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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, June 9, 2010  
Planned Parenthood, White Plains**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

Members Present: T. Aliotta, B. Bennet, C. Brazil, L. Bucknor, M. Donoghue, B. Ilardi, M. Johnston, MD, H. Jones, R. Maher, R. Nathan, T. Otisi, N. Purvis (for L. Reid), S. Riordan, S. Jackson (for R. Schiffrin), D. Scholar, K. Scott, M. Shelley, A. Straus, and G. Yarn

Members Absent: V. Alvarez, M. Bannister, A. Beltran-Ruggiero, B. Bento-Fleming, C. Douaihy, A. Hardman, D. Kittell, R. Leandre, J. McGovern, J. Ruiz-Perez, M. Piazza, H. Sherwin, and K. Slade

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

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

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

A motion (M. Johnson, K. Scott) to accept the meeting minutes of March 10, 2010 as presented was unanimously approved.

**II. Introductions/Announcements**

- A June 21<sup>st</sup> kick-off event, sponsored by Westchester's HIV Testing Taskforce promoting a three-year countywide testing initiative titled "Westchester Knows," will take place in White Plains and will include media coverage and testimonials from local PLWHA and others.
- The Westchester MSM Coalition is holding a conference titled "Social Stigma in the Suburbs: Overcoming Stigma in Our Community" on June 24 at the Memorial United Methodist Church, White Plains.
- CHAIN (D. Bell) reported that Cycle 2 of the Tri-County Region (TCR) study began as of March 1, 2010 and will continue through February 29, 2012. At present the CHAIN team continues to recruit participants from the following agencies; ARCS, Mount Vernon HOPWA, Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, Sharing Community, and St. Joseph's Hospital. To date, recruitment numbers are good. It was noted that the payment of agency honoraria have been delayed due to complications with the closeout of the fiscal year. However, they are now being processed and payments will be sent out soon.

### III. Updates

#### Living Together (G. Yarn)

- Victor Alvarez continues to represent the TCR at the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (NYSDOH/AI) Quality Management meetings. He is currently attending a three-day Quality of Care training at the NYSDOH/AI.
- The Living Together (LT) women's and men's adherence groups continue to be well attended. On June 24<sup>th</sup> Debra May from ARCS will conduct a disclosure training for consumers. This training was scheduled as a result of LT's group discussions on self-disclosure. People are dating and having difficulty in disclosing their status.
- The annual LT picnic will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2010 at FDR Park. To date 97 people have signed up and transportation is being arranged. To register for the picnic contact Gerald Yarn at 914-937-2320 ext.129.

#### Part B (B. Bennet)

##### *General Membership*

- A meeting will be held June 25 in Fishkill. There will be training on the NYS confidentiality law, for which continuing education credits will be given, and a presentation by David Abramson, Ph.D., M.P.H., Director of Research for the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's School of Public Health.
- A newly elected co-chair of the Executive Committee, David Krueter from Sullivan County, will join will Barbara Ilardi of Putnam County DOH, in chairing EC and General Membership meetings.

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

- The next CCC Strategic Plan meeting will be held on June 8. The committee requests support from members from the Lower Hudson Valley as it is currently under represented.
- The first DSS forum will be held at the Peekskill Office on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Forums for Mount Vernon, Yonkers, and White Plains are in the planning stage and the schedule will be made available soon. Call Barbara Bennet (914)-785-8275 or email [bbennet@arcs.org](mailto:bbennet@arcs.org) for more information.
- The Faith Initiative's consumer survey was distributed this week.

##### *Policy Advocacy and Education Committee*

- The committee is sponsoring a women's retreat at Holy Cross Monastery this fall which will provide a safe space to speak about women's health issues. The retreat may be a catalyst for ongoing support groups and women's initiatives.

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

##### Year 20 (3/1/10-2/28/11) Spending Plans

*MAI Spending Plan:* In Year 20 one MCM program from base funding is being moved to MAI. The \$413,553 MAI grant will now support one MCM program, and the three MAI Early Intervention Services (EIS) programs will share the balance of the award. (The plan was already approved at the May meeting.)

*Base Spending Plan:* The Year 20 base award for TCR was \$5,519,789 --- 4.9% of the total NY Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) award of \$112,648,745. The amount of the award available for programming once the \$551,797 (10%) for administration is subtracted totals \$4,967,810. Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) were made to several programs that were in good standing and enhancements were allocated to food, transportation, and medical case management (MCM) programs. In addition, the draft plan includes \$200,000 of award funds to ADAP which leaves a balance of \$26,489 in unallocated funds. Following a discussion the committee members recommended that the unallocated funds be added to an underfunded MCM program which currently serves well above 100 clients per year.

**A motion (M. Johnston, R. Maher) was unanimously passed approving the Year 20 spending plan as presented with the additional \$26,489 allocated to MCM.**

##### Year 21 (3/1/11-2/28/12) Spending Plan Request

TCR's draft \$6.2 million Year 21 application request is based on the costs to carry forward all Year 20 programs, plus a \$400,000 contribution to ADAP (in Year 20 the contribution to ADAP was \$200,000). The Year 20 funding award was based on a proportion of 4.9% (as per 2007 annual data from NYSDOH Bureau of HIV/AIDS Surveillance ) of living HIV/AIDS cases in the EMA who reside in the three counties of the TCR. It is anticipated that there will be less money available in Year 21, due in part to a new more conservative Congress and the possibility of a smaller percent of living HIV/AIDS cases in the region. TCR's proportion of the award could likely decrease to below 4.9% of the EMA's living cases in 2008. NYS will be releasing the 2008 surveillance report soon.

(It was noted that the proposed Year 21 budget contained a slight calculation error, partly due to the Year 20 spending plan with the \$26,489 in unallocated funds not yet having been approved.)

**A motion (R. Maher, A. Straus) was unanimously approved to accept the \$6,218,791 Year 21 spending plan for base and MAI combined funding (having corrected the error on the spending plan table that was presented).**

##### Ryan White Part A Updates

- Under the new health care reform all people, including those living with HIV/AIDS, will be required by 2014 to have health care insurance. The ADAP-Plus program was developed to serve people who are uninsured, but the federal government does not recognize ADAP-Plus as health insurance. Therefore, ADAP-Plus will have an unknown role in 2014 and beyond. However, ADAP-Plus Insurance Continuation Program's (APIC) role may increase because APIC supports people who do have private health insurance by paying their commercial policy premiums. Currently, NYS and individual counties help pay for HIV care through Medicaid and APIC helps those who have private insurance. Of concern are those clients who cannot afford to pay the first three months of their private insurance premiums, a cost not covered by APIC and a requirement to become part of the APIC program.
- There will be a 2-day training held on June 21 and 22 for TCR EIS providers who are converting to the Social Networking Strategy model. The training is being provided by

NYSDOH/AIDS Institute. This training is restricted to EIS programs only. A link to PowerPoint slides may be provided after the training.

- A meeting was held on May 17, 2010 with NYCDOHMH and a sample Part A provider “user-group” to introduce the new Part A data base (eSHARE) under development. The new data base will replace AIRS for Part A-funded programs. Phase I of the project may be ready for pilot-testing later this year.
- The Tri-County HIV/AIDS Resource Director has been updated to add Planned Parenthood which conducts a high volume of HIV testing in the region. The revised directory is available on the Westchester County 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)

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

- *Health Committee* (T. Petro): The last meeting was held January 2010 at which a region-wide ADAP-Plus update presentation was made; the next meeting is scheduled for June 23.
- *Housing Committee* (F. Avellanet): Notification of this year’s federal Emergency Shelter Grant is delayed until HUD makes its announcement nationally, at which time the Westchester County Department of Planning, which administers the grant, will advise the Housing Committee and local providers.
- *Medical Case Management Committee* (J. Lehane): In May the NYSDOH/AI held an MCM Quality Management Learning Network webinar to assist TCR providers in the development of individual Quality Improvement plans. A full MCM LN meeting was facilitated by the AI on May 24. (Steering Committee members noted that there are increasing demands on programs to participate in QI meetings as well as on-site evaluations. Agencies commit enormous amounts of time and effort to both attend the NYSDOH/AI Learning Network meetings and in preparation for on-site visits. They are requesting that the meetings and on-site evaluations be coordinated so that all do not come at the same time.)

#### **V. HRSA Policy Update**

A national conference call was held by HRSA on June 3 to discuss policy revisions incorporating Office of Management & Budget (OMB) updates and the new Ryan White legislation. Several issues were discussed:

- Allowable services under the Legal category may be revised at a later date, so questions relating to legal service provision were deferred.
- Also deferred were the guidelines for syringe exchange.
- Ryan White funding Part B, via ADAP, can now pay Medicare “donut-hole” costs.
- Regarding Transportation, clients cannot be reimbursed in cash.
- Ryan White funds cannot be used for Vision Care unless the health issue is directly medically related to HIV/AIDS.

- There is a current trend on state and local levels to define and require credentialing in MCM programs, as well as defining how active a role a peer educator plays on the interdisciplinary team. HRSA does not dictate the credentials for MCM staff, nor the make-up of the MCM team.
- Though TCR's new non-core Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals programs provide nutritional counseling, which is also a component of the core Medical Nutritional Therapy (MNT) category, TCR programs cannot be considered core because they also provide pantry bag meals and food vouchers which are not included in the MNT definition.
- Regarding EIS, Ryan White funds can be used for testing and can be used to counsel at-risk HIV-negative people. However, the focus remains on those who have tested HIV-positive and the need to be moved along in the continuum of care so that they are not lost to follow-up. (EIS service category definitions will be revised for the newly formed social networking programs.)

**The next Steering Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2010, 10 AM – 12 PM, at Planned Parenthood, White Plains. (This meeting was subsequently cancelled.)**