

**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 9, 2005

St. Bernard's Chapel Hall – White Plains

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Members Present:** C. Archbald MD, L. Beal (for H. Fitzgerald), C. Brazil, D. Capasso, B. Cauthen, G. Diaz, S. Levine MD, J. Levy, M. Lopez-Squillini, R. Maher, D. Marlowe, J. McGovern, A. Straus, S. Sullam, S. Wayne, G. Yarn

**Members Absent:** V. Alvarez, A. Beltran, L. Bennett, W. Bullock, E. D'Aquino, K. Everett, D. Frantzen, J. Ganapol, J. Hilger, L. Hilton, B. Ilardi, R. Leandre, M. Littles, G. Moon, A. Paige-Bowman, T. Payne, S. Pemberton, M. Piazza, D. Scholar, R. Schiffrin, K. Scott, K. Slade, M. Sosne, L. Tackley, O. Young

**Guests Present:** J. Facelle MD (Rockland Co. Health Commissioner), A. W. Figueroa, M. Kroning, E. Schmidt, M. Shelley, M. Simon

**Staff Present:** T. Petro, B. Reyes

---

**I. Approval of February 9, 2005 Minutes**

The February 9, 2005 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented. (A copy of the approved January 12, 2005 minutes which had been revised at the February meeting was also distributed.)

**II. Announcements**

A review of the meeting materials distributed noted:

- A flyer about the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Church Week (March 6-12) of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS.
- A CDC-sponsored satellite broadcast on April 21, 1-3 PM, on "Partner Counseling & Referral Services for HIV Prevention."
- NYSDOH/AIDS Institute correspondence to HIV/AIDS service providers regarding the recent case of HIV infection with multi-drug resistance in a gay NYC man with rapid progression to AIDS.
- The HIV/AIDS Tri-County Technical Assistance Training Calendar for March-May 2005 prepared by the Council of Community Services of NYS.

### **III. Update Reports**

#### Living Together

No report was given. V. Alvarez was not present; G. Yarn arrived late.

#### Title II

K. Everett was not present to provide a report.

#### Title I (T. Petro, B. Reyes)

- Registration for the Partner Counseling & Referral Services (PCRS) training for CBOs (case managers and outreach workers) by NYSDOH, scheduled for May 3-5 at ARCS in Hawthorne, is almost full. Several unregistered agencies were encouraged to get their forms in as soon as possible.
- More consumer representation on the Title I Steering Committee, particularly from Putnam and Rockland counties, is still being sought. Provider agencies in these counties are asked to encourage their clients to apply.
- In response to WCDH Commissioner Lipsman's concern that crystal methamphetamine use may becoming prevalent in the region, B. Reyes will be conducting an informal survey, primarily by phone, of providers and consumers (via Living Together) to inquire if there's a local problem. Dr. Facelle noted that it's a huge issue in the south and midwest in regards to its manufacture, using easily-obtainable ammonia nitrate and Sudafed, which also produces a toxic residue. There is new legislation pending in some states to restrict the sale of these raw materials.
- There will be a future presentation by Yedidah Yehudah from WCDH regarding Project WAVE (War Against the Virus Escalating), our local effort to get people HIV-tested. Project WAVE has evolved into more than a single event on June 27, national HIV Testing Day. G. Diaz, who attended yesterday's WAVE participant meeting, reported that efforts are underway to utilize non-traditional venues such as barber shops and beauty salons and annual Latino and African American festivals. Seven or more sites are being planned for this coming June, possibly including parks and soccer games.

### **IV. Year 15 (3/1/05-2/28/06) Spending Plan**

A spreadsheet of the Year 15 national Title I awards was reviewed; 18 EMAs (Eligible Metropolitan Areas) received increases while 33 lost funding. The New York Title I award was \$117,906,720, i.e., a 3.44% loss over Year 14. A draft Tri-County budget for \$5,659,522 was presented to the Steering Committee which represents 4.8% (a decrease of .1% from the previous year) of the EMA's award based on an update of the proportion of PLWA in the Tri-County region compared to the entire EMA. The draft budget assumed maintaining a \$140,000 Tri-County treatment adherence program funded by NYC via the AIDS Institute, and maintaining the CHAIN project at \$340,000, with both contracts to remain administered by NYC. With these items subtracted out, a balance of \$5,179,522 would be transferred to WCDH for local Title I administration which would cover program continuations as well as a \$225,000 allocation for new treatment adherence programs. (Treatment adherence proposals are under review and the Department advocates funding as many as resources will allow.) Since total Year 15 carrying costs exceed the award, a \$40,620 deficit was noted and entered on the Planning Council Support line which funds two WCDH planning positions. (The deficit could actually have been entered on any budget line.) The draft budget did not include an allocation to the HIV Uninsured Care pools (ADAP, etc.). The Year 14 carryover, still estimated at \$550,000, was proposed to cover the deficit and the pools. (An annual allocation of about \$400,000 has been made to the pools in recent years.)

Some Committee members found it difficult to reconcile the ongoing commitment to the CHAIN study especially at \$340,000 – what appeared to be a third or more of the EMA’s total CHAIN budget – while Tri-County is receiving only 4.8% of the award. Members questioned how Tri-County came to fund CHAIN, as they recalled originally being advised that NYC would be funding the entire study. Others asked for justification, particularly for any high salaries. Some members wanted CHAIN staff to report back on why consumers are moving out of the region. (CHAIN staff will be presenting at a meeting in the spring and will answer the many questions.)

Since the treatment adherence programs could start possibly as late as September 1 to save six months of funding, some members were concerned about having enough funds to annualize the new programs in Year 16 (3/1/06-2/28/07) and offering positions to new staff with a guarantee of only six months of grant funds. Some members suggested that case managers with appropriate training can also provide treatment adherence services while others advocated that all Title I-funded staff be trained. Some questioned why medical case managers are not carrying out this function already. Several members whose HIV primary care facilities currently provide such services stressed the importance of having a separate dedicated treatment adherence counselor located onsite.

Instead of funding additional treatment adherence programs, a member suggested increasing support for current Title I providers, e.g., for a mental health program which has a waiting list.

The Committee agreed that there was a treatment adherence role for case managers, whether they were medically- or socially-based, and requested the RW staff to explore what related trainings already exist which might be brought to Tri-County, or if a training might need to be developed. It was also noted that Living Together provides treatment adherence services when facilitating support groups and related educational sessions.

The Steering Committee voted unanimously to approve the draft budget as presented (with, for now, the \$225,000 line for treatment adherence) and forward it to the New York HIV Planning Council. Unresolved issues (i.e., the number of treatment adherence programs to fund, training case managers in treatment adherence, and the allocation to the pools) will be revisited at the next meeting when more information becomes available.

## **V. CARE Act Reauthorization**

The CARE Act expires on September 30, 2005 with the end of the federal fiscal year by which time a reauthorized CARE Act will hopefully have been passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. The new Act would cover services beginning March 1, 2006 and could see some wholesale changes in Titles structure, what services may be funded, and how funding is allocated across the country. A joint CAEAR (Cities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief) Coalition and AIDS Action policy position paper was distributed which included reauthorization principles and a summary of recommendations to Congress which is also waiting for the federal Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to weigh in. (It was subsequently learned that a reauthorization forum sponsored by the HIV Planning Council will be held at the Schomburg Center in Harlem on April 22 from 9 AM – 1 PM for all those interested in learning more, especially about avenues for advocacy.

**Note of Congratulations:** Joan McGovern was offered best wishes for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday – April 13 – since she may be away on that day and unable to attend the next meeting.

**The next Steering Committee meeting, to held on April 13, 2005, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, was tentatively planned for a Rockland County location, but subsequently reverted to Planned Parenthood in White Plains.**