

**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**  
Tuesday, December 7, 2004  
Planned Parenthood – White Plains Center  
175 Tarrytown Road

**DRAFT MINUTES**

- Members Present:** V. Alvarez, C. Ardizzone (for B. Ilardi), L. Bennett, R. Birchard (for C. Brazil), B. Cauthen, K. Everett, J. Ganapol, R. Leandre, J. Levy, R. Maher, R. Schiffrin, K. Scott, M. Lopez -Squillini, S. Sullam (for H. Blecher), S. Wayne, G. Yam
- Members Absent:** C. Archbald MD, W. Bullock, D. Capasso, G. Diaz, E. DiPierro, H. Fitzgerald, D. Frantzen, L. Hilton, S. Levine MD, M. Littles, R. Marrero, J. McGovern, A. Paige-Bowman, S. Pemberton, M. Piazza, D. Scholar, C. Silva (for G. Moon), K. Slade, A. Straus, J. Hilger, L. Tackley, O. Young
- Guests Present:** D. Abramson, M. Hodgson-Vargas, S. Resilien
- Staff Present:** J. Lehane, T. Petro, B. Reyes
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**I. Approval of November 10, 2004 Minutes**

The minutes were unanimously approved.

**II. Announcements**

- A request for proposals (RFP) detailing requirements for new treatment adherence services was released on December 1, 2004. Applicants must be non-profit or public health care agencies sited within the Tri-County region; licensed in New York State under Article 28 of the Public Health Law; and participants in the state HIV Primary Care Medicaid program, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), and the HIV Primary Care Reimbursement Pool (ADAP-Plus). Applicants may include community health centers, hospitals, or substance use and mental health treatment facilities. All currently funded Title I agencies meeting these criteria may apply. Letters of Intent are requested by Wednesday, December 22, 2004. Proposals must be submitted to WCDOH by 5:00 pm, Wednesday, January 19, 2005. Questions should be directed to Tom Petro at 914-813-5047 or [tjp1@westchestergov.com](mailto:tjp1@westchestergov.com).

- Applications for Title I Steering Committee membership are currently being accepted for several vacancies. Anyone interested in becoming a member or nominating someone as a representative, please call Basil Reyes at 914-813-5119 or email at [bar3@westchestergov.com](mailto:bar3@westchestergov.com). A general solicitation will be released to the community this week.
- The supply of wallet-size consumer resource cards for all three counties has run out. Upon Steering Committee members' suggestion, WCDOH determined that using Kinko's (instead of the printer used for the original batch) would be very expensive. It was anticipated that Kinko's would reduce expenses and that the cards would be ready for distribution during the week of World AIDS Day in December. Instead, Westchester County will do the printing at a reduced rate, thereby doubling the number of cards planned for this second printing. The new cards should be ready in January.
- Among the many World AIDS Day events held the week of December 1, a conference sponsored by WCDOH focusing on women at risk for HIV infection was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were three speakers. The first speaker, Keith Boykin, J.D. – lecturer and author of “The Down Low and Beyond” – addressed issues of men on the “Down Low.” The definition varies. However, being on the “DL” generally refers to men who identify as heterosexual, but who also have sex with men and who do not reveal these activities to their female partners. He stressed that the responsibility for preventing the spread of the virus still rests on each individual. The second speaker, Lisa Hightow, MD, MPH, from the University of North Carolina Medical Center, talked about how HIV has become a problem on college campuses and that students need to be mindful of using safer sex practices. The last speaker was Patricia Nalls, founder and executive director of the Women's Collective in Washington, DC. Her organization grew out of a need for a supportive network to help women living with HIV/AIDS as they cope with maintaining employment, raising children, and running households.
- Didanosine (DDI, brand name “Videx”), manufactured by Bristol-Meyers-Squibb, will soon be marketed as a generic drug.
- The federal Public Health Service released the update on pediatric guidelines for treatment of HIV/AIDS on November 30, 2004.
- CCSNYS (Council of Community Services of NYS) will hold a networking lunch following the Title I Steering Committee meeting on January 12, 2005. This will be an opportunity for agencies to meet with the technical assistance staff and network with other organizations who are working on similar technical and logistical issues.

### **III. Updates**

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

- At the November LT meeting, Victor presented on the federal Public Health Services' revised HIV adult treatment guidelines; he stressed the importance of taking a proactive approach to one's treatment regimen. Karin Timour from the NYSDOH presented on ADAP and the methods for initiating the often confusing Medicaid spend-down process. No LT December meeting is being scheduled; the next meeting is on January 27, 2005.
- Anita Paige is recuperating at home from a recent illness and is feeling much better. Get-well cards can be sent to her c/o St. John's Riverside Hospital.

Title II: (K. Everett)

- Tomorrow (December 8<sup>th</sup>) the NYSDOH/AIDS Institute is receiving public testimony at its 5 Penn Plaza, NYC office regarding the planned use of requested Year 15 (3/1/05-2/28/06) Title II funding from HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration.) Everyone is invited to attend.
- Members were reminded that Urban League operates a Title II outreach grant, headed by Ryan Nathan, aimed at registering eligible PLWHA for ADAP. One component of ADAP-Plus that often is overlooked is the APIC (ADAP-Plus Insurance Continuations) which helps pay for commercial health insurance policies. This program lowers the ever-increasing Medicaid costs for NYS and the counties by paying insurance premiums, which is cheaper than paying for Medicaid-reimbursed care.
- Copies of the powerpoint slides used in a recent presentation by the NYSDOH/AIDS Institute on CARE Act reauthorization were distributed.

**IV. Tri-County HIV/AIDS Epidemiological Update**

A presentation was made with an accompanying spreadsheet highlighting the most recent Tri-County region epidemiological data released by the NYSDOH-Bureau of HIV/AIDS Epidemiology. As of 12/31/03 AIDS prevalence (number of people living with AIDS as of the date specified) is 2,846. The HIV prevalence (estimated number of diagnosed people living with HIV, not AIDS, is 2,186. In addition to the 2,846 living AIDS cases and the 2,186 estimated “diagnosed” living HIV (not AIDS) cases, there are an estimated 729 “undiagnosed” (i.e., unaware) people living with HIV, making 5,761 the total estimate of those living either with AIDS or HIV in the Tri-County Region as of 12/31/03.

**V. Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives**

Based on discussion at the November meeting about having the next three-year strategic planning goals (2006-2008) focus on individuals rather than the system of care, WCDOH presented four draft goals for discussion. The Steering Committee revised the four and added a fifth goal regarding preventing the spread of HIV. The revisions are as follows:

1. Reduce the transmission of HIV.
2. Ensure that people are aware of their HIV-positive status.
3. Increase the number of people who know their HIV-positive status and bring them into primary HIV medical care.
4. Improve the health outcomes and quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS.
5. Ensure that the continuum of HIV/AIDS health and supportive services contributes to better health outcomes and quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS.

These goals will now be presented to the service subcommittees and Living Together members to develop specific “client focused” objectives that will be used to measure whether the goals are achieved. The goals and objectives developed in Tri-County will be combined with those developed by NYC to form one cohesive Title I EMA (Eligible Metropolitan Area) strategic plan that will guide priority-setting and planning activities for the next three years. It was noted that the Tri-County’s goals and objectives could look quite different once merged with NYC’s by the New York HIV Planning Council.

## VI. Contingency Plans for Reduced Year 15 Award

There are no illusions that the Ryan White Title I award will be increased next year. NYC is actually developing contingency principles and procedures for dealing with a reduction in the award. Tri-County received an increase this year of about \$900,000. WCDOH estimates that the increase may be cut by about half for the coming year. The Steering Committee, therefore, also needs to begin thinking about options to fit a projected lower budget.

Over \$200,000 in reductions have already been realized, as one legal program will not be continued next year, and as WCDOH is taking down the contract amounts of some of the outreach providers whose programs historically have resulted in identifying few new PLWH. Most outreach providers are struggling to find new and efficient methods for engaging and bringing at-risk populations into counseling/testing and HIV primary care. Outreach programs are just starting to work with partners of those who are HIV-positive; some case managers and outreach workers will be invited to attend a three-day PCRS (Partner Counseling and Referral Services) course next spring by NYSDOH, a training usually reserved for county health department PNAP (Partner Notification Assistance Program) staff. Some Steering Committee members favored marketing outreach programs more effectively to work in partnership with all providers and providing counseling/testing at non-traditional alternative sites.

Further budget contingency plans will be discussed at the January 2005 meeting.

## VII. 2005 Meeting Schedule

The 2005 Steering Committee meeting schedule was distributed.

**It was noted that the next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2005, 10:00 AM, will be held at ARCS, 40 Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A), Training Room, Hawthorne.**