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County Executive

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**TRI-COUNTY RYAN WHITE
HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT (of 2009)
PART A STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday May 11, 2011
Planned Parenthood, White Plains, NY**

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: V. Alvarez, A. Beltran-Ruggiero, B. Bento-Fleming, L. Bucknor, S. Carey (for R. Schiffrin), E. D'Aquino (for M. Shelley), M. Diaz, M. Donoghue, C. Douaihy, M. Fede (for T. Saari Aliotta), R. Maher, R. Meyer, N. Purvis (for L. Reid), S. Thomas, T. Otisi, J. Park (ex-off), J. Ruiz-Perez, S. Riordan, K. Scott, H. Sherwin, K. Slade, A. Straus, and G. Yarn

Members Absent: M. Bannister, C. Brazil, A. Hardman, B. Iardi, H. Jones, D. Kittel, P. McGovern, M. Piazza, and D. Scholar

Guests: D. Anderson (SJRH), R. Blain (MVNHC), D. Klotz (NYCDOHMH), J. Kim (LSHV), and P. Moorer (CHAIN)

Staff: F. Avellanet, L. Hakim, J. Lehane, and T. Petro

I. Approval of the April 13, 2011 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion (V. Alvarez, R. Maher) was approved to accept the meeting minutes of April 13, 2011 with two corrections:

1. Page 1 (top) add the names of the WCDH staff who were present; and
2. Page 2, add as last paragraph of "Scoring Year 21 Services Categories": *Back-up documentation was used during the scoring of services, i.e., a list of non-Ryan White funded services in the Tri-County region, and a Part A Service Summary with definitions of all services categories, a list of services provided, and the number of PLWHA served to date in Year 20.*

II. Introductions and Announcements

- Amida Care --- a Medicaid Managed Care HIV Special Needs Plan (SNP) --- is scheduled to present an informational forum at Planned Parenthood in White Plains on Friday May 13, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Westchester-based HIV primary care and social service case management providers should attend. There will be a discussion of the benefits of a SNP expanding into Westchester County.

- Phyllis Moorer from the CHAIN study is currently recruiting participants at TOUCH of Rockland County, Urban League of Westchester, and Westchester Medical Center. In June potential participants at Grace Church Community Center will be contacted as well.

III. Scoring Year 21 (3/1/11-2/29/12) Part A Service Categories (T. Petro)

It was suggested at the last Steering Committee (SC) meeting that members might vote differently when scoring service categories in the Tri-County region portfolio of services was done anonymously. Jan Park, NY Governmental HIV Planning Council Chair, and David Klotz, a NY Planning Council staff member, introduced a new anonymous electronic system that NYCDOHMH recently acquired. This computer-controlled system provides automatic and anonymous voting via hand-held devices recording votes, the results of which are projected on a large screen.

Following a demonstration and practice, the SC moved to review the service categories. Using the scoring tool developed by the Planning Council members, the SC was required to vote applying four possible scores (8, 5, 3, and 1) to three of five criteria: (1) Payer of Last Resort, (2) Access to and Maintenance in Care, and (3) Specific Gaps/Emerging Needs. The fourth criterion, “Consumer Priority” was scored by the PLWHA advocacy group, Living Together, whose scores will be added once the SC completes its votes. The fifth criterion, Core or Non-Core – which identifies the type of service category using HRSA definitions which are essentially medical (Core) versus support (Non-Core) services – was filled in by the WCDH staff.

There were 22 voting members present at the meeting. Early Intervention Services and Medical Case Management had been scored using a show of hands voting method at the last meeting. Both of these services were rescored and the other six service categories were scored for the first time using the new anonymous system. Support materials provided data and information which was updated from the April meeting for the discussion period of each service category. The materials included: 1) a list of non-Ryan White funded services in the Tri-County region, and 2) a Part A Service Summary with definitions of all services categories, a list of services provided, and the number of PLWHA served in Year 20. All members were reminded during the open discussion to disclose the name of their agency and identify if they currently receive any Part A funding.

All eight service categories were scored after considerable discussion. The results were as follows:

Service Category	Payer of Last Resort	Access to/Maintenance in Care	Consumer Priority	Service Gap/Emerging Need	Core/Non-Core Service
Early Intervention Services	3	5	1	1	8
Food and Nutrition	5	8	5	8	0
Housing Services	8	5	8	8	0
Legal Services	8	8	5	8	0
Medical Case Management	8	8	8	8	8
Medical Transportation	8	8	8	8	0
Mental Health Services	8	3	8	3	8
Oral Health	3	3	5	8	8

As the scoring progressed and more and more criteria received the highest possible score (8), the SC members were reminded that not all should be equally ranked, particularly regarding Ryan White Part A funds as the Payer of Last Resort. Committee members scored both medical case management and housing services with an 8 for Payer of Last Resort despite the fact that there are other non-Ryan White funding sources in the region.

During the discussion there was some disagreement as to the actual availability of those funds and the amounts. Members argued that Ryan White dollars were still necessary to provide the services and that without Ryan White funds the services would not be provided at all. It appeared that SC members may have misunderstood what Ryan White funds cover, and how Part A operates as the Payer of Last Resort.

Year 22 (3/1/12-2/28/13) HRSA Application Spending Plan (T. Petro)

Though the Year 21 award has not yet been received, discussion about Year 22 service priorities to be funded must begin at the June meeting and be finalized in July in order for the application writer to begin.

IV. Updates

Part A (T. Petro)

A total of \$162,286 in Year 20 underspending (\$152,807 Base + \$10,479 MAI) was reported and a vote will be taken up at the next meeting as to how it will be allocated, assuming it is to be carried over into Year 21 to off-set a predicted cut in funding.

Living Together (V. Alvarez/ G. Yarn)

The annual Living Together picnic will be held on Sunday, July 17 at FDR Park in Yorktown. This may be the last year for this outing since the Burns Foundation which supported the event is being dissolved. The LT picnic is one of the only outings wherein PLWHA in the Tri-County Region and their families have an opportunity to come together as a community and enjoy the summer fun.

Hudson Valley HIV Community Network (R. Maher)

The Network's meetings are being hosted at the ARCS Hawthorne and Newburgh offices via teleconference. Participation in the network is increasing, particularly in the mid-Hudson region, and several events are being planned. Anyone wanting more information about Network issues under consideration can soon log onto a dedicated Yahoo list-serve (in progress). For more information and for anyone who would like to receive emails about the work of the network in the interim, please contact Rob Maher at 845-268-8023.

Save the Dates

- Hudson Valley HIV Community Network Meetings May 23 & June 19, 10 AM – 12 PM.
- NYSDOH/AIDS Institute Listening Forum: June 23, Newburgh, 8:30 AM – 3 PM
- National HIV Testing Day: June 27

V. Federal Legislative Update

Jan Park will present the latest information at **the next Steering Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, at ARCS in Hawthorne.**