

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. The next "The Facts" training will be December 2, at IJP Springfield.

Bob Atkins reminded everyone to get their flu shot.

Irma Jones announced that Legal Services of Northern Virginia is currently holding their fall Public Benefits outreach trainings. Contact LSNV for a list of locations or to request a training, which can be held at your site.

OPEN MIKE

No PLWH indicated a wish to address the Consortium.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of October 7, 2010 were approved as submitted.

OVERVIEW OF THE HOPWA (HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS) PROGRAM IN SUBURBAN VIRGINIA

Staff from the Northern Virginia Regional Commission described the HOPWA program. Tylee Smith began with a map of the service areas of the nearest HOPWA providers and an explanation of the different HOPWA services. Jim Simpson shared some data on the numbers of people served through NVRC's programs. Michelle Simmons briefly described the Commission's waiting list and grievance policies and procedures and requested comments on several proposed changes. A number of questions were raised, including what should happen to someone from Arlington or Prince William, where there are locally-administered programs granting vouchers for housing within their boundaries, if a resident rose to the top of the list but didn't wish to live there. Currently they are kept on the wait list, but moved to the bottom. Another issue was why some people who make it to the top of the list don't get a voucher. The response was that all eligibility screening happens after someone reaches the top of the list. PLWHs may have too much income or a criminal background with sex or drug offenses or pending criminal charges. Other types of criminal offenses are usually ignored if they are more than two years old. Not everyone who gets a voucher is able to locate suitable housing. Outlines of Suburban Virginia's HOPWA services can be found at www.novaregion.org/hiv, then clicking on Housing Resources at the top.

Publishing the HOPWA Pre-Application in Spanish was suggested. Michelle Simmons suggested that it is often faster to look for project-based subsidized housing and apply directly to those property managers than to wait for a HOPWA voucher. At the request of the Consortium, an update on HOPWA will now be a standard agenda item.

More comments were invited. Tylee Smith will email out the policies distributed with a deadline for comments.

VIRGINIA ADAP SUPPORT PLAN

Michelle Simmons, Human Services Division Director at NVRC, also reported on ADAP cost-containment measures. The Part A and HOPWA Grantee, DC Dept. of Health HAHSTA, did not allow the transfer of all the Part A HIV/AIDS support services, discussed at the October meeting, to HOPWA funding. Instead, only those services that had been included in the current HOPWA Spending Plan were allowed. These included Case Management and Legal Services. HAHSTA has requested a waiver from HUD to allow transfer of additional services.

PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT

David Hoover reported that the Planning Council had accepted Virginia's ADAP reallocation plan and passed it on to HAHSTA. He also reported that DC's Medicaid program, "Alliance", had such a generous income eligibility standard that people within 140% of poverty were not eligible for Ryan White as they were covered by Alliance. HAHSTA has reinforced its demand for formal, documented eligibility determinations by Ryan White vendors for Ryan White clients

VDH UPDATES

- Steve Bailey, Assistant Director of Health Care Services at VDH, stated that the HRSA Part B Project Officer was concerned about the ADAP crisis, which is occurring in eight other states along with Virginia. Decisions on the cost-saving recommendations of Virginia's ADAP Advisory Panel are expected within the week. He stressed that the medications that will no longer be provided are all available through other programs, primarily the Patient Assistance Programs operated by pharmaceutical companies. This includes all the Hepatitis C drugs. Carol Jameson added that Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) had prescription assistance programs in each jurisdiction they served. Using software provided by the Virginia Healthcare Foundation, they can help PLWHs locate and apply for prescriptions at reduced costs. She asked whether the Consortium would like to have a speaker from NVFS and from NovaScripts describe some of the options for medications.
- Karen Berube asked about Primary Medical Care Providers who non-Health Depts.' difficulties with the transfer of all ADAP clients to the consolidated intake system operated by PSI, Inc. She stated that people were falling out of ADAP unintentionally. Allowing medical personnel and case managers "view only" access to PSI screens was the quickest way to resolve questions about eligibility. Jennifer Flannigan of the Virginia Department of Health offered to work with IJP sites.
- 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 at the Oct. Consortium meeting.
- The quarterly contractors' meeting will be Nov. 10 in Richmond.
- There will be a public meeting to discuss the delivery of HIV/AIDS services immediately after the Consortium. Written comments are welcome.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Incarceration Issues/Discharge Planning

Dave Coman, Chair, reported that the Governor's Reentry Council had met with the Governor's office two weeks ago. They were waiting for a decision on their proposal that "all persons leaving state prisons and local jails be tested for HIV/AIDS and will be referred to services prior to discharge".

Public Affairs

February 2 will be AIDS Awareness Day for the Virginia legislature. Consortium members are encouraged to contact their representatives or plan to go to Richmond that day to educate members on the way that state HIV policies and budgets affect PLWHs.

Bob Atkins reported that the Consortium's comments on the HIV/AIDS care recommendations of the Joint Legislative Committee on Health Care were one of four received. The Joint Committee has endorsed the report with its recommendation for increased funding for ADAP, although no specific amount was mentioned.

Primary Medical Care

The committee will meet at 12:30 in the Potomac Room.

NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT UPDATES

- Michelle Simmons reported that applications for funding Ryan White services for the 2011-2012 grant year had been received. NVRC expects to readvertize the opportunity for Early Intervention Services and there may be others needed as well.

NEW BUSINESS

- Bob Atkins announced that the federal Dept. of Health and Human Services has a new website for researching and downloading indicators and other information from the Healthy People 2020 study. It will be helpful to agencies writing grant applications: <http://www.healthypeople.gov>.
- Karen Berube introduced Blanca Siles, the new Consumer Advocate for IJP.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- November 15, 2010 Executive Committee meeting
- December 2, 2010 Consortium

Minutes ___ Approved as Written ___ With Corrections

Tylee Smith

Date