of committee meetings can be found on the reverse of each month's agenda & also on the online calendar at www.novaregion.org/hiv.

VIRGINIA ADAP SUPPORT PLAN

Michelle Simmons, Human Services Division Director at NVRC, presented a summary of the discussions of the Consortium's Executive Committee around the growing funding crisis with the state AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). The Executive Committee recommended that NVRC:

- Hold back \$110,000 in overlapping 2009-10/2010-11 MAI funds for use on ADAP rather than a dental blitz;
- Shift approximately \$90,000 from Ryan White non-core service contracts to be funded by HOPWA in the supportive services category;
- Find another \$70,000 to \$100,000 from usual, end of year reprogrammed costs in Ryan White to re-direct to ADAP maintenance.

Diana Jordan, Director, HIV Care Services of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), reported that VDH has asked the DC Department of Health, the Part A grantee, for funds to avert more drastic ADAP cuts in Virginia. She was present at the Executive Committee and here today to answer questions. She stated that VDH will be making a

final decision on several state ADAP cost-saving measures in the next 7 to 10 days. Their goal will be to not interrupt medical therapy already underway. If VDH is able to secure enough funding for ADAP, they will revisit with the Consortium whether a portion of the funds we donate for ADAP can be returned.

In addition to the proposals endorsed by the Executive Committee, two other means of stretching ADAP funds were identified:

- PLWHs can use the compassionate care programs of the various pharmaceutical companies for any of their eligible medications, not just the ones on the ADAP formulary (local offices of Northern Virginia Family Service can assist with these applications); and
- PLWHs with Medicare and ADAP should call PSI (Patient Services Inc.) the central eligibility service for ADAP. PSI can maximize the use of federal funds to conserve ADAP for those without Medicare.

The Consortium adopted the Executive Committee recommendations with the understanding that NVRC will have to seek approval from the Financial Oversight & Allocations Committee and from the Planning Council. The vote was 31 in favor; 0 against; 0 abstentions.

PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT

David Hoover reported that RFA for Ryan White 2012 funding has been released. An overarching issue is new and tighter reporting requirements imposed by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Phillip Bailey asked about an emphasis on peer navigators. Debbie Bowers noted that the Northern Virginia RFA includes ongoing funding for Early Intervention Services (EIS). Michelle Simmons encouraged potential applicants to apply as HRSA is strongly encouraging funding of both EIS and Early Identification of Individuals with HIV/AIDS (EIIHA, pronounced EE-ha). This is defined as the identifying, counseling, testing, informing and referring of diagnosed and undiagnosed individuals to appropriate services, as well as linking newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS positive individuals to care. The funding cycle for next year will be even more focused on these two services.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Case Management and Support Services

Jane Beddoe summarized the committee's efforts to survey HIV/AIDS service providers about the ways they coordinate with each other. The committee is also collecting examples of intake forms in an effort to arrive at a common understanding of the information necessary to collect.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

David Hoover reported for the Co-Chair that the committee will meet on the 3rd Friday, still at 11:00 a.m. at Inova.

Prevention and Education Committee

Nechelle Terrell stated that the committee will participate in the Metro Latino AIDS Coalition Awards in recognition of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day on October 15. The committee is also supporting NOVAM in developing a Regional Prevention Plan as part of a grant received from Washington AIDS Partnership. The committee will provide the consortium with information on a proposed fall training as it develops.

Public Affairs

The presentation from Michele Chesser of the Virginia Legislature's Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC) at the VORA (Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS) annual meeting can be found at <http://www.voraonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/frmView.pdf>.

Incarceration Issues/Discharge Planning

Dave Coman, Chair, sent in a report that the King George Department of Social Services' Reentry Program has received a grant from the federal Second Chance Act to serve 36 hard-to-place parolees with housing and employment and other services. The grant amounts to \$175,000. He also reported that the Governor's Reentry Council's proposal that "all persons leaving state prisons and local jails be tested for HIV/AIDS prior to discharge" had been sent to the Governor.

VDH UPDATES

- Shelly Taylor-Donahue reported for Pam Whitaker that they have been working with NVRC and the Part A grantee on the demographic and epidemiological info needed for their Part A application. They are also working on Virginia's Part B application for 2011-12 that is due to HRSA in January.
- The HIV/AIDS Care Services unit has interviewed to fill two staff vacancies: HIV Services Coordinator (contract monitor) and a lead HIV Services Coordinator.
- Comments on the JCHC's recommendations for HIV/AIDS care services are being solicited until October 22. The report can be found through the link under the Public Affairs Committee report.
- A public hearing will be held here after the Nov. Consortium meeting. VDH is also looking for opportunities to meet with existing groups of consumers for feedback.
- A Virginia HIV/AIDS Housing group has been formed with teleconference meetings to explore options for housing for PLWH.
- The Division of Disease Prevention has an in-house partnership group to develop better linkages between programs in different funding streams in order to quantify and reach PLWHs who are out-of-care, lost-to-care, in need of EIHA.
- There will be a Quality Management Summit on Nov. 9 in Richmond with national presenters. It is mandatory for all contractors' and lead agencies' Quality Managers and Data Managers. A flyer was distributed.

NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT UPDATES

- Michelle Simmons reported that NVRC staff has been assisting in the writing of the DC Part A application.
- The Virginia Ryan White Cross-Part Quality group met last week. A review of the annual RSR (Ryan White Services Report) reveals low rates of reported routine screening for syphilis and other STDs. This will be the focus for the next quality measure. There will be one or two meetings of providers in Northern/Northwest Virginia. The goal will be to learn of the importance of these tests and reporting them correctly and for each organization to adopt internal goals for improving their testing rates.

NEW BUSINESS

- A member of the Consortium asked about coordinating services with a service provider and was directed to contact the provider directly.
- Another member asked for information on the impact of health care reform. This will be the topic for a future meeting. Another topic could be the revision of Social Security disability definitions that will affect PLWH.
- The meeting ended with a moment of silence at 12 noon, part of an effort promoted by NOVAM in memory of Tyler Clementi.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- October 18, 2010 Executive Committee meeting
- November 4, 2010 Consortium

Minutes ___ Approved as Written ___ With Corrections

Tylee Smith

Date