

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, November 16, 2005

ARCS

40 Saw Mill River Road, (Route 9A)

Hawthorne, NY

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: C. Archbald, MD, M. Bannister, L. Bennett, H. Blecher, C. Brazil, C. Burwell, G. Diaz, H. Fitzgerald, K. Everett, D. Kittell, S. Levine, MD, M. Littles, R. Maher, D. Marlowe, A. Paige-Bowman, M. Piazza, D. Scholar, A. Straus, S. Wayne, G. Yarn

Members Absent: V. Alvarez, L. Beal, B. Cauthen, D. Capasso, E. D'Aquino, J. Hilger, L. Hilton, B. Ilardi, R. Leandre, M. Lopez-Squillini, J. McGovern, T. Payne, S. Pemberton, R. Schiffrin, K. Scott, K. Slade, M. Sosne, D. Stern, L. Tackley, O. Young

Guests Present: M. Hodgson-Vargas, R. Nuñez, G. Smith

Staff Present: T. Petro, B. Reyes

I. Approval of October 12, 2005 Minutes

The October 12, 2005 minutes were approved as presented.

II. Announcements

- A moment of silence was held for Joe Tribbie, a former vice-president of Greyston Health Services and beloved colleague from the Tri-County HIV/AIDS community, who died suddenly on October 27. Memorials were held at the Greyston Chapel on November 3 and at the Fourth Universalist Society Church in Manhattan on November 5. At the time of his death, Joe was the deputy director of Harlem United.
- A World AIDS Day (WAD) conference titled "HIV Prevention: A New Paradigm, New Partners," sponsored by the Westchester AIDS Council and the Westchester County Department of Health, will be held on Friday, December 2nd, 8:30 pm – 4:30 pm at Tappan Hill Estate in Tarrytown. This free conference will focus on expanding outreach by promoting networking opportunities between dedicated HIV service providers and organizations that do not provide HIV testing or HIV services.

Title I Steering Committee Meeting

November 16, 2005

Page 2 of 4

- Several WAD events will be held on December 1 in Rockland starting with a morning service in the Health Department's chapel in Pomona. At noon at the Palisades Center, information and brochures about local HIV services will be made available. Rapid testing will be offered in the afternoon by the Health Department at TOUCH in Congers and additional testing will take place at other locations that week.
- The Yonkers HIV/AIDS Providers' Task Force is holding several events on December 1 including the first Yonkers AIDS walk which will kick off at the steps of City Hall at 10:30 am.
- Westchester Medical Center has three job opportunities: a licensed social worker, a dental hygienist, and a finance person.
- D. Kittell raised the need for transportation for consumers to HIV events such as fund-raisers since Ryan White Title I funds can only support rides to medical and social services appointments and HIV planning meetings. D. Scholar advised that she recently wrote an application for a small transportation grant (\$600) through the Burns Family Foundation and that she would notify Living Together if the Mt. Vernon HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS) office is awarded the money. G. Smith noted that Greyston received HUD (Housing & Urban Development) funding targeting the underserved and disabled in order to get them to the treatment locale. He will check to see if he can contribute any rides.
- C. Burwell brought up rudeness problems with the cab drivers (or companies) provided through the RWTI transportation program. A. Straus asked to meet after the meeting in hopes of resolving the issue. G. Diaz also heard the same complaint from consumers and is bringing the topic up for discussion in the Yonkers HIV/AIDS Task Force.
- The Tri-County Resource Directories (Winter 2003-2004) are still available if anyone needs additional copies.
- The 2006 meeting dates for the RWTI Steering Committee will be distributed at the December meeting. (The first meeting is on January 11 at Planned Parenthood.) D. Marlowe is checking on the availability of space at Nyack Hospital in Rockland for two dates later in the year.
- Several changes in RWTI Steering Committee membership include: 1) Michael Bannister, a participant in Living Together, is a newly appointed voting member; 2) Martin Sosne, a Rockland consumer has resigned as a voting member due to a new job; and 3) Alexander Hardman has been designated as C. Burwell's voting alternate.
- C. Archbald advised of an MSM (men who have sex with men) workgroup, facilitated by Owen Borda, which was convened to examine non-traditional ways to increase HIV testing for MSM. A December 12 MSM focus group will convene at the Jaguar Room in White Plains to get input. (It was subsequently cancelled.) The LOFT and St. John's Riverside Hospital are two of the agencies participating in the effort. Other interested parties should notify Owen or Dr. Archbald.
- M. Hodgson-Vargas advised that CCSNYS (Council of Community Services of New York State) held a training on November 1 on writing winning grant proposals which was attended by 13 participants. Also, CCSNYS moved on October 27th to Mount Vernon (20 E. First St., Suite 206, 10550). The new phone number is 914-667-6752.

III. Update Reports

Title II (K. Everett)

- The Network has been very active in addressing emerging issues regarding Medicare Part D. The last presentation for the year was held on November 3rd at ARCS and included information about the new formularies. A representative from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid answered questions, but the director of NYS ADAP could not attend. While it was well attended, more case managers should have been there because they are the ones assisting consumers with this issue. M. Littles was frustrated that the presenter could not answer a simple question: “Does Medicare Part D eliminate the Medicaid spend-down?” C. Brazil she said she believed the medication spend-down will be eliminated, but the medical spend-down was going to be picked up by ADAP. Some consumers, concerned about switching from “assigned” Part D plans, are being advised to wait until early next year after some of the details play out.
- A legislative visit with Congresswoman Nita Lowey’s staff was made on October 19th by six consumers and providers from the region. There will be many more opportunities for legislative visits. The group was advised that Ms. Lowey is interested in CARE Act advocacy efforts, including a possible press conference. (CNN did a news piece on reauthorization two weeks ago stemming from the Campaign to End AIDS. The issue of reauthorization is getting publicity.)
- The next Network meeting is scheduled for November 18th from 9:30 am -12:30 pm at ARCS. The meeting will be a community planning event to brainstorm about ideas to address gaps in services for the 2006-2007 Network plan.

Living Together (V. Alvarez)

- The next meeting is scheduled for November 16th and the topic is Medicare, Medicaid and ADAP. Victor and Gerald will answer as many questions as they can, but cannot answer Melvin’s spend-down question.

CARE Act Reauthorization (T. Petro)

- Reauthorization will not be completed until early next year and it is anticipated that HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) will be operating under the current CARE Act rules and formula, basing the awards as they have done for the previous five years.

Title I (T. Petro)

- The Year 14 (3/1/04-2/28/05) carryover plan was approved by HRSA: \$407,354 will be allocated to ADAP and the remaining \$94,667 will be transferred to WCDH for local spending.
- Regarding Year 15 (3/1/05-2/28/06) unallocated funds, WCDH is in negotiations, per the Steering Committee’s vote last month, to enhance case management, food and mental health programs. (Housing providers, who received increases last year which were maintained this year, did not request any of the Year 15 unallocated funds.) Not every Title I provider in these categories will be eligible, however, as the Department is not increasing contract amounts for agencies that have seen substantial underspending over the past several years or have already reduced their budgets this year.
- A one-day overview of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control)-supported DEBI (Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions) module “Healthy Relationships” will be conducted by the University of Rochester’s Center for Health and Behavioral Training on January 26, 2006. A save-the-date flyer is soon to be distributed. Participants will help decide if the full four-day training should be scheduled for the region. This DEBI module is based on social cognitive theory and focuses on developing skills and

building self-efficacy and positive expectations about new behaviors through modeling behaviors and practicing new skills. It is basically a secondary prevention effort with PLWH/A.

IV. Tool for Ranking Spending Priorities (T. Petro)

For context, a research publication titled “Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation” on health care priority-setting principles, practices and challenges was distributed. In an effort to rank priorities for the annual HRSA application and for making contingency plans for possible reductions in the award, a more “objective” tool was developed and utilized by the New York HIV Planning Council this year. The Steering Committee had agreed previously to use a similar tool to rank Tri-County spending priorities. The tool is based on a “grid analysis,” i.e., services are scored according to a set of five weighted criteria: 1) payer of last resort/alternate providers of service; 2) access and maintenance in care; 3) specific gaps (demographic/special population); 4) core services (HRSA definition); and 5) consumer priority. Each criterion is afforded from 1-3 points which, with weightings, may yield a top score of 58.5 for a spending priority. WCDH staff advised they would explore revising the rating system so that 100 equals a perfect score since everyone is used to the 0-100 scale.

To every extent possible, data should be used to score each criterion (e.g., CHAIN will assist in determining if the service addresses a specific gap or is considered a priority by consumers), but – as the research article makes clear – “expert opinion” may be substituted when data is unavailable. Conflicts-of-interest should be identified by each expert, though their scores should not necessarily be dismissed, as providers are not voting on their individual programs, but rather on the larger service category.

A list of the service types (e.g., pantry bags, food vouchers) completed within a service category (food bank/home-delivered meals) with their definitions will be distributed for the process so that everyone understands exactly how the services may contribute to access and maintenance in care.

Ranking Tri-County priorities will begin in earnest at the December Steering Committee meeting with the goal of completion by February.

Next Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Planned Parenthood

175 Tarrytown Road

White Plains