

**HIV Consortium Meeting  
April 7, 2011  
Summary Minutes**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Karen Berube introduced the new Consumer Advocate for the Inova Juniper Program, Erin Homiak. Erin announced that there will be a Consumer Advocate Network meeting at IJP in June. Details will be available soon.

Wade Menear announced that Gussie Feaganes, who frequently attends Consortium with him, was in Fairfax Hospital. He passed around a card for members to sign.

Michelle Simmons mentioned a communication from the Planning Council asking for signatures for a petition in support of World AIDS Day that will be held in DC in 2012. She will see that it is forwarded to Consortium members.

David Hoover invited everyone to the Inova Juniper Program (IJP) session on syphilis at their Springfield training center on Tuesday, April 26, at 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE TO HONOR ELIZABETH TAYLOR AND RON WILDER**

Ms. Taylor died recently and had made significant contributions to the fight against AIDS around the world. Ron Wilder had represented Food and Friends at our Consortium before moving to California, where he died of cancer.

**OPEN MIKE**

Phillip Bailey spoke on behalf of the PLWH Committee to acknowledge two members: Tom Decker from Virginia who spoke at the Congressional hearing on the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) cutbacks, and Robert Smith who worked very hard to find funds to bury another member, Sasha Rosario, age 30, after she recently died. He asked Tom to repeat his testimony for the Consortium. Tom spoke as a VIRGINIA ADAP client recently disenrolled due to budget cutbacks.

Phillip asked if a Go To list of resources for indigent burials could be put together. Erin will start a draft as this type of help is highly local. Ron Scheraga asked if a similar list could be put together on social networks for PLWH.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of March 3, 2011 were approved with one correction on the top of page 2: Errol Chin-Loy's new position is in Arlington not Alexandria.

**PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT**

David Hoover reported that the Planning Council's big concern is funding issues with the end of one fiscal year and the beginning of a new one. Recent conversations about ADAP cut-backs in Virginia have been focused on trying to understand whether those disenrolled are getting medications through other mechanisms. They will be pulling together a small planning work group that will involve people on the front lines that will try to get numbers of those affected. Mental Health Standards were approved.

**ANHSI TRANSITION AT THE ALEXANDRIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Debbie Bowers reported that services are continuing at the Casey Clinic under the new partnership with ANHSI but there are still some areas where plans are being rethought. IJP's AIDS Education Training Center is actively involved in training both front line and clinical staff. They can do grants management training as well.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

***Prevention and Education***

Nechelle Terrell announced that the committee will meet April 8 at IJP. They are cosponsoring the Rainbow Clinic's Open House at the Alexandria Health Department on Tuesday April 26. Rainbow Tuesdays Clinics are STI/STD clinics targeted to the gay, bisexual and transgender community.

### ***Public Affairs***

David Hoover requested that everyone call their Congressional Representative and Senators with the message that a government shutdown will affect your Medicaid, Medicare, Ryan White and other benefits and is unacceptable.

### ***Incarceration***

David Coman reported that the Virginia state government is moving ahead on an extensive redesign of the Dept. of Corrections (DOC). One change will be the mandatory testing of all 33,000 people being released in state prisons and those being held in local jails under the authority of the DOC. There will be five release centers around the state. All those returning to Northern Virginia will be processed through the Coffeewood Correctional Center in Culpeper County, which will become strictly a reentry facility. There is no funding for this testing. Following up with treatment from a service provider at their destination and avoiding putting communities at risk by engaging in unprotected sex will be part of the release conditions of those testing positive.

### **VDH UPDATES**

- Hunter Robertson reported that the Ryan White Part B eligibility guidelines have been updated to reflect the 2011 Federal Poverty Guidelines and are now available on [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov).
- Contractor guidelines are being updated as well, although there are no major changes.
- The Gay and Bisexual Men of Color Committee will meet in Richmond on Saturday, April 30. Shantelle Taylor from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) will be staffing the group. They plan a meeting in May in our Northern region. Day, time and location to be announced.
- ADAP wait list as of April 1 was 579. The number is updated each Friday and is available on [www.nasdad.org](http://www.nasdad.org)

### **NVRC ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT UPDATES**

- Michelle Simmons announced that the Planning Council approved the proposed Suburban Virginia reallocation of 2011-2012 funds among service categories. The contracts for 2011-2012 Part A services have been sent to the service providers. The contracts are for a full year of funding even though HRSA is still operating on a Continuing Resolution without approval of its own budget. NVRC will use the same procedures when Part B funds are available.

The approved Part A budget includes some unawarded funds for local AIDS drug assistance and for Early Intervention services. The Virginia experience of using pharmaceutical companies' Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs) to supplement or substitute for state ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) will be informative for the District of Columbia where PAPs are rarely used for HIV/AIDS drugs. Suburban Virginia providers should quantify the value of PAPs and the staff costs involved in filing applications & monitoring client usage. The Primary Medical Committee will probably be asked to compile this information and to provide representation to the Planning Council Virginia ADAP study committee.

### **HOPWA UPDATE**

- Jim Simpson announced that a Request for Applications will be going out for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) vendor for the greater Fredericksburg area and HUD-mandated housing counseling. HOPWA added 15 people to the regional HOPWA waiting list in the last month and 6 have found housing.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Marco Zurita, Outreach Liaison with MMG a global patient recruitment and retention group for clinical trials offered by NIH Institutes, including NIID, all sizes of pharmaceutical and biotech companies. There is a new trial for Hepatitis-C patients for whom current treatments are not working. People desiring information on clinical trials, especially the treatment naïve and/or very sick, should contact Marco (phone 301-518-2995 and email [mzurita@mmgct.com](mailto:mzurita@mmgct.com)) about possible free treatment. Those accepted must meet the criteria set by specific clinical trials.
- Suzanne Dorick of the Fairfax County Health Dept. is looking for resources nPEP, non-professional post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV, usually survivors of sexual assault but also heterosexual partners of PLWH. Within 72-hours these people must be put on medication costing about \$1,300 for 4 weeks. She has not found a resource to pay for those without insurance. Resources for those resistant to one or more of the nPEP prophylaxis medications are also needed. Jeannie Rouche at Northern Virginia Family Service was suggested as a resource with extensive experience in medication access in general. Commonwealth Attorneys were suggested for crime victims.

- Karen Berube reminded everyone that Inova, through its Part C grant, offers prenatal care to pregnant HIV-positive women anywhere in Suburban Virginia. Almost 50% of their clients give birth in hospitals outside the Inova system since their nurses work with a patient's doctors wherever they are in the region. Inova is also aware of many other resources for this patient population. Anyone knowing a positive pregnant woman should put her in touch with Inova so she will get the very specialized care the baby needs.

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

- May 5, 2011 Consortium
- May 16, 2011 Executive Committee meeting
- June 15, 2011 Priority Setting for 2012 Ryan White Grant Year
- 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