

**Andrew J. Spano**  
County Executive

Department of Health

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

**TRI-COUNTY RYAN WHITE TITLE I  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, October 12, 2005  
Planned Parenthood – White Plains Center  
175 Tarrytown Road

**APPROVED MINUTES**

- Members Present:** V. Alvarez, D. Anderson (for K. Scott), C. Archbald, MD, L. Beal, L. Bennett, R. Birchard (for C. Brazil), C. Burwell, D. Capasso, J. Carrion (for G. Diaz), E. D'Aquino, H. Fitzgerald, K. Everett, B. Ilardi, D. Kittell, S. Levine, MD, M. Littles, R. Maher, Jr., D. Marlowe, J. McGovern, A. Paige-Bowman, S. Pemberton, R. Schiffrin, H. Temple, S. Wayne, G. Yarn
- Members Absent:** H. Blecher, B. Cauthen, D. Frantzen, J. Ganapol, L. Hilton, R. Leandre, J. Levy, M. Lopez-Squillini, T. Payne, M. Piazza, K. Slade, M. Sosne, , D. Scholar, D. Stern, A. Straus, O. Young
- Guests Present:** S. Marrero, N. Walker
- Staff Present:** J. Lehane, T. Petro, B. Reyes
- 

**I. Approval of September 14, 2005 Minutes**

The September 14, 2005 minutes were approved as presented.

**II. Announcements**

- Dawn Kittell of Living Together was welcomed as a newly appointed Steering Committee member and Julie Carrion of Sharing Community was welcomed as Gladys Diaz' voting alternate.
- Serena Marrero from the Council of Community Services of New York State will facilitate a grant-writing symposium on November 1, 2005 from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the Yonkers Public Library. All providers in the Tri-County region are invited and lunch will be served. To register or for more information, contact Donna Bell at 914-375-2646.

- Melvin Littles advised that: 1) Tibotec, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, announced this week that the company plans to start an expanded access program (EAP) for its experimental protease inhibitor TMC114 in the fall of 2005. (EAPs provide promising experimental drugs free to people with AIDS who have exhausted the benefits of all existing therapies and have no other viable treatment options.) For more information, call 1-866-889-2074 (see <http://www.tibotec.com>), and 2) Dermik Asthetics also has a patient assistance program for Sculptra, its FDA-approved product for restoration of facial fat loss. For more information, call 1-866-310-7551 (see <http://www1.sculptra.com>).
- Reina Schiffrin announced that: 1) Planned Parenthood was co-sponsoring a free showing of *The Education of Shelby Knox* on October 20, 7:00 PM at the YWCA in White Plains, a movie about a Lubbock, Texas teenager's advocacy for comprehensive sex education, and 2) PP was sponsoring a conference for professionals titled *Let's Talk About It: Tips and Tools for Facing Teenage Challenges* on November 4, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Hampton Inn in Elmsford.
- Cheryl Archbald, MD, invited everyone to an all-day World AIDS Day Conference sponsored by the Westchester AIDS Council and the Westchester County Department of Health titled *HIV Prevention: A New Paradigm, New Partners* to be held on December 2 at Tappan Hill Mansion in Tarrytown. For more information, visit the Health Department website at [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health).
- A flyer was distributed regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino/a Regional Conference to be held on October 14, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM at Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. A second flyer noted October 15 as the third annual Latino AIDS Awareness Day.
- A flyer was distributed announcing two upcoming CEI (Clinical Education Initiative)-sponsored teleconferences to be held at the School of Public Health, Westchester Medical Campus: 1) *Drug Interaction and Metabolic Complications of HIV Infection*, October 26, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM, and 2) *Revised Recommendations for HIV Screening of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Health-Care Settings*, November 17, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM.
- A flyer was distributed announcing NYSDOH's *Fourth Annual Hepatitis C Conference* to be held on November 15, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the New York Academy of Medicine in NYC.
- A copy of a recently released compilation of *Spanish Translation of Ryan White CARE Act Terms* from HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) was distributed.

### **III. Update Reports**

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

- Mark McLaurin, Director of Federal Affairs from the New York AIDS Coalition, presented at the last LT meeting on reauthorization of the CARE Act. LT is planning a series of meetings to help mobilize consumers to advocate for maintaining a reauthorized CARE Act as it is currently written.
- LT is planning to hold a special meeting (date TBD) to discuss housing issues and Barbara Bento-Fleming from Grace Church Community Center in White Plains will be invited to present.
- The next LT meeting will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at ARCS.

**Title II** (K. Everett)

- On October 5<sup>th</sup> the Mental Health/Substance Use Committee sponsored a breakfast forum on the topic of stigma with a panel composed of Barbara Bennet of the Columbia University CHAIN Study, Dick McCarthy, M.D., of Choice, and consumers Linda Beal and Victor Martinez.
- The Network has arranged a constituent meeting at Congresswoman Nita Lowey's local office on October 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss concerns about the Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization and the President's principles. Living Together members are planning to participate.
- On October 18<sup>th</sup> a joint meeting of case management and housing services supervisors will be held to discuss the roles of case managers and housing workers in obtaining various services for clients. This meeting will be the first in a series of meetings that will take place over the coming year with the goal of sharing information and building linkages between these two service areas.
- An update to the training on the Medicare (Part D) reform legislation will be held on November 3, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM at ARCS. Christine Rivera, Director of the NYS Uninsured HIV Care Program, will present guidelines on choosing a plan for prescription drug coverage.

**Title I** (T. Petro)

- The Ryan White Title I CARE Act Year 16 (3/1/06 – 2/28/07) application was submitted by NYCDOHMH to HRSA on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The application was once again well written and included more detailed information about the Tri-County region supported by CHAIN data. The Year 16 award for the region is unlikely to be announced before February. Even if the application scores well, there may still be a funding decrease as Congress considers reducing domestic spending to pay for hurricane disaster relief.
- Reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act will be delayed probably until the spring. Since CARE Act funding was included in the President's budget for next year, HRSA may operate in the interim under the current CARE Act legislation. A copy of a final sign-on letter to Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt was distributed. Many community-based organizations and government agencies across NYC and the Tri-county region signed on expressing serious concern about some of the President's reauthorization principles. HRSA is considering holding a NYC-based forum to receive local input on the principles.
- The Steering Committee was apprised of the WCDH's intent to include a 3% cost-of-living-allowance (COLA) in Year 16 Title I budgets, where appropriate. COLAs have been granted every other year for the past six years. The Year 16 Continued Funding Applications will be forwarded to agencies next month with a notice of the increase. Hopefully, next year's Title I award will be large enough to cover the estimated \$150,000 cost for the COLA.
- With Dawn Kittell's appointment, there is one Steering Committee voting seat still vacant. Staff will reconnect with current members with prolonged absences especially since several applications from eager consumers have been received.

**IV. Plan for Unallocated Year 15 Funding** (T. Petro)

A spreadsheet was presented that included a breakdown of the decisions to date regarding the Year 14 (3/1/04 – 2/28/05) carryover which totaled \$502,021: \$407,354 was allocated to ADAP and \$94,667 towards deficits (\$40,620 to cover the award shortfall and \$54,047 for the WCDH Title I staffing deficit). The spreadsheet also indicated that there currently is \$256,088 in unallocated Year 15 funding available, the result of:

1) funding three new treatment adherence programs starting on September 1, 2005, thereby saving half of the year's allocation for that service line in the budget, and 2) voluntary contract budget take-downs by Title I providers not able to spend their full budgets.

Because of the relatively large amount of unallocated Year 15 funding, it was suggested that, rather than using Year 14 carryover, the \$256,088 in unallocated Year 15 funds instead could plug the \$94,667 in deficits, with the balance going to food programs and a DEBI "Health Relationships" overview training. With this option, the entire \$502,021 in Year 14 carryover could be allocated to ADAP.

A handout was distributed on DEBIs (Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions) which are CDC's (Center for Disease Control) evidenced-based HIV prevention models. Healthy Relationships is the module pertaining to prevention interventions with people with HIV/AIDS. The University of Rochester/Center for Health & Behavioral Training is the only site approved by CDC for the Healthy Relationships training.

The Steering Committee rejected increasing the ADAP allocation and wanted the \$94,667 balance in Year 14 carryover transferred to WCDH to cover the deficits, leaving the entire \$256,088 in Year 15 unallocated funds available for local spending. As it was reported that Title I food program enhancement requests totaled \$131,991, the Committee voted that \$131,991 of the \$256,088 be earmarked for food programs and \$3,000 for the DEBI overview training. In addition, the \$121,097 balance was to be encumbered for Title I agencies whose psychosocial support services (PSS) programs providing support groups were terminated in Year 14. It was noted that reduced PSS funds were folded largely into case management programs and that agencies maintained staff lines in several cases at the expense of entirely giving up OTPS (Other Than Personnel Services) funding.

**Summary of motion by D. Capasso/G. Diaz passed (23 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention):**

1) <u>Year 14 Carryover:</u>	\$407,354	Maintain ADAP Allocation
	<u>94,667</u>	Cover Year 15 Deficits
	\$502,021	Total
2) <u>Year 15 Unallocated Funds:</u>	\$131,991	Enhance Food Programs
	3,000	DEBI Overview-Health Relationships Training
	<u>121,097</u>	Enhance Former PSS Providers
	\$256,088	Total

It was noted that the Health Department needs to reserve some room within each of these budgeted lines for negotiating with providers.

**V. Tool for Ranking Spending Priorities**

Discussion of how to apply the "Tool for Ranking Spending Priorities" used this year in NYC was tabled until the November meeting.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 16, 2005**  
**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**ARCS**  
**40 Saw Mill River Rd.**  
**Hawthorne**  
**914-345-8888**