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County Executive

Department of Health

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

**TRI-COUNTY RYAN WHITE HATMA
PART A STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Planned Parenthood – White Plains**

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: D. Ahmed (for B. Bento-Fleming), T. Aliotta, V. Alvarez, D. Anderson (for K. Scott), C. Ardizzone-Joudy (for B. Ilardi), L. Beal, B. Bennet, L. Butler (for R. Schiffrin), M. Cubria, H. Jones, R. Maher, R. Nathan, A. Otisi, J. Park, S. Riordan, J. Ruiz-Perez, H. Sherwin, A. Shurin, S. Sullam (for M. Donoghue), and G. Yarn

Members Absent: C. Archbald MD, M. Bannister, C. Brazil, C. Burwell, D. Capasso, H. Fitzgerald, D. Garcia-Egan, S. Havelka, D. Kittell, R. Leandre, S. Levine MD, M. Littles, M. Mahoney, J. McGovern, R. Meyer, A. Paige-Bowman, S. Pemberton, M. Piazza, D. Scholar, K. Slade, and M. Velazquez

Guests Present: M. Amatulle (Part B Network), R. Cestone (FSW), M. Fede (Nyack Hospital) and A. Santella (NYCDOHMH)

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

I. Approval of October 8, 2008 Steering Committee Minutes

A motion (V. Alvarez, H. Jones) to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2008 meeting was approved with the following correction to page 4 (Section: New York EMA 2009-2012 Comprehensive Strategic Plan; final paragraph), "...[additional] issues raised by Steering Committee members:...4) universal testing at annual medical visits should be added; and 5) persons *affected* by HIV should be included in the goals." (The paragraph originally included only three issues.)

II. Announcements

- On Friday, November 14, 2008 the St. Vincent's Hospital/Montefiore Medical Center Clinical Education Initiative, in collaboration with the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDH), is sponsoring a day-long training, "Improving your Clinical Service." This training is offered to clinical staff working in medical facilities and will focus on new strategies for making HIV testing routine, identifying and treating acute HIV infection, and implementing post-exposure prophylaxis. Breakfast and lunch will be provided and CME credits are offered free-of-charge. Register online at www.ceitraining.org/hivconference/.

- On Monday, December 8th from 8:30 to 11:30 am the Westchester County AIDS Council and WCDH will sponsor a World AIDS Day conference. The theme will be “Mobilizing Community Leadership to Keep HIV/AIDS a Priority in this Time of Change.” The event is free and all are welcomed, however registration is required. Contact Yedidah Yehudah at 914-813-5230 or at yay1@westchestergov.com to register (see enclosed form).
- Effective immediately, the fax number for the Ryan White unit at WCDH is changed to 914-813-4304.

III. Presentation: Prevalence of Chronic Diseases & Comorbid Conditions (Dr. Peter Messeri, Columbia University, CHAIN Study)

As a consequence of increased life expectancy and complications from HIV medication, PLWHA are increasingly vulnerable to a broad spectrum of non-HIV comorbidities. The CHAIN study presents data on the prevalence of nine chronic conditions in the cohort of current study participants and the estimates of medical care service utilization associated with management of these conditions.

The questions to be answered are as follows:

- What is the lifetime prevalence of selected non-HIV chronic conditions in the CHAIN cohorts?
- Do rates of chronic conditions differ by sociodemographic characteristics, lifestyle behaviors or HIV disease progression?
- To what extent do chronic conditions impair physical and mental health?
- How much of CHAIN cohort utilization of medical care services is tied to management of non-HIV chronic conditions?

The attributes associated with increased vulnerability to chronic conditions are:

- advanced age;
- being a female; and
- having a history of substance abuse or injecting drug use.

The conclusions from the analysis of the data are as follows:

- Comorbid health conditions are ubiquitous among CHAIN cohort members.
- Cohort members are at increased risk for several common chronic conditions compared to the general populations of similar age, gender and race/ethnicity.
- Comorbidities contribute to significant declines in both physical and mental well-being of cohort members.
- Experiencing comorbid conditions appears to substantially increase use of medical services. (A very large proportion of members who ever have these conditions report current treatment at the time of their interview.)
- Tri-County findings are generally in line with those for New York City.
- The findings of this report directly confirm that individuals with increasing numbers of chronic conditions make more use of medical services, but further research is needed for more precise assessment of increased medical utilization directly related to medical management of these conditions.
- Both professional and patient education should be considered to manage comorbid conditions in a more efficient and effective manner for PLWHA.

Issues that were raised in the discussion following the presentation included:

- HIV specialists are aware that chronic health conditions are having an effect both on the treatment of the HIV and on the overall health of consumers in the Tri-County region.
- COBRA case management intake/assessment does not ask about chronic health conditions and, therefore, assessment forms may need to be modified to gather these data as well.
- Medical case managers may need training on how to deal with health issues other than only HIV/AIDS.

- At this time there is not enough data to link the occurrence of chronic health conditions with the long-term use of HIV medication. Further research is needed to answer such questions.

IV. Update Reports

Living Together (V. Alvarez and G. Yarn)

- The Living Together (LT) meetings and support groups continue to discuss issues about the relationship between maintaining treatment adherence and HIV prevention. The importance of maintaining regular medical care and treatment is a message that must be repeated over and over.
- In partnership with the Part B Hudson Valley HIV Care Network, LT members mailed out over 1,000 letters to the governor expressing concern about recent changes to Medicaid and Managed Care reimbursement and proposed NYS budget cuts and the effect these decisions might have on HIV services in the Hudson Valley.
- The men's and women's support group meetings resumed this month and were very well attended. Anyone interested in participating should contact Gerald at 914-937-2320 x129 for the dates and locations.
- The next LT meeting will be held on November 20th at Family Services of Westchester in Yonkers. A presentation on the new Comprehensive Strategic Plan for the NY EMA will be presented by Jessica Wahlstrom from the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH).

HATMA Part B HIV Care Network (B. Bennet)

- On October 24th the Part B Hudson Valley HIV Care Network hosted the first "General Membership" meeting at the Fishkill Holiday Inn where 60 people attended. The agenda included an epi presentation and a discussion of recent changes to Medicaid and Managed Care reimbursement as well as a review of NYS budget cuts and the effect on HIV services in the Hudson Valley.
- At the Care Coordination Committee meeting on November 5th Newburgh and Hawthorne facilities were connected via the new video conferencing system established by ARCS. The new system will allow providers and consumers from seven counties throughout the Hudson Valley to come together and share ideas and experiences to make HIV care and services more effective for everyone.
- On November 20th the Part B Network will hold its Executive Committee meeting at both the Newburgh and Hawthorne video conferencing sites.
- The Care Coordination Committee is planning to hold two educational forums on the topics of "Engaging the Hard-to-Reach and Mentally Ill" and "Living with Comorbid Health Conditions." The programs are currently in the planning phase with the hope of having the trainings in February and/or March 2009.
- The Part B Network and Living Together are working together to mobilize a consumer base to advocate for NYS legislators to "hold harmless" cuts in spending on HIV services. On November 18th a telephone and letter campaign will be held to express concerns to Albany.
- The calendar of events for World AIDS Day (December 1st) will be distributed on Friday, November 14th. Events for inclusion should be submitted to Barbara Bennet at bbennet@arcs.org or 914-785-8275.
- The next Part B Network General Meeting will be held on February 27th (times and location TBD).

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

Year 17 (8/1/07-7/31/08) MAI Carryover Request

The year closed with a total of \$304,464 (3.3%) in underspending for the NY EMA (Eligible Metropolitan Area), \$7,413 of which belonged to the Tri-County region, representing just 1.6% of the Tri-County's MAI award. On October 31, 2008, NYCDOHMH submitted a request to HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) to carry over the funding into MAI Year 18 (8/1/08 – 7/31/09) to be used for ADAP and medical case management services. The Steering Committee had agreed at the October meeting to allow the NY HIV Planning Council to decide how to allocate Tri-County's \$7,413 (which was anticipated to go to ADAP).

Year 18 (3/1/08-2/28/09) Base Budget Modifications

The first round of agency budget modifications submitted in September are almost all reviewed. Thus far, approximately \$100,000 in Part A funds have been unencumbered, i.e., given up by providers who did not expect to use their full budgets (usually due to prolonged staff vacancies). NYCDOHMH must submit an estimate of Year 18 base carryover to HRSA by the end of December with a plan for how the EMA would like to use the funding if allowed to be carried into Year 19 (3/1/09 – 2/28/10). The item will be discussed further at the December meeting when a more accurate Tri-County amount is available.

Year 19 (3/1/09-2/28/10) Base Continued Funding Applications

Applications are due to be sent out by the end of the month. Some program service indicators will be revised. For example, per a meeting with the Early Intervention Services providers in October, those programs will be required in Year 19 to report on the number of HIV tests conducted and the number of confirmed linkages to primary care. The Medical Case Management category may also see some changes after discussion at the November 24 MCM Committee meeting.

Fee-for-Service (Performance-Based) Contracting

WDCH and NYCDOHMH have been in conversation regarding how the fee-for-service contracting would operate and what infrastructure would be needed to support such a system. Implementing such a contracting change requires a complex reporting and financial monitoring system which the WCDH is not prepared to support at this time. Therefore, providers will not be required to convert from the current "cost-based" budgeting system to fee-for-service." Nonetheless, a training will be held on how to calculate service rates (i.e., payment points) and perhaps, for several months next year, providers will be required to submit both cost-based and fee-for-service expense reports in order to compare what they would receive under the different systems. The training is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at ARCS (9:30 am to 12:30 pm).

2009-2012 Comprehensive Strategic Plan (J. Park)

The first draft of the EMA's Comprehensive Strategic Plan for 2009-2012 was presented at the Steering Committee meeting on October 8th and a second draft was made available to members today. Rather than reviewing the entire draft again in the meeting, a subcommittee of members was formed to review the "vision" statement and the goals and objectives and submit their comments to WCDH to be included in the ongoing discussion with NYCDOHMH and the NY HIV Planning Council. The near-final draft of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan will be presented at the December meetings of the Steering Committee and Planning Council for submission to HRSA in January.

Federal Appropriations & HATMA Reauthorization (J. Park)

The federal Department of Health and Human Services, where HRSA (and HATMA) reside, is operating under short-term continuing budget resolutions until next year's appropriations by Congress are completed. Wholesale changes in a reauthorized HATMA are unlikely to be made next year (HATMA expires on September 30, 2009) given other pressing national priorities and a new administration. However, the advocacy community is pulling together issues to present to the new administration when President-Elect Obama takes office in January 2009. Copies of a letter "AIDS in America" to the Obama-Biden transitional team, a white paper "National AIDS Strategy," and a slide presentation "A National AIDS Strategy for the United States" were included in members' folders for learning more about how the advocacy community is approaching these issues with the new administration and Congress.

VI. New Business

Victor Alvarez reported that the guidelines for HIV treatment are being revised at the federal level, proposing to begin HIV antiretroviral medication earlier than currently recommended.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at Planned Parenthood, White Plains Center.