

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, March 10, 2004
Planned Parenthood – White Plains Center

APPROVED MINUTES

- Members Present:** V. Alvarez, L. Bennett, R. Birchard (for K. Gallagher-Tone), H. Blecher, W. Bullock, D. Capasso, G. Diaz, K. Everett, H. Fitzgerald, D. Frantzen, L. Hilton, B. Ilardi, J. Kraus, R. Leandre, S. Levine, MD, J. Levy, M. Littles, R. Maher, J. McGovern, A. Paige-Bowman, J. Sclafani (for J. Ganapol), K. Scott, M. Lopez-Squillini, L. Tackley, J. Tribbie, S. Wayne, D. Williams, R. Williams, G. Yarn, Y. Yehudah (for R. Glicksman MD), O. Young
- Members Absent:** L. DiPierro, J. Hilger, J. Hornig, R. Marrero, F. Oldham, L. Newman, R. Ortiz, S. Pemberton, M. Piazza, R. Schiffrin, K. Slade
- Guests Present:** B. Bento-Fleming, B. Cauthen, D. McKenna, J. Nelson,
- Staff Present:** E. Fitzgerald, J. Lehane, T. Petro, B. Reyes
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I. Approval of Today's Agenda & January 13, 2004 Minutes

The agenda and minutes were approved as presented.

II. Introduction of New Steering Committee Members & Alternates

Nine new Title I Steering Committee voting members were appointed this month by the Westchester County Health Commissioner, eight of whom and one alternate were present and introduced: Linda Bennett, Herlena Fitzgerald, Gladys Diaz, Joy Ganapol (alternate Judith Sclafani present), Rose Leandre, Myrna Lopez-Squillini, Susan Wayne, Richard Williams, and Octavian Young. A revised matrix was distributed showing all the categories which the full 35-member Committee now represent. The additional nine members fill out gaps in representation for: consumers, Putnam and Rockland Counties, Blacks, Latinos (particularly women), substance use/mental health treatment, and legal services. It was noted that no Asians applied for the Committee and that future efforts should be directed toward recruiting Asian members.

III. Announcements

- J. Levy: Westchester's housing pre-application to HUD (Housing & Urban Development) was sent out to the public for comment. J. Levy will be attending the Case Management Committee meeting to address joint initiatives to meet the housing and case management needs of substance users.
- B. Reyes: The HOPWA award for NY Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was recently announced to be \$60,355,000 with an increase of \$40,000 from 2003. Considering the NY MSA is now absorbing three counties in New Jersey (Hudson, Bergen, and Passaic), they expect that all programs will be taking a cut. NYC is currently coming up with different funding scenarios including an across the board cut OR trying to hold onto as many programs and counties as we can absorb with the cuts. The funding plan may not be announced for two months because these scenarios will need to be presented to the NYCDOH/MH Commissioner and then the NYC OMB.
- G. Diaz: The Sharing Community was awarded a \$2.5 million grant (over 5 years) from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration) to provide treatment readiness services for substance users. (St. John's Riverside Hospital received a comparably-sized SAMHSA grant too.) Some service components will be subcontracted out to St. Joseph's Medical Center and Renaissance Project. Two treatment counselors will conduct outreach from a mobile van under a harm reduction model. In addition, the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health will conduct an outcome evaluation. The program is committed to outreaching to 800 people in the next five years and get half into treatment.
- A. Paige-Bowman: The LTI (Leadership Training Institute) will be holding a core training on March 26-28, 2004 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains. (R. Williams noted that Urban League wants to do a Consumer Advisory Board training with LTI as next training level after the core.)
- M. Littles: There is a recently created Scott Dowie Scholarship Award that covers costs for PLWH/A to attend HIV/AIDS conferences including those that are international. Details can be found on the website: www.conantfoundation.org.
- Diane McKenna (914-654-7152), the coordinator of anonymous HIV counseling and testing for NYSDOH in the Tri-County region, announced that her staff was available to conduct rapid testing at special public events such as health fairs.

Flyers were distributed announcing:

- an all-day "PLWH/A Summit" to be held on Saturday, April 10, 2004 at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge;
- an all-day seminar titled "Health Literacy: A Missing Link in HIV Prevention" to be held on Friday, March 19, 2004 at the Westchester Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown;
- the introduction to the New York HIV Planning Council's new website at www.nyhiv.org;
- a New York HIV Planning Council PWA/HIV Advisory Group meeting to be held on Saturday, March 13, 12-230 PM at Bronx AIDS Services;
- a March 26, 2004 Public Policy Forum (subsequently cancelled) on Reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act;
- a NYAC (New York AIDS Coalition) budget request for New York State;
- an HIV/AIDS prevention grant announcement from NMAC (National Minority AIDS Council) on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Mayors; and
- a revised Tri-County Monthly HIV/AIDS Meeting Calendar.

IV. Update Reports

Living Together (V. Alvarez) get Basil's notes

Living Together recently had a discussion regarding "Prevention for Positives" and would prefer to call it "Prevention with Positives." V. Alvarez noted that he participates on a NYSDOH/AIDS Institute clinical advisory committee which is developing "Prevention for Positives" standards to be integrated into HIV primary care. (M. Littles had suggested holding a "Prevention for Positives" forum to address the new CDC mandate.) V. Alvarez continues to work on scheduling a presentation by Dr. Fong of the Bronx V.A. Hospital for the end of April. The presentation will include a discussion on the do's and don't regarding medications. Living Together is working with Family Services of Westchester to start up support groups.

Title II (K. Everett)

- A Network-sponsored legislative breakfast is scheduled for March 18, 2004 at 123 Main St., White Plains. State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson will be honored for her HIV/AIDS advocacy and support. The attendance of five legislators is confirmed so far.
- A special HIV/AIDS community forum will take place on March 13, 2004, 10 AM – 12 PM at Mount Zion Christian Baptist Church in Mount Vernon during the Annual Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS.
- Issue 4 (March 2004) of the Lower Hudson Region HIV Care Network Newsletter and the 2004-2005 schedule of Network-related meetings was distributed.
- Donations are being sought to bring consumers to Washington, DC for AIDSWatch, three days of advocacy on Capitol Hill, May 17-19, 2004, co-sponsored by NAPWA (National Association of People With AIDS). The sign-up deadline to attend is April 30. No scholarships are available this year.

V. Year 14 (3/1/04 – 2/28/05) Title I Award

A spreadsheet was distributed with the Year 14 Title I awards for each of the 51 EMA (Eligible Metropolitan Areas). New York received \$122,103,117, a \$18,227,705 (17.6%) increase over the previous year in which there had been a substantial reduction. Largely because of New York's increase, 40 EMAs, including Nassau-Suffolk and Dutchess Counties, saw Year 14 award decreases. The Title I award is determined in three parts: formula (based on number of AIDS cases reported over a 10-year period); Minority AIDS Initiative (also formula-driven by number of reported minorities with AIDS); and supplemental (based on points awarded on various sections of the Title I application such as severity of need and plan to address service gaps). New York's sizeable increase was attributable to the supplemental, i.e., the fact that the narrative part of the application made such a strong case. (It was suspected that politics may have also played a part.)

VI. Year 14 (3/1/04 – 2/28/05) Spending Plan

A spreadsheet, with draft back-up spending plan for discussion and vote, was presented showing that Tri-County's portion of the EMA's award at 4.9% based on living AIDS cases is \$5,983,053, an increase of \$893,158 over the previous year. In the draft plan, three items are subtracted out because they would be contracted via NYC on behalf of Tri-County: 1) treatment adherence @ \$140,000, 2) CHAIN study at \$340,000, and 3) CHAIN study cohort refresher @ \$25,000 (to recruit more participants since the original 398, through attrition, has dropped to 315). After discussion as to whether CHAIN ongoing recruitment ought to be included as part of the \$340,000 annual budget, the Steering Committee voted (26/Yes, 2 Abstentions) for the \$25,000 allocation pending a satisfactory budget justification to be presented by CHAIN staff at the April meeting.

With the above deductions, the balance of \$5,478,053 would be the amount transferred to WCDOH for local contract administration. After then subtracting out: WCDOH administration and planning budgets, the carrying costs for ongoing programs (two of which are now annualized since they started in the middle of last year) with a 3% COLA (Cost Of Living Allowance), additional housing assistance funding, and \$400,000 for the HIV Uninsured Care Pools (ADAP, ADAP-Plus, Home Care, and ADAP-Plus Insurance Continuations) – all of which were included as priorities in the Year 14 application – there is still an unallocated balance of \$83,038. (It was noted that the application actually called for \$600,000 for the pools, but that \$400,000 was being proposed for the line.) The Steering Committee discussed several options for the \$83,038 unallocated balance, including additional funds for outreach, HIV rapid test kits, and the pools, but voted (24 Yes/1 Abstention) for a final spending plan provisionally earmarking the funds instead for re-establishing HIV primary care in Putnam County (to be further fleshed out), since the only local infectious disease physician treating PWA/H had relocated to Westchester.

In effect, the award increase frees up the Year 13 carryover estimated at \$400,000 for discussion starting next month.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2004, 10:00 AM at Planned Parenthood - White Plains Center.