

Andrew J. Spano
County Executive

Department of Health

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

**TRI-COUNTY RYAN WHITE HATMA
PART A STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, June 11, 2008
ARCS**

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: C. Archbald MD, B. Bento-Fleming, B. Bennet, C. Carroll, D. Garcia Egan, M. Haseltine, B. Ilardi, H. Jones, M. Mahoney, R. Nathan, A. Otisi, S. Pemberton, S. Riordan, J. Ruiz-Perez, R. Schiffrin, D. Scholar, K. Scott, H. Sherwin, A. Shurin, S. Sullam (for M. Donoghue), S. Wayne, and G. Yarn

Members Absent: T. Aliotta, V. Alvarez, M. Bannister, L. Beal, C. Brazil, C. Burwell, D. Capasso, H. Fitzgerald, S. Havelka, D. Kittell, R. Leandre, S. Levine MD, M. Littles, R. Maher, J. McGovern, R. Meyer, A. Paige-Bowman, M. Piazza, K. Slade, and M. Velazquez

Guests Present: L. Redzeposki (NADAP), F. Negron (NADAP), and D. Lopez (GCCC)

Staff Present: J. Lehane and T. Petro

I. Approval of May 14, 2008 Steering Committee Minutes

A motion (A. Shurin, D. Scholar) to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

II. Announcements

- The revised calendar was distributed with the location of the Medical Case Management meeting scheduled for June 23rd: 112 East Post Road, First Floor Conference Room (adjacent to the WIC Program Office).
- The Columbia University Social Intervention Group (SIG) is seeking community-based organizations providing HIV/STI prevention education and services to collaborate on a research project to distribute and use the “Connect” program to promote safer sex behaviors. The Connect program will use a manualized DEBI (Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions) approach which has been selected by the CDC as a “best-evidence” HIV prevention program. For more information contact Katie Potocnik at 212-851-2110 or Connectproject@columbia.edu.

- Providers should alert their clients to problems with Medicare Part D. There is a major flaw in the Medicare legislation that leaves people with HIV/AIDS stuck in the Part D “donut hole” and at risk of going without essential medications. For more information contact the HIV Medicare and Medicaid Working Group’s Ann Lefert at 202-489-9787 or Robert Greenwald at 617-877-3223.
- Susan Wayne introduced Family Services of Westchester’s Steve Riordan as the new Vice President of Programs, including all HIV/AIDS services. Steve replaces Susan who will assume her new position as President/CEO of FSW on July 1st.
- Barbara Bento-Fleming introduced Dahlia Lopez who has recently joined the staff of the housing program at Grace Church Community Center.
- On Friday, June 5th the Mount Vernon AIDS Task Force hosted an HIV/AIDS education event for youth. There was standing room only with over 350 teens in attendance. The teens demonstrate an advanced level of knowledge about HIV and were very interested in learning new things. During the event HIV counseling and testing was conducted. Due to the weekend’s overwhelming success another youth education event is planned for early fall.
- Over the weekend there were several other community events. Great music and food were served up at the Caribbean Cook-Out, sponsored by the Westchester AIDS Council. Many people attended and counseling and testing was conducted by the Westchester Medical Center. The Yonkers AIDS Task Force tested over 200 people at their Health and Prevention Fair. It was reported that four (4) new HIV cases were identified over the weekend. It is becoming more acceptable for people to get tested at these events. This success is a testament to the efforts made by the HIV/AIDS community to reach out and raise awareness about HIV infection.
- The Westchester AIDS Council is in the process of identifying prevention issues, developing a calendar of events, and choosing the theme for World AIDS Day 2008. The Council is expanding the membership and is interested in adding consumers to the roster. Anyone interested in applying to be a member of the Council should contact Dr. Cheryl Archbald at 914-813-5227 or caa9@westchestergov.com.
- There are several job openings among agencies in the Tri-County region. Lucy Redzeposki, Vice-President at NADAP, suggested that local agencies post job descriptions on the Department of Labor employment site. This would enable the local agencies a broader audience for their job search. It will also enable those who are currently looking for jobs to more easily find potential leads. The following positions are available:
 1. SJRH is looking for a nurse (RN) with HIV experience to work in the Hope Center.
 2. MVH is looking to fill two (2) case manager positions.
 3. SSMC is looking for someone with HIV experience to work as a Prevention Counselor.
 4. VOA is looking to fill two (2) case manager positions.
 5. The Ryan White Part B Hudson Valley HIV Network is looking for an assistant to Barbara Bennet (Network Coordinator).

III. NADAP’s Project STEP Presentation (L. Redzeposki/F. Negron)

NADAP is a non-profit corporation that operates employment, professional training, assessment and case management programs throughout Westchester County and New York City. NADAP has recently opened an office in Yonkers and has begun a new program to support persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) as they work to improve their employment skills and expand their career choices.

Project STEP (Strategize, Train, Empower, Place) provides individualized and comprehensive employment and training services to PLWHA residing in Westchester County. The program approach is to prevent and resolve employment barriers so that clients can become self-sufficient and employed. Project STEP aims to enable men and women to successfully transition into the workforce and into jobs that also provide health benefits. NADAP plans to establish collaborative partnerships with local businesses to maximize client success.

All individuals enrolled are assigned an employment case manager who will provide individualized services including:

- intensive case management to develop and implement customized job search strategies;
- pre- and post-employment supportive services;
- community resource referrals to facilitate employment and stability;
- job readiness training such as resume writing, job search strategies, and how to complete an employment application;
- completion of an employability portfolio;
- matching of job skills with employers who provide medical benefits; and
- no-cost occupational training to upgrade vocational skills, if necessary.

For more information about the program contact NADAP's employment case manager Frank Negron at fnegron@nadap.org or 914-709-1373.

IV. Update Reports

Living Together (G. Yarn)

Living Together (LT) met on Thursday, May 22nd at ARCS following the ACRIA (AIDS Community Resources Initiative of America) training on clinical trials. The group discussed the quality of medical care and the importance of being a self-advocate regarding staying in care. The treatment adherence support group met immediately after the LT meeting. The next LT meeting will take place on Thursday, June 19th at FSW, One Summit Avenue, White Plains. Lucy Redzeposki and Frank Negron of NADAP will present and discuss their new program that is focused on preparing people to get back into the work force. LT is planning to convene a meeting at TOUCH in Rockland County later this year. There will also be an opportunity to do discuss treatment adherence issues at this meeting (date TBD).

Living Together is co-facilitating two new support groups. The Men's Group will be meeting regularly on the first and fourth Friday of each month. The next meeting will be held on June 13th at ARCS. The Women's Group will meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 470 Nepperhan Ave., Suite 318 in Yonkers. For information contact Megan Haseltine at mhaseltine@fsw.org or 914-964-6767.

The Annual LT Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 6th at FDR State Park (Section 3BS) from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Please RSVP by August 22nd to Gerald or Victor at 914-937-2320 x129 or livingtogether@cyburban.com.

Part B (B. Bennet)

The interim Executive Committee (EC) of the new Hudson Valley HIV/AIDS Network has been comprised with representatives from seven counties. The first EC meeting will take place on July 17th at 9:30 AM at the Thayer Hotel in West Point. The first general membership meeting is scheduled for October 31st (location TBD). The NYSDOH/AIDS Institute may present at that meeting. There will be a meeting of all network coordinators on June 20th to plan for the calendar for the next year. The Network will begin to publish the calendar of events in the

seven counties of the Network beginning in July, taking over the task which the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDH) has been doing for the Tri-County region. Part of the planning process will be to establish dates and times for teleconferencing so that representatives from all seven counties of the Network can meet and exchange information. The Network is looking for consumers in Putnam and Rockland Counties to advise the Network. At this time the Network is not planning to provide support for individual working groups, such as the Case Management and Mental Health/Substance Use Committees. WCDH is working locally in the Tri-County region to support the Health, Housing and Medical Case Management Committees; the re-instatement of the Mental Health/Substance Use committee is still up for discussion. For more information about the upcoming Network meetings and events contact Barbara Bennet at bbennet@arcs.org or 914-785-8275. (A new Network website is also under development.)

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

Year 17 (3/1/07 – 2/29/08) Base Carryover

The total Year 17 unspent funding for the NY EMA (Eligible Metropolitan Area) reported to HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) is \$861,549, far below the 2% maximum of the formula award allowable to be carried over into Year 18. The Steering Committee had previously voted to allocate the Tri-County portion of the carryover (\$135,598) to ADAP.

Year 18 (3/1/08-2/28/09) Base Reprogramming Plan

A distributed spreadsheet of the current year's approved spending plan showed an unallocated amount of \$97,451 in award funding temporarily "parked" in the ADAP budget line. It was reported that the cost per ride supported by the transportation program increased from \$25 to \$27 with some taxi companies also imposing surcharges this year. The program also provides public transit tokens in Westchester and will explore the distribution of bus tickets in Rockland, in lieu of providing more expensive cab rides. Committee members requested that WCDH work with the program to determine other alternatives to conserving transportation funds. In addition to transportation, the Steering Committee approved that WCDH canvass the housing and food programs as to whether they are anticipating deficits this year due to the escalating costs for rent, food and gas. The WCDH will also review the legal services category regarding a possible enhancement and report back to the Committee at its July meeting.

Year 19 (3/1/09-2/28/10) Base Application Spending Plan

The Steering Committee approved a Year 19 base budget for inclusion in the annual application to HRSA to be submitted by NYCDOHMH this fall. The budget carries all Year 18 initiatives with an increased request for funding legal services. (One legal services contract has been funded at a relatively low amount, supporting only a partial staff position with no other costs covered.) The budget also includes a \$400,000 request for ADAP. (In recent years the Tri-County region has only been able to allocate its carryover funds to ADAP.)

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at Nyack Hospital.