

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**

Thursday July 8, 2004

Planned Parenthood – White Plains Center

APPROVED MINUTES

- Members Present:** V. Alvarez, C. Ardizzone (for B. Iardi), L. Beal (for H. Fitzgerald), L. Bennett, H. Blecher, C. Brazil, D. Capasso, K. Everett, L. Hilton, J. Kraus, R. Leandre, S. Levine (MD), J. Levy, R. Maher, M. Littles, J. McGovern, A. Paige-Bowman, S. Pemberton, M. Piazza, D. Scholar, J. Sclafani (for J. Ganapol), K. Scott, C. Silva (for F. Oldham), K. Slade, J. Tribbie, S. Wayne, R. Williams, Y. Yehudah (for R. Glicksman, MD), O. Young
- Members Absent:** W. Bullock, G. Diaz, L. DiPierro, D. Frantzen, J. Hilger, J. Hornig, R. Marrero, R. Ortiz, R. Schiffrin, K. Slade, L. Tackley, G. Yarn
- Guests Present:** D. Abramson, K. Brennan, J. Nelson, L. Pargament, A. Straus, S. Sullam, M. Hodgson-Vargas
- Staff Present:** E. Fitzgerald, J. Lehane, T. Petro, B. Reyes
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I. Approval of June 17, 2004 Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved after a sentence was added to Item IV. regarding Year 13 (3/1/03 – 2/29/04) carryover, i.e., that \$25,544 in MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) carryover could be allocated to the HIV Uninsured Care Pools (ADAP & ADAP-Plus) if the Committee votes to do so.

II. Announcements

- A hold-the-date flyer was distributed regarding a July 16 “federal partners” forum to be held at New York Academy of Medicine at which representatives from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Veterans Administration are to present on their HIV-related initiatives. The forum’s purpose is to promote coordination across all HIV providers which is a Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) mandate.
- J. Kraus introduced Andrea Straus who recently left her position at the AIDS Institute to become ARCS’ deputy executive director.

III. Recommendations & Vote: One-Time Funded Reprogramming Initiatives

With a total of \$428,869 expected to be made available through Year 13 carryover and some unallocated Year 14 funds, an updated list of reprogramming recommendations received from the community was distributed for review. The Steering Committee voted to approve the following items for spending in Year 14:

Ambulatory/Outpatient Medical Care - New Mobile Medical Unit @ \$135,000

Special approval by HRSA is required for this program enhancement. Title I can only pay the proportional amount of the purchase price that corresponds to the van's operating costs supported by the Title I outpatient/ambulatory medical care grant. At \$154,500, the Title I grant represented 60% of those costs in Year 13, so only 60% (i.e., \$135,000) of the estimated \$225,000 van purchase price may be allocated by Title I. (Repairing the van was another consideration. But with an estimated \$36,000 repair cost, it was determined that the 11-year old van was not worth the effort.)

Food Bank/Home-Delivered Meals @ \$ 95,000

Due to decreased support from the private sector, several existing programs will be enhanced.

Housing Assistance @ \$10,000

The Rockland County program will be enhanced to provide for the costs of moving expenses, security deposits, and brokers' fees which were not included in the original budget.

Transportation @ \$115,000

The Tri-County program will be enhanced to provide for the upsurge in requested rides this year and to prevent the program from exhausting its funds (perhaps by August at the current rate) or having to ration rides. (WCDOH staff will investigate and report back on problems mentioned about the transportation program's providing rides to Putnam residents.)

Program Support/Trainings @ \$35,000

An ad hoc task force will be appointed to develop training goals and objectives to improve patient-client/provider communications and to bolster the role of case managers. All trainings currently offered in the region will be reviewed. Results will be presented to the Steering Committee in September. A solicitation may have to be executed to obtain quotes to provide such trainings. (It was also suggested that DataLink trainings should be better publicized and that a training should be conducted to help consumers purchase homes.)

Service Planning & Coordination/Haitian Project @ \$38,869

An ad hoc task force will be appointed to develop concrete goals and objectives for improving HIV-related services for the Tri-County Haitian community. D. Abramson from Columbia University volunteered to provide demographic and other qualitative information on Haitians participating in the CHAIN study. A formal needs assessment may be conducted after a review of the CHAIN data and after a review of an agency needs assessment which was conducted for the Haitian American Cultural Social Organization (HACSO) by the Council of Community Services of NYS last year.

IV. Recommendations & Vote: Year 15 (3/1/05 – 2/28/06) Priorities

In addition to carrying all Year 14 priorities, the Steering Committee voted to add the Year 14 enhancements (cited above) to next year's budget request, i.e., an additional \$100,000 for food, \$10,000 for housing, and \$115,000 for transportation. In addition, the Uninsured Care Pools (ADAP & ADAP-Plus) request is to be raised to \$600,000 again (\$400,000 was actually allocated in Year 14), and \$30,000 is to be budgeted for ongoing trainings. No funding request is to be made for the Haitian Project pending the outcome of Year 14 deliberations.

Also, one brand new service category – treatment adherence – was prioritized for next year at a total of \$225,000 (3 programs, \$75,000 each). A survey conducted of all HIV primary care programs in the region revealed that only two agencies, funded through a NYC Title I grant that passed through the AIDS Institute, had “dedicated” treatment adherence counselors. The rest conducted treatment adherence in varying degrees with staff who had several other responsibilities.

It was also noted that, because of HRSA's service definition of what constitutes “early intervention” (the only HRSA category allowed to support counseling & testing), one or more of the current “outreach” programs which might budget for HIV (rapid) testing next year may have to be re-categorized at a later point. The scope of the programs, however, would remain the same.

The next meeting (subsequently canceled) was scheduled for Wednesday, August 11, 2004, 10:00 AM at Planned Parenthood - White Plains Center.