

**HIV Consortium Meeting  
March 3, 2011  
Summary Minutes**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

David Hoover invited everyone to the HIV Prevention Faith Summit to be held this Saturday from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Vienna. Inova is participating along with the Northern Virginia Clergy Council.

Tim Agar reminded everyone of K. I. Services' new address, 25 S. Quaker Lane. This is around the corner from their previous address.

Karen Cebula handed out paper flyers that described, for each the Northern Virginia Family Service offices, the assistance available for applying for pharmaceutical companies' Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs). Their services vary slightly based on staffing.

**OPEN MIKE**

Jan-Hendrik Van Leeuwen reported that he and Phillip Bailey had tracked down the formula on which ADAP, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, funding was allocated to states: the number of HIV/AIDS cases. Congress could change this formula if they could be convinced that it discriminated against PLWH living in states with less robust state-funded health care.

Mike Hughes informed the Consortium of the over 2,000 PLWH on the Florida ADAP waiting list.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of February 3, 2011 were approved as submitted.

**TIPS FOR SPEAKING WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES**

Barbara J. Gordon, Communications Director, City of Falls Church, offered the benefit of her experience. She emphasized that "media" now covered not just newspapers, radio and TV, but now blogs, Facebook and other social media. News is now "published" around the clock. She adapted the old saying "*Never pick a fight with someone who buys ink by the barrel, paper by the ton, or owns an FCC broadcasting license.*"....*or operates a blog, a Facebook page....etc.*" If you are quoted incorrectly or find errors of fact in a story, try to contact the reporter directly rather than responding publicly. She advocated responding to media inquiries as quickly as possible, even if you don't have all the facts. Be honest. Offer to get back to the reporter if you don't know the answer. Stay positive and know the message you are trying to get out.

**PLAN FOR ASSESSING HIV/AIDS NEEDS IN SUBURBAN VIRGINIA**

Michelle Simmons, Director of Human Services for NVRC, explained that the Planning Council will be using a new contractor, Mosaica, to lead the Part A Needs Assessment. They are looking at a simpler procedure since across the U.S. priorities do not change much from year to year. Mosaica will be doing more extensive analysis of data collected in previous years. They propose focus groups and delving in depth in three areas: those over 55; Latinas; and those born in Africa.

The Consortium has more flexibility in defining how to conduct needs assessments for Part B funds. Some of the areas suggested for further investigation are: those exchanging sex for drugs; medical literacy; those 40 – 50 years of age and resuming dating; the impact of moving PLWH off ADAP to working with Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs); backlash against those who are bilingual; the impact of testing arriving immigrants for HIV; those who believe that by getting HIV they can get free housing & health care. The Virginia Department of Health Newcomer Health Coordinator could be a resource in some of these areas. The Regional Prevention Plan being developed by NOVAM could be another resource since they have conducted many interviews.

**PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT**

The Planning Council did not meet in January since there was heavy snow that evening. Wade Menear reported that Suburban Virginia received a big increase in our Part A allocation for the current year.

#### **ANHSI TRANSITION AT THE ALEXANDRIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Debbie Bowers reported that Errol Chin-Loy had resigned from ANHSI to take a position in Arlington. In the first two months of operation at the Casey Clinic, ANHSI had served 114 of the 178 clients transferring from the Casey Clinic. Christine Peter, R.N., is the Acting Director of Clinical Operations in place of Errol Chin-Loy. The Executive Director of ANHSI will be leaving the end of June.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

##### ***Prevention and Education***

Nechelle Terrell announced that the committee is will meet March 11 at the Arlington Health Department with a speaker on Outreach.

##### ***Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services***

The committee will focus on speakers and training providers.

##### ***Public Affairs***

AIDSWatch visited all 11 Members of Congress and both Senators from Virginia, or their aides, during the recent membership event. V.O.R.A. and those who visited the Virginia General Assembly during the February AIDS Awareness Day had a big impact in on getting consideration of a Budget Amendment using state funds to supplement ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) in its funding crisis.

#### **VDH UPDATES**

- Diana Jordan, Director, HIV Care Services for the Virginia Department of Health, reported that the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will initially award only partial funding (about half of the current year) for Part B Ryan White Services for the year starting April 1. VDH is working to catch up on their contracting for these funds. Remaining funds will be awarded once the federal budget has been adopted.
- Diana Jordan also, reported that 472 people are now on Virginia's ADAP waitlist and most of them are new applicants. VDH is working with [www.welvista.org](http://www.welvista.org) to begin serving Virginia. Welvista offers access to HIV medications to those currently on state ADAP waiting lists and simplifies access to medications rather than the standard patient assistance program (PAP) processes. However a state must first license Welvista. Welvista is currently working on the huge backlog in Florida and adding services to several other states.
- The next step with ADAP will be a review of the eligibility of current recipients.
- The DC Planning Council's Care Strategies, Coordination & Standards Committee needs representation from Virginia. They meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.
- The VDH online Resource and Referral Guide will soon be available at <http://bit.ly/vdhrfg>.
- VDH has submitted applications for two federal grants:
  1. for enhanced data technology for ADAP; and
  2. "System Linkages and Access to Care for Populations at High Risk of HIV Infection". Up to 8 states will each receive grants of up to \$1 million per year for four years.

#### **NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT UPDATES**

- Michelle Simmons presented information on suggested allocations of the new \$ 642,253 for Part A Ryan White services just announced. A spreadsheet showing possible distribution among service categories was distributed.
- Michelle Simmons asked that the Executive Committee meet on March 7 to complete consideration of this funding request. This would allow NVRC to meet the deadlines for the DC Financial Oversight & Allocations Committee, which must approve the plan.

#### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

- April 7, 2011 Consortium
- April 18, 2011 Executive Committee meeting
- February 1, 2012 AIDS Awareness Day at the Virginia General Assembly

Minutes \_\_\_ Approved as Written \_\_\_ With Corrections

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Tylee Smith

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Date