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County Executive

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Acting Commissioner of Health

**TRI-COUNTY RYAN WHITE  
HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT (of 2009)  
PART A STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, May 12, 2010  
Planned Parenthood, White Plains**

**A P P R O V E D M I N U T E S**

Members Present: V. Alvarez, B. Bennet, B. Bento-Fleming, C. Brazil, L. Bucknor, M. Donoghue, J. Kim (for C. Douaihy), B. Ilardi, M. Johnson, MD, H. Jones, D. Kittel, K. Palencia-Lau (for A. Beltran-Ruggiero), R. Meyer, R. Nathan, T. Otisi, J. Park, A. Pattie (for M. Piazza), J. Ruiz-Perez, N. Purvis (for L. Reid), S. Riordan, R. Schiffrin, D. Scholar, K. Scott, M. Shelley, H. Sherwin, A. Straus, S. Sullam, and G. Yarn

Members Absent: T. Saari-Aliotta, M. Bannister, A. Hardman, R. Leandre, R. Maher, J. McGovern, and K. Slade

Guests: D. Bell (CHAIN), H. Easterling (UL), J. Vasquez (UL), and S. Vidarte (GHS)

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

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**I. Approval of the March 10, 2010 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

A motion (B. Ilardi, A. Straus) to accept the meeting minutes of March 10, 2010 was approved with one abstention.

**II. Introductions/Announcements**

- Donna Bell reported that Cycle 2 of the Tri-County region (TCR) CHAIN study began on March 1, 2010 and will extend until February 29, 2012. The goal is to recruit 500 participants and complete at least 360 interviews. Cycle 1 (March 2008 thru February 2010) succeeded in completing 362 interviews. At present the CHAIN team is working to recruit participants with a number of agencies, including ARCS, Mt. Vernon HOPWA, Mt. Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, Sharing Community, and St. Joseph's Hospital.
- Andrea Beltran Ruggiero (ODFMC) had a baby boy on Tuesday 5/11/10. Renee Recchia (WCDH) also had a baby boy on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Both mothers and babies are doing well.
- Doug Capasso, former Director of HIV Services at Hudson River HealthCare, and long time member of the Part A Steering Committee, has taken ill again. Get well cards may be sent to Doug at home: 164 Fenimore Rd., Mamaroneck NY 10543.

- On June 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a kick-off event sponsored by Westchester's HIV Testing Taskforce promoting a three-year countywide testing initiative. The event will take place in White Plains and will include media coverage and testimonials from local PLWHA and others who have tested negative.
- The Yonkers AIDS Task Force Annual Symposium, held this month and facilitated by The Sharing Community, was well attended by both consumers and providers. The Sharing Community's annual Health Fair will be held on June 18th. A save-the-date notice will be out soon.

### **III. Updates**

#### **Living Together** (V. Alvarez)

- Victor continues to represent the TCR at the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (NYSDOH/AI) Quality Management meetings. NYSDOH/AI wants to include the input of consumers for improving HIV/AIDS care.
- The Living Together (LT) women's and men's adherence groups continue to be well attended. With the success of these two groups LT began a new adherence support group for "working people" which will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 pm. The "working people's" group will meet once per month during evening hours to accommodate people who are employed during the day. Location and future times TBD.
- The annual Living Together picnic will be held Saturday, June 19th at FDR Park in Yorktown. Over 175 Tri-County consumers and their families attended the picnic last year. For information contact Gerald Yarn at 914-937-2320 ext.129.

#### **Part B** (B. Bennet)

#### **Care Coordination Committee (CCC)**

##### **DSS Forums**

- CCC members are working with local DSS offices to coordinate meetings between providers and DSS staff to increase collaborations in maintaining benefits for the HIV positive community.
- The committee is working with Steve Riordan from Family Services and Jaime Ruiz from Sharing Community and Donald Freidman from Westchester DSS.
- A list of Westchester organizations has been compiled from the Network's database, and a follow up planning session is yet to be scheduled. Contact Network staff for the next call date.

##### **The Faith Initiative**

- CCC members are working with the CIC and the Faith community. The Faith Survey is being mailed this week to consumer members of the Network. Contact Network staff for next call date.

##### **The Service Delivery Plan**

- The Regional Strategic Plan, formerly the Service Delivery Plan, describes the current state of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Hudson Valley and it will sketch a course of action for the continuum of care for the next five years.

- The Network's consultant will have a draft paper ready for the end of May and an ad hoc committee has agreed to meet and review the next steps. The meeting is set for June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1pm – 5pm, at a place to be determined. The Strategic Plan is due in December.

### **Consumer Involvement Committee (CIC)**

#### Outreach and Recruitment

- The committee is working on revising the orientation materials. They plan to do outreach to rural and underserved areas of the Network in the next few months. Contact Network staff for next call date.

#### HIV Testing Day

- CIC is planning for HIV testing day, which is June 27th. The committee intends to canvas areas in the seven counties with testing and HIV/AIDS awareness material to inform the community about early diagnosis. Contact Network staff for next call date.

#### NYCAHN / VOCAL

- Several members of the CIC are actively involved with NYCAHN / VOCAL. There is a Power Academy training on May 21st at Urban League in Mount Vernon. The training is being held for low income PLWHA. Please contact Jennifer Flynn, managing director, at 917-517-5202.

### **Policy Advocacy and Education Committee (PA/EC)**

#### Women's Retreat

- The Co chairs are planning women's retreat day for Fall of 2010. They are looking for members to start the planning committee. Contact Emily Boardman 845-561-1247 or Rob Maher 845-268-8023 for more information on how to get involved.

#### NYCAHN / VOCAL

- Jennifer Flynn spoke at the May 6th PA/EC meeting. She talked about her organization's efforts to expand to a state-wide coalition. She will present more information at the Executive Committee meeting on May 28th.

**The Network's General Membership Meeting will be held in June.** Date and location TBD.

### **IV. Part A Updates/Issues (T. Petro)**

#### **Year 19 (3/1/09-2/28/10) Base Underspending**

The final Year 19 underspending balance reported to NYCDOHMH is \$194, 519. The Steering Committee had previously approved allocating the funds to ADAP to be spent in Year 19 in order to reduce the EMA's carryover. It was noted that the NYS Year 20 (4/1/10 – 3/31/11) Part B award was approximately \$14 million less than the previous year, and serious concern has been expressed about the ongoing availability of funding for the HIV Uninsured Care Programs (ADAP, ADAP-Plus, APIC, Home Care).

## **Year 20 (3/1/10-2/28/11) Spending Plans (MAI & Base)**

### MAI Spending Plan

The Year 20 TCR MAI spending plan approved at the April meeting was reviewed. The Y20 MAI award is \$413,553. The current Year 19 MAI contracts will end on July 31, 2010. Due to an overlap of five months (March-July 2010) between MAI Year 19 and Year 20, there is a *one-time bump up of approximately \$140,000* to be spent by February 28, 2011. A base-funded Medical Case Management (MCM) program will be transferred to MAI funding this year and the balance of the MAI award will be distributed among the three ongoing MAI Early Intervention Services (EIS) programs to be spent from August 2010 through February 2011. It was noted that in Year 21, when MAI funding will likely be (at least) \$100,000 lower, it will be necessary to transfer one or more of the MAI programs to base funding.

### Base Spending Plan

A revised spreadsheet for the \$5,519,789 base award was presented incorporating a few of the changes approved at the April meeting:

- \$40,000 for COLAs (3% Cost of Living Adjustments) for programs in good-standing.
- \$20,000 for EIS programs with base funding that desire to move to the SNS model.
- \$32,000 for Mental Health program to hire an additional part-time therapist.

The increases for these programs were not able to be distributed across program categories as of yet, so the balance of still uncontracted funding (\$292,218) was “parked” in the ADAP line, with approximately \$92,000 committed for the above, leaving about \$200,000 still available for allocation. The Steering Committee voted unanimously to allocate the remaining \$200,000 to ADAP.

### Legal Services

The NYC law department continues to review the revised HRSA policy for legal services. Recent interpretation now allows legal programs to provide permanency planning for families, but agencies are still prohibited from providing assistance to immigrants seeking legal status in the U.S. Housing cases are still allowable, but only as they relate directly to HIV discrimination. Other legitimate uses of Ryan White funding have to do with the denial of health and other supportive services for which a client is eligible to receive under Ryan White funding. HRSA will be holding a national conference call in June to answer questions about its recent policy revisions. Tri-County will follow decisions made by NYCDOHMH, the official grantee agency, on the legal and other HRSA policies.

## **Part A Committees (Health, Housing, and Medical Case Management)**

Health (T. Petro): The last meeting was held January 2010; the next meeting is scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Housing (F. Avellanet): The Tri-County HOPWA programs received a \$2.1 million increase, however it should be noted, that once the allocation is divided among programs the actual amount is diluted. The policy related to the 24-month cap on housing support for PLWHA is under review. HRSA is getting input from all grantees about housing needs and, therefore, this issue remains on the table.

MCM (T. Petro): A webinar training provided by the NYSDOH/AI on developing quality improvement (QI) plans was conducted on May 3. All providers receiving Part A funding are obligated to participate in Quality Management (QM) Learning Network Meetings. It was noted that NYS and local QM initiatives appear duplicative in some instances, and that program administrators are overburdened with meetings and participation in the network meetings being a strain; it was suggested by several Steering

## **New Part A Database**

The database is still in the development phase by NYCDOHMH which is holding an initial meeting of providers, including three Tri-County agencies, later this month participating in a providers users group to pilot-test the new system.

## **Revised Tri-County HIV/AIDS Services Resource Directory**

Copies of the updated directory were distributed. Planned Parenthood, which provides regional HIV testing was added. The food programs were also updated to include new phone numbers and other contact information. The updated directory is now available on the WCDH website:  
[http://www.westchestergov.com/health/AIDS/Tri-County\\_HIV-AIDS\\_ServicesDirectory\\_Spring2010\\_Edition.pdf](http://www.westchestergov.com/health/AIDS/Tri-County_HIV-AIDS_ServicesDirectory_Spring2010_Edition.pdf)

## **V. Legislative Update (Jan Park)**

Advocates are requesting a supplemental Congressional ADAP appropriation of \$26 million this year to address waiting lists for HIV medications in some 10 states. At present NYS is able to support the program for all those in need.

Work has begun on next year's Ryan White appropriations, but is not encouraging that the President has not requested an increase in his 2011 budget. The number of HIV cases has increased by 33% in the 2001-2007 period, while Ryan White funding has increased only 12% in the last decade.

In NYC the mayor has threatened to layoff 11,000 employees due to the current fiscal crunch and these layoffs may have an effect on HIV services. For example, many HASA (HIV/AIDS Services Administration) case managers may be laid off, and prevention and food programs are slated to be reduced. As part of the Year 20 spending plan in NYC, the Planning Council (PC) approved increases to support some of these service categories.

In addition, the PC is supporting the abolishment of the ban on MSM donating blood. A letter has been sent to the American Red Cross regarding this issue.

**The next Steering Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2010, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, at Planned Parenthood, White Plains.**