

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, September 14, 2005
Planned Parenthood – White Plains Center
175 Tarrytown Road

A P P R O V E D M I N U T E S

Members Present: F. Avellanet (for R. Schiffrin), V. Alvarez, L. Beal, R. Birchard (for C. Brazil), D. Capasso, D. Anderson (for K. Scott), E. D'Aquino, G. Diaz, K. Everett, B. Ilardi, J. McGovern, M. Piazza, D. Scholar, A. Straus, S. Wayne, G. Yarn

Members Absent: L. Bennett, H. Blecher, C. Burwell, B. Cauthen, H. Fitzgerald, J. Hilger, L. Hilton, R. Leandre, S. Levine MD, J. Levy, M. Littles, M. Lopez-Squillini, R. Maher, Jr., D. Marlowe, A. Paige-Bowman, T. Payne, S. Pemberton, K. Slade, M. Sosne, L. Tackley, O. Young,

Guests Present: D. Abramson, O. Borda, S. Gray, D. Kittell, and J. Maldonado

Staff Present: J. Lehane, T. Petro, B. Reyes

I. Approval of July 13, 2005 Meeting Minutes

The July 13, 2005 meeting minutes were approved after a correction noting that F. Avellanet was present.

II. Announcements

- Congratulations to Renee Recchia, Assistant WCDH Commissioner for Planning & Evaluation, who had a baby boy – Marco – on August 30.
- The focus group that Bailey House's TA Clearinghouse was to hold today to gather information from providers on the difficulties in sustaining programs has been rescheduled to September 16 to take place at the Title II Steering Committee meeting.
- NYSDOH/AIDS Institute has discontinued HIV counseling and testing in Putnam County because of low demand. Planned Parenthood will continue with its "confidential" testing program in the county and PCDOH is planning to initiate a confidential and anonymous testing program to fill the gap. Currently those requesting anonymous HIV testing are referred to sites in Westchester and Dutchess Counties.

Title I Steering Committee Meeting

September 14, 2005

Page 2 of 4

- WCDH, in collaboration with the Westchester AIDS Council, is sponsoring an all-day conference on Friday, December 2, 2005 at Tappan Hill in Tarrytown. The day's theme is "outreach" with the goal of creating partnerships between AIDS service organizations, county agencies, and other possible outreach venues. WCDH is compiling a list of other World AIDS Day events to be held that week to be included in the December 2 brochure. Events should be submitted to B. Reyes (bar3@westchestergov.com) by September 30. For more information, contact O. Borda (914-813-5338 or omb1@westchestergov.com) who is staffing an AIDS Council planning committee. Folks from other counties are welcome to attend.
- O. Borda is also facilitating a MSM (Men who have Sex with Men) working group whose next meeting is on September 19. The group's goals are to promote outreach to MSM and reduce barriers to testing.
- A town hall meeting sponsored by the Westchester Women's Health Partnership – in association with WCDH and the Westchester County Office for Women – will be held on September 22, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm at the YWCA in White Plains. Discussion about "Requesting the (HIV) Test" will be moderated by Westchester legislator Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

III. Update Reports

Living Together (V. Alvarez)

- The LT picnic was held on July 30 at FDR Park in Yorktown and 120 people attended. Special thanks to Barbara Bento-Fleming and Tom Petro who sent sweet treats for everyone and also to Gerald Yarn who organized all of the transportation.
- Victor attended a meeting a recent meeting at the AIDS Institute where they presented on several new classes of drugs in the pipeline and announced the pending release of mental health treatment guidelines.
- In October, LT is planning a meeting on Ryan White Care Act reauthorization and will invite Joe Pressley, executive director of the New York AIDS Coalition, to present.
- The next LT meeting will be held on September 29 at ARCS.

Title II (K. Everett)

- The Network is recruiting new and former members, especially PLWHA. Those interested should contact Kelli Everett at 914-428-6300 x230 or lhrcarenetwork@gmail.com.
- Welcome to Yelitza Acevedo, the new Lower Hudson Valley Network program assistant, who will be attending various meetings and events.
- A Community Awareness meeting is scheduled for September 16 at ARCS to discuss strategies to address CARE Act reauthorization.
- On July 27th the Case Management Committee held a breakfast forum on staff turnover and strategies to prevent staff burnout. Supervisors and case managers attended and discussed various techniques to improve communication and provide peer support for the purpose of improving service delivery to clients.
- The next Case Management Committee meeting will be held on September 19th. Nominations are being accepted for a new co-chair (Diane Anderson serves as one co-chair) to be elected in November.

Title I Steering Committee Meeting

September 14, 2005

Page 3 of 4

- On October 5, the Mental Health/Substance Use Committee will hold a breakfast forum on “Stigma and HIV.” The panel will consist of consumers, CHAIN field director Barbara Bennet who will present data on stigma and barriers to care, and psychiatrist Dr. Richard McCarthy who will discuss transforming stigma into power.
- An informational update by ADAP Director Christine Rivera on Medicare Part D will be held in October (date TBD) after the new Medicare drug formularies (reimbursable drug list and rates) are set.

Title I (T. Petro)

- The third draft of next year’s Title I application to be submitted by September 30 by NYCDOH to HRSA is under review and includes much more information about the Tri-County region to illustrate the diversity of the NY EMA (Eligible Metropolitan Area).
- Three Title I treatment adherence awards were made for contracts effective September 1: Hudson River HealthCare, Mount Vernon Hospital, and Open Door Family Medical Centers.

IV. CHAIN Review of Operations and Deliverables (D. Abramson)

In response to concerns about the cost of the CHAIN study in the Tri-County region, four alternative research designs for continuing with CHAIN were presented on a one-page handout: 1) status quo, one-year interview rounds, 2) two-year interview rounds, 3) alternating-year interviews in a cross-sectional design, and 4) rolling-300, a rolling refresher with respondents enrolled for three waves only. The approximate cost per scenario ranged from a low of \$200,000 (off year of the cross-sectional design) to a high of \$370,000 (on year of the cross-sectional design). The status quo and rolling-300 were estimated each at \$340,000 and the two-year interview rounds at \$290,000. Key questions to consider when thinking about supporting the continuation of CHAIN are:

- What type of policy/programmatic issues do you want to evaluate and how much statistical power is needed?
- How important is it to capture change over time for individuals in the health system?
- How timely should the data and analyses be?
- What will CHAIN be used for, i.e., evaluating the service system, performance measures, specific models of care, and/or identifying and analyzing emerging issues, etc.?

This issue is likely to be revisited early next year, particularly if there’s a substantial cut in the award.

V. CARE Act Reauthorization Update (K. Everett and B. Reyes)

The Ryan White CARE Act expires on September 30, 2005 and, on July 27, President Bush’s principles for CARE Act reauthorization were released. Several principles (reviewed today), if operationalized, would reduce funding to New York, seriously impacting the established continuum of care that was so carefully built over the years. Several advocacy letters have been forwarded to the administration and elected officials opposing some of the principles, including from Westchester County Executive Andy Spano, NYC Mayor Mike Bloomberg, the New York AIDS Coalition, and NYS Health Commissioner Dr. Antonia Novella. On September 12, NYAC executive director Joe Presley presented at a community action meeting in White Plains and urged all providers in the Tri-County region to sign on to a community letter being circulated to Department of Health & Human Services Director Michael Leavitt that will express concerns about possible disruption in services should these principles be applied to the CARE Act reauthorization.

VI. Planning for Unallocated Year 15 Funding (T. Petro)

There is approximately \$138,000 in current Year 15 (3/1/05-2/28/06) one-time funding that is available for re-allocation, largely from the treatment adherence budget line given that only three awards were made. It was noted that spending should be maximized more than ever since one of the President's reauthorization principles calls for reallocating Title I carryover (unspent funds) to other states' ADAP programs. Several spending options were discussed including enhancements for ADAP (adding another \$94,667) and applying the balance to food, transportation, housing, and/or trainings for the new CDC-sponsored prevention model (DEBI-Diffused Effective Behavioral Intervention) for prevention with positives. Over the next several weeks, WCDH staff will finalize the total amount available; canvass the food, transportation and housing providers about additional needs and the capacity to spend by the end of the fiscal year (February 2006); and obtain a cost for DEBI trainings. Information may be e-mailed to Steering Committee members for a vote rather than waiting for the October meeting in order to expedite the process of re-allocating funds.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: October 12, 2005, 10:00 am-12:00 pm,
Planned Parenthood – White Plains Center, 175 Tarrytown Road**