

**Andrew J. Spano**  
County Executive

Department of Health

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

**TRI-COUNTY RYAN WHITE TITLE I  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Wednesday, January 10, 2007  
Planned Parenthood –White Plains Center

**APPROVED MINUTES**

- Members Present:** V. Alvarez, D. Anderson (for K. Scott), C. Archbald, MD, B. Bento-Fleming, C. Brazil, D. Capasso, M. Cubria, L. Dawkins, G. Diaz, B. Ilardi, J. Kraus (for A. Shurin), M. Littles, R. Maher, R. Nathan, J. Park, T. Saari, D. Scholar, K. Slade, S. Sullam (for H. Blecher), P. Taddeo (for S. Levine, MD), S. Wayne, and G. Yarn
- Members Absent:** M. Bannister, L. Beal, L. Bennett, C. Burwell, H. Fitzgerald, , D. Kittell, R. Leandre, J. McGovern, A. Paige-Bowman, T. Payne, S. Pemberton, M. Piazza, R. Schiffrin, L. Tackley, and O. Young
- Guests Present:** B. Bennet (CHAIN), E. D’Aquino (GHS), S. Gray (UL), M. Hodgson-Vargas (CCSNYS), H. Jones (MVH), M. Mahoney & G. Schmits (LSHV), and V. Martinez (Renaissance)
- Staff Present:** J. Lehane, T. Petro, and B. Reyes
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**I. Approval of Minutes**

A motion made and seconded (S. Wayne, R. Maher) to approve the minutes of December 14, 2006 was unanimously approved.

**II. Announcements**

- Muriel Hodgson-Vargas of the Council of Community Services of New York State, Inc. (CCSNYS) announced that there will be a workshop on “Human Resource Issues: What You Should Know” on February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Yonkers Public Library, Riverfront Branch. The workshop will be held in the community room from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. For more information contact Natasha Tucker at [ntucker@ccsnys.org](mailto:ntucker@ccsnys.org) or 914-667-6752.
- A save-the-date flyer was distributed regarding the New York AIDS Coalition’s February 27 Albany AIDS Awareness Day .

- A notice was distributed regarding a NYSDOH RFP for HIV prevention funds for communities of color with applications due by March 7.

### **III. Update Reports**

#### **Living Together** (G. Yarn)

The next LT meeting will be held on January 25, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, at ARCS. There will be a one-hour treatment adherence group led by a peer educator following the regular two-hour LT meeting.

#### **Title II**

- The Mental Health/Substance Use Committee will sponsor a forum on “Stigma” on January 24<sup>th</sup> at Urban League. Dr. Richard McCarthy, the keynote speaker, will be joined by a panel of consumers to discuss personal experiences and explore ways to combat stigma. Contact Yelitza Acevedo at 914-428-6300 for more information.
- The Case Management Committee will not hold a January meeting. A joint meeting is being planned with the Health Committee to discuss definitions and differences in case management, including medical, comprehensive (COBRA), and supportive, in order to better plan for a forthcoming Title I RFP.
- The next Title II Steering Committee meeting will be held on Friday, January 19, 930 AM – 1130 AM at ARCS.

#### **CARE Act Reauthorization** (J. Park)

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act (HATMA) of 2006 (HR 6143) was passed by Congress on December 9 and signed into law by the President on December 19. The bill will be in effect for three years. The distribution of the award will weigh heavily on the formula which will be used to distribute two-thirds of the national appropriation, followed by the supplemental award based on competitive applications. Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funding will also now be competitive based on a separate application process. It is anticipated that the New York EMA (Eligible Metropolitan Area) may stand to lose at much as 15% (\$18 million) in its Year 17 (3/1/07 – 2/29/08) award under the new legislation. NYC and Tri-County will develop contingency spending plans for cuts at levels up to 15%.

Advocacy efforts (believe it or not) regarding reauthorizing HATMA, after it expires in three years, will begin on January 31, 2007 with meetings with Congressional staff members key to the process. Adequate appropriations will be a priority.

#### **Title I** (T. Petro)

With low attendance at the December meeting, a follow-up by mail to Steering Committee members who did not attend resulted in the following:

- The Steering Committee unanimously voted to allocate an *estimated* \$60,000 in unencumbered Year 16 (3/1/06 – 2/28/07) funding to ADAP. After completing the last round of budget modifications with Title I agencies, it was announced that the *final* additional ADAP allocation is an even \$66,000 which, together with the \$296,049 in Year 15 (3/1/05 – 2/28/06) carryover that the Committee already approved, brings this year’s total ADAP contribution to \$362,049. (Historically, the Committee has set a target amount of \$400,000 to allocate to ADAP, comprised of previous-year carryover and/or current-year award funding.)

- An amount of \$12,354 will be added to next year's Family Services of Westchester budget to provide administrative support for Living Together. Of the 24 members who voted – either in person in December or by mail – the original motion carried by a total of 18 – Yes, 0 – No, and 6 – Abstentions. (A motion carries if it receives a majority of the votes cast, i.e., in this case 18 of 25 votes were affirmatives.)

#### IV. Rescoring Service Priorities (T. Petro)

A spreadsheet was distributed highlighting the amount of Title I funding that would have to be cut from the budget were the Year 17 (3/1/07-2/29/08) award to be reduced by 15% (-\$533,133), 10% (-\$256,761), and 5% (+ \$19,610, i.e., a slight surplus would result). The actual dollar cuts would not have to be as deep as originally thought because: 1) the percentage of the EMA's award in Year 17 jumps from 4.8% to 5.1% based on the proportion of living Tri-County AIDS cases reported for 2005, and 2) the Health Department has been reducing or terminating some program budgets based on poor performance. Therefore, already *a larger proportion of funding is anticipated to cover reduced expenses.*

It was noted that the new HATMA increases the percent for administration from 5% to 10%. Therefore, the Health Department will not require any Year 17 program funds for its administrative budget, as was allocated in previous years. (The Steering Committee had allocated an additional \$66,035 in the current-year spending plan to deficit-fund the Department's budget, but NYCDOH generously contributed an additional \$80,000 for the Department, so the \$66,035 instead was used instead to enhance food, housing and transportation services.)

Though discussion was to resume regarding re-scoring service priorities, it was reported that NYC was struggling with how to apply its scores to a contingency funding plan without instituting burdensome across-the-board cuts. Instead it was suggested that Tri-County consider "surgical" cuts, i.e., specific funding categories being reduced or eliminated to meet the deficit. Although the projected worst-case scenario at a 15% cut would be the most difficult to tackle, once a 15% plan was established, award cuts at lesser percentages could more easily be made.

It was noted that, depending on the new HRSA service definition list (not yet available) resulting from the newly reauthorized legislation, that a *preliminary* spending plan will have to be revisited to comply with a 75%/25% mandated budgeting split between "core" and "non-core" services. It was suggested that, contingent upon the HRSA list, "outreach services" (currently defined as non-core) might be re-considered as "early intervention services," (currently core) since the two service categories are so similar in scope. **(Though the legislation provides for applying for a 75/25 waiver, it was subsequently learned that HRSA does not have enough time to develop the waiver process this year, thus the 75/25 requirement will be in effect in Year 17. The current-year Tri-County budget divides up just the opposite at 25% core/75% non-core.)**

The Steering Committee then proceeded to discuss how to reduce the Year 17 carrying costs by \$533,133 (i.e., at a 15% award reduction). It was noted that Year 16 carryover is *estimated* at \$200,000. In previous years, carryover was allocated to ADAP. Were the ADAP allocation not made, then the deficit might be reduced to \$333,133 (\$533,133 minus \$200,000) with carryover.

Department staff advised of one approach (though not the only one) which might preserve direct client services and reduce non-direct funding priorities included under Program Support (CHAIN, technical assistance, and the PWA advisory group). It was also noted that a percentage of effort of the outreach programs does not directly serve those known to be HIV-positive, as the programs' mission is – besides locating and connecting *identified* PLWHA to primary care – to link *high-risk* individuals to counseling and testing and connect the positives to medical care.

A motion was made and seconded (D. Capasso, K. Slade) to eliminate funding entirely for the annual \$340,000 CHAIN study as it was unclear as to what value the project has been for the Tri-County region. It was noted that CHAIN is the only national longitudinal study of PLWHA and that, in addition to providing data that has impacted local planning for HIV services, the CHAIN study contributes significantly to the annual Title I application to HRSA. A member, however, suggested that NYC take over the entire cost of the project.

The Committee was advised that the Health Department was already in talks with the CHAIN staff as to how the CHAIN budget might be trimmed and what the downside would be.

Several members advised that the NYSDOH Bureau of HIV/AIDS Surveillance was conducting a CDC-funded study called the "Medical Monitoring Project" which in some ways appears duplicative of the CHAIN study.

The motion was ultimately withdrawn and the issue tabled until the next Steering Committee meeting when a formal proposal will be presented by the CHAIN staff to cut back the project and a presentation will be made about the Medical Monitoring Project.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting**  
**February 14, 2007**  
**10:00 AM-12:00 PM**  
**Planned Parenthood –White Plains Center**