

Andrew J. Spano
County Executive

Department of Health

Joshua Lipsman, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

**TRI-COUNTY RYAN WHITE HATMA
PART A STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday July 8, 2009
ARCS - Hawthorne**

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: V. Alvarez, C. Archbald MD, B. Bennet, M. Cubria, M. Donoghue (and alt. S. Sullam), C. Douaihy, E. Figueroa (for R.Schiffirin), B. Hill, H. Jones, C. Joudy (for B. Ilardi), J. Kim, R. Maher, R. Meyer, R. Nathan, T. Otisi, J. Park, S. Riordan, A. Ruggiero, H. Sherwin, A. Straus, K. Slade, A. Straus, and G. Yarn

Members Absent: T. Saari-Aliotta, M. Bannister, C. Brazil, C. Burwell, H. Fitzgerald, B. Bento-Fleming, D. Kittell, R. Leandre, S. Levine MD, J. McGovern, A. Paige-Bowman, M. Piazza, J. Ruiz-Perez, D. Scholar, K. Scott, K. Slade, and P. Taddeo

Guests: D. Bell (CHAIN), C. Hopkins (LT), K. Palencia-Lua (ODFMC), N. Rosich (LSHV)

Staff Present: F. Avellanet and T. Petro

I. Approval of Steering Committee Minutes

A motion (A. Straus, R. Meyer) to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2009 meeting as presented was unanimously approved.

II. Announcements

- Mount Vernon Hospital's SAMHSA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration)-funded program currently has a vacancy for a prevention counselor. Anyone interested in this vacancy can mail a resume along with a cover letter to Gerry Miller - Team Leader at Mount Vernon Hospital, 12 North Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550, or e-mail- gmliller@sshsw.org with "HIV Prevention Vacancy" in the subject line, or contact Gerry Miller directly at (914) 361-6102.
- Planned Parenthood of Hudson Peconic (PPHP) is accepting resumes for a HIV Coordinator for their rapid HIV antibody testing grant. The position will be based in their White Plains office. Persons interested in this vacancy should forward a resume and cover letter to Elizabeth Figueroa, PPHP, 175 Tarrytown Road, White Plains, NY 10607, or contact her directly at (914) 220-1030.

- TOUCH, in collaboration with SUNY Rockland Community College, will be celebrating the organization's 20 years of providing HIV/AIDS services and SUNY Rockland's 50th Anniversary. In recognition, a 200-block of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display at SUNY Rockland Community College (Suffern campus field house) from Thursday, October 22 – Saturday October 24, 2009. For additional information regarding this event contact Robert Maher at TOUCH at (845) 268-8023.
- To date, the Tri-County CHAIN study has recruited a total of 263 participants (187 still to recruit) and completed 185 interviews. Forty-two clients were recruited last month and there are another 20 interviews that are active in the field soon to be completed. In July Rockland County DOH will be added to the list of sites for recruitment. Recruitment is also scheduled for Mount Vernon HOPWA, Westchester Medical Center, Family Services of Westchester/Living Together, and St. Joseph's Medical Center.

III. Updates

Living Together (V. Alvarez, G. Yarn)

- LT will hold its annual meeting/picnic at Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) State Park, Section 3BS on Sunday, August 9, 2009, 10 AM to 4 PM.
- LT men's group continues to meet twice per month at ARCS in Hawthorne and attendance has grown at a surprising rate. Last month's group issue focused on treatment adherence and attending primary care appointments. (Discussion at a recent clinical advisory group meeting at the AIDS Institute's Office of the Medical Director highlighted the disparity in undetectable viral loads between people of color and whites and, therefore, the need for reinforced treatment adherence support for minorities.)

Part B (B.Bennet)

- On July 13th Milton Wainberg, MD will hold a seminar to discuss "The Triply Diagnosed Client" from 10:30 AM – 12 PM at ARCS in Newburgh and 1:30 PM – 3 PM at ARCS in Hawthorne.
- The next general meeting of the Part B Network will be held on Friday, July 17th 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM at SUNY in New Paltz. Three presentations are scheduled: Over 50 and Living with HIV, Building a HIV/Hepatitis Initiative in New York State, and Get to Know a County (Dutchess).
- The Consumer Involvement Committee meets every third Thursday of the month from 12:30 – 2:30 PM via video conference at ARCS locations in Hawthorne and Newburgh. During the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 17, K-PAX Immune Support Projects and Jon D. Kaiser, MD, in collaboration with the Care Network, will be sponsoring a HIV/AIDS, Cancer, Autoimmune Conditions and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome seminar.
- On Wednesday September 2nd the Brothers of Holy Cross invite persons infected/affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic for a Quiet Day Retreat at their monastery in West Park, NY (Ulster Co.).

III. Part A Updates and Issues (T. Petro)

Year 19 (3/1/09 – 2/28/09) Base Enhancements

The Steering Committee unanimously approved a spending plan for the \$162,620 in unallocated Year 19 award funds “parked” in the ADAP line. Subject to approved budgets received by WCDH, \$105,000 will be allocated for medical transportation, \$48,834 for food bank/home-delivered meals, and \$8,786 for housing services. (It was subsequently learned that the housing funds would not be utilized and the Committee, via e-mail vote later in the month – with 17 voting members approving and the remaining 16 not responding – authorized adding the \$8,786 to the food line for larger enhancements.)

Year 20 (3/1/10 – 2/28/11) Base Spending Plan

The Steering Committee unanimously approved a spending plan to be submitted for next year’s Part A application to HRSA. All lines represented carrying costs for current programs, with the exception of ADAP whose annual request is \$400,000, though only carryover funding at less than half that amount has been available for allocation in recent years. Also, the budget line for food bank/home-delivered meals was increased by 47% to \$750,000 and medical transportation by 49% to \$350,000 based on ever-increasing needs for those services.

NYC PLWHA Advisory Group Resolution

The Steering Committee reviewed a resolution, sponsored by the NYC PLWHA Advisory Group and approved by the New York HIV Planning Council in June, resolving that all Part A-funded providers shall be required to include a publicly identified HIV-positive consumer elected to their boards. Committee members, as the resolution applies equally to Tri-County Part A providers as well, raised a number of issues concerning how the directive could ever be met, though they believe that all such organizations should aspire to have consumers on their boards. The resolution is under review by the counsel at the NYCDOHMH.

Part A Committee Reports: Health, Housing and Medical Case Management

- The Health Committee met on June 24 and was briefed by Christine Kerr, MD, from Hudson River HealthCare, on the June 11 Clinical Care Advisory Group meeting held at the AIDS Institute in NYC. The Committee was also updated on the emerging draft model for the new food programs. In addition, Health Committee members weighed in on the proposed reduction in Year 20 Part A funding for the early intervention services (EIS) category. Though the EIS programs were identifying few new HIV-positives, nonetheless members recommended that, were there to be funding cuts, the remaining programs should still be allowed to continue counseling/testing and outreach to those who had fallen out of care. Members expressed concern about reduced counseling/testing capacity in the region.
- The Housing Committee convened on June 23 and was updated on recent eviction prevention grants received in the region. Discussion also continued regarding HRSA’s two-year lifetime cap on Part A housing services. Part A-funded housing programs were advised to start contacting clients approaching the cap in order to keep them abreast of the policy and plan for when the Part A rent and utility subsidies terminate. The Housing Committee has also revised its “white paper” policy guidelines on how Part A funds are to be used in the region.

- The Medical Case Management Committee met on June 22 and continued development of a revised food services model for presentation today, a draft of which was distributed for review to the Steering Committee. Members approved the model which included restricting eligibility to social service organizations and prohibiting “voucher-only” programs, i.e., programs that provide no pantry bags or home-delivered meals (though it was noted that a client may receive only a voucher, if needed, as determined by the food program staff). The Steering Committee signed off on a per program budget range of up to \$250,000 and an annual proposed food bank/home-delivered service category allocation of \$750,000 pending the availability of funds next year.

HIV/AIDS Provider Resource Directory

The revised (2009) *Tri-County HIV/AIDS Resource Directory of Service Providers* has been completed and is being posted on the Westchester County Department of Health website: www.westchestergov.com/health with the goal of having the directory available for all providers and consumers within the Tri-County region 24/7. Formatting will allow the web-based directory to be interactive. Those accessing the directory will be able to locate information by clicking on service category, geographic location, or provider name using “tab browsing” technology. A limited amount of printed copies will be distributed in upcoming meetings.

HATMA Reauthorization

The CAEAR (Cities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief) Coalition has initiated weekly updates counting down to the expiration of the HATMA legislation on September 30, 2009. Ryan White stakeholders are asked to contact their members of Congress and urge passage of a three-year extension of the bill that reflects recommendations endorsed by over 240 HIV/AIDS organizations in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The next Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for September 9, 2009, but was subsequently cancelled.