

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, February 9, 2005
Planned Parenthood – White Plains Center

APPROVED MINUTES

- Members Present:** V. Alvarez, C. Ardizzone (for B. Ilardi), L. Bennett, H. Blecher, C. Brazil, D. Capasso, B. Cauthen, G. Diaz, K. Everett, D. Frantzen, J. Ganapol, L. Hilton, S. Levine MD, M. Littles, M. Lopez-Squillini, R. Maher, D. Marlowe, J. McGovern, T. Payne, M. Piazza, K. Scott, C. Silva (for G. Moon), A. Straus, S. Wayne, G. Yarn
- Members Absent:** C. Archbald, MD, A. Beltran, W. Bullock, H. Fitzgerald, J. Hilger, R. Leandre, J. Levy, A. Paige-Bowman, S. Pemberton, D. Scholar, R. Schiffrin, K. Slade, M. Sosne, L. Tackley, O. Young
- Guests Present:** M. Hodgson-Vargas, M. Kroning, E. Schmidt, M. Shelley, M. Simon, H. Temple
- Staff Present:** T. Petro, B. Reyes
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I. Approval of January 12, 2005 Minutes

The January 12, 2005 minutes were unanimously approved after the following changes were made: 1) Under the Title II report, the Case Management & Mental Health/Substance Use Committees' training curriculum is being designed to enhance overall service delivery, and not to focus solely on mental health issues; and 2) Under the Title I report, the new Medicare reform legislation effective January 1, 2006 will make Medicare recipients ineligible for prescription drugs under the Medicaid program, but Medicaid coverage for services by those who hold dual eligibility will continue.

II. Announcements

- M. Hodgson-Vargas announced there were 12 participants at the Council of Community Services of NYS's February 3rd Nonprofit Financial Symposium held at Greyston.
- A Kaiser Family Foundation facts sheet was distributed on African Americans and HIV/AIDS to coincide with the February 7 awareness day regarding the issue.

- New Steering Committee member Dana Marlowe provided background information on Nyack Hospital's pediatric/family-centered HIV/AIDS program which has been operating for 10 years, is Title II-funded, and includes case management, primary care and support services. Adult parents and guardians with HIV/AIDS are served, in collaboration, at Rockland DOH.
- Rob Maher (TOUCH) and Hildred Temple (Greyston) advised that their agencies have job openings. TOUCH's flyer was distributed.
- A flyer was distributed about a CARE Act reauthorization forum to be held on March 11 at the Schomburg Center for Research and Black Culture in Harlem.

III. Update Reports

Living Together (V. Alvarez)

- The last LT meeting was held on January 27th at ARCS in Hawthorne. Members discussed objectives for determining how the draft strategic planning goals might be met. They also felt strongly that if the CARE Act is changed, then supporting health care for everyone should take precedence over other services. The next LT meeting will be held on February 24, 2005.
- Victor noted the New York region's recent loss of \$14 million in HOPWA funding (the loss to Tri-County is to-be-determined) and the difficulty of receiving appropriate and needed health care without having stable housing. He also noted that there appears to be too much of a concentration on funding in recent planning meetings he's attended instead of on service delivery.
- A LT training will be held on February 21st at Hudson River Health Care on consumer advisory groups. (M. Littles added that the New York PLWHA advisory group meeting will be held next Saturday, February 12th at GMHC from 12-2 PM, and negotiations are underway with chair Rafael Abadia to get Tri-County members to those meetings.)

Title II (K. Everett)

- A flyer was distributed about a forum on "Outreaching to Women and Bringing Them into Care" to be held on February 14th at ARCS primarily for case managers looking at best practices.
- A flyer was distributed about a forum on "Three Systems and 1 Client" to be held on February 23 at ARCS to assist case managers in recognizing clients' needs for mental health/substance use services.
- A forum for adolescents was held at St. Agatha's residential home in Rockland on January 26 about the misconceptions about HIV and substance use. Presentations were made by health educators from Bronx AIDS Services and Montefiore Medical Center and a resource directory on NYC adolescent programs was distributed. (D. Marlowe noted that St. Agatha's Home is closing due to a lack of funding.)
- It was noted that the announcements that B. Reyes had been including with the transmission of the monthly Tri-County meeting calendar will be sent in newsletter format instead by Kelli starting next month. Basil will continue to send the calendar by e-mail, however.

Title I (T. Petro, B. Reyes)

- In addition to Dana Marlowe's appointment to the Steering Committee, there are still two vacancies. One was created with the consolidation of a Rockland consumer seat. (Martin Sosne was appointed as a voting member with Liz DiPierro's resignation and Roland Marrero, who has attended few meetings, agreed to step down and serve as Martin's alternate.) While a few providers submitted applications in response to

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the recent solicitation for new members, no applications were received from consumers. Steering Committee members were asked for help in finding PLWHA, particularly from Rockland and Putnam, who are willing to serve.

- Six proposals were received in response to last year's treatment adherence RFP (Request For Proposals).
- The Tri-County Resource Cards are in the process of being reprinted through the Westchester County Graphics and Printing Division. We have recently received 800 copies of the Rockland County cards and will be requesting 4,000 copies of the Westchester and 400 of the Putnam County card. The cards should be printed by mid-March and distributed to agencies requesting them. We will make an effort to distribute the cards to agencies providing HIV Counseling and Testing so they can pass the card to individuals that are recently diagnosed.
- The PCRS (Partner Counseling & Referral Services) training by NYSDOH has been scheduled for May 3-5, 2005 at ARCS and an e-mail invitation was sent to all agencies providing case management and/or outreach.

IV. Contingency Plans for Reduced Year15 Award (T. Petro)

With still no word on the Year 15 (3/1/05 – 2/28/06) Title I award, discussion resumed on how to pare down the budget in the event of a 5-10% reduction. The following were listed for consideration: 1) the uninsured care pools (ADAP, ADAP-Plus, Home Care, APIC); 2) housing, transportation, and food enhancements made last year; 3) treatment adherence which was RFPed, but not yet under contract; 4) across-the-board cuts; 5) the highest-funded category --- case management; 6) programs serving the least number of clients; 7) lower performing programs; and 8) revenue-producing programs.

Several members, who were concerned that the CHAIN study has been basically held harmless over the years, suggested adding it to the list, and questioned the need to conduct the survey on an annual basis (versus every other year).

Some members noted that Living Together as well as pharmaceutical companies offer treatment adherence and education services also, but others stressed the importance of having a dedicated treatment adherence counselor on staff to work one-on-one with patients.

There was general agreement to the following (with additional discussion to come once the award is known):

- Reduce the uninsured care pools to a maximum of \$200,000.
- Maintain treatment adherence, but consider starting the new programs on August 1 in order to save six months of Year 15 costs (\$112,500), though it was noted that those new contract budgets will have to be annualized in Year 16.
- Maintain the enhancements for housing (\$185,000), transportation (\$115,000), and food (\$95,000).
- Continue to explore all the other options listed above, but also consider the funding and services provided from other than Title I sources. (Mental health in particular, which is largely Medicaid- and ADAP-reimbursable, was questioned for continuation funding.)

M. Littles noted how helpful it would be to know the full ramifications of the new Medicaid reform legislation which might mean less individuals dependent on ADAP and more moving to Medicare.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on March 9, 2005, 10:00 am-12:00 pm with the location to be announced.