

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, January 12, 2005
ARCS
40 Saw Mill River Road, (Route 9A)
Hawthorne, NY

APPROVED MINUTES

- Members Present:** V. Alvarez, C. Archbald, MD, C. Brazil, G. Diaz, K. Everett, H. Fitzgerald, J. Ganapol, L. Hilton, B. Ilardi, S. Levine MD, M. Littles, T. Payne, S. Pemberton, Z. Ramos (for Susan Wayne), R. Schiffrin, D. Scholar, A. Straus, G. Yarn
- Members Absent:** L. Bennett, W. Bullock, D. Capasso, L. DiPierro, D. Frantzen, J. Hilger, R. Leandre, J. Levy, R. Maher, R. Marrero, J. McGovern, A. Paige-Bowman, M. Piazza, K. Scott, K. Slade, M. Lopez-Squillini, O. Young
- Guests Present:** G. Avila, L. Bailey, L. Beal, K. Brennan, A. Clarke, E. Coleman, E. D'Aquino, M. Hodgson-Vargas, O. Mays, J. Poccia, M. Simon
- Staff Present:** J. Lehane, T. Petro, B. Reyes

I. Approval of December 7, 2004 Minutes

The December 7, 2004 minutes were approved as presented.

II. Announcements

- D. Scholar announced that the Mount Vernon AIDS Task Force, in conjunction with the March 6 – 12, 2005 Black Churches Week of Prayer, will be sponsoring a performance in the Mount Vernon public schools of the play “Between the Seams” written by Dan Gallagher.
- L. Hilton and Dr. J. Lipsman will be meeting with the mayor of New Rochelle to discuss expanding the mobile van used for syringe exchange into that city. The mayor appears committed to allowing the van to conduct such activities in New Rochelle. A similar discussion will take place at the end of the month with the mayor of Yonkers.

III. Update Reports

Living Together (V. Alvarez)

- No LT meeting was held in December. The next meeting will be held on January 27, 2005. V. Alvarez noted that some LT members report that they have stopped taking their medications, largely due to side effects.

Title II (K. Everett)

- The Mental Health/Substance Use Committee is planning a joint workshop for PLWHA in the Tri-County region in March with the Leadership Training Institute (LTI) on mental health issues.
- The New York AIDS Coalition is sponsoring an advocacy trip to Albany on February 15. (A flyer was included in members' packets.) Transportation by bus is being coordinated with NYC advocates. Contact K. Everett for more information.
- To improve quality of care, the Case Management and Mental Health/Substance Use Committees are jointly creating a training curriculum for newly hired staff entering the system of care. The committees will be working with the training unit at ARCS to enhance a related training already offered in the region.
- On February 14, 2005, a Case Management Committee-sponsored breakfast forum on "Bringing Women into Care" will be held from 9:00-11:00 am at ARCS. Contact K. Everett for more information.

Title I (J. Lehane, T. Petro, B. Reyes)

- In response to questions from M. Littles: As routine screening/treatment for Hepatitis C gets added to the federal public health guidelines for care of PLWHA, it is unlikely that any additional Ryan White funding will be directed for these efforts at the federal level (although HRSA can always make it a requirement that EMAs address the issue). It may become a standard, however, that will need to be addressed in future Title I-funded outpatient medical care contracts, for example, and/or by educational trainings. Regarding the new Medicare reform legislation, a presentation will be made in February or March to the New York HIV Planning Council regarding the impact of the new law which, effective January 1, 2006, eliminates dual eligibility (i.e., individuals covered by Medicare will no longer be eligible for drug coverage through Medicaid). This change has serious implications especially since the Medicaid drug formulary is so comprehensive, and could put more pressure on CARE Act funding to fill in the gaps. The NYC speaker will be asked to replicate the Medicaid/Medicare presentation in Tri-County the following month. (V. Alvarez noted that the NYSDOH/AIDS Institute will be holding meetings of its advisory groups to address these specific issues.)
- A solicitation for new voting Steering Committee members was sent out in December to fill two vacancies. The solicitation letter was included in members' packets as was a matrix of the current membership with gaps in representation which was reviewed. Providers should consider their clients as possible applicants for membership to the committee. Contact B. Reyes for information and applications.
- Proposals are due by 5:00 pm, January 19 in response to the Treatment Adherence RFP that was released on December 1, 2004. Contact T. Petro for information.
- The Tri-County wallet-size resource cards will be printed by Westchester County graphics for one-tenth of the price that Kinko's quoted. Revisions to the cards are being made by the original designer and then will be reproduced for all three counties.

- The five goals drafted by the Steering Committee in December for the next three-year (2006-2008) Title I strategic plan (which were included in members' packets) are being reviewed by Living Together and the service subcommittees which will help develop measurable objectives. NYC, in parallel, will also develop goals after the City works through a major reorganization of its working committee structure. Tri-County and NYC goals and objectives will then be merged into a unified EMA-wide plan for submission to HRSA next summer. The consultant firm McClain & Associates again has been contracted by NYC to complete the final plan.
- A special Partner Counseling & Referral Services (PCRS) training conducted by NYSDOH for case managers and outreach workers in the Tri-County region will be held May 3-5, 2005. This is the same training given to Department of Health Partner Notification Assistance Program staff who advise individuals that they may have been exposed to HIV or another sexually transmitted disease. The number of training slots is limited to only 13. Contact T. Petro for information.
- In response to the community's call for enhanced communications trainings for providers, particularly regarding sex- and needle-sharing partners, the Case Management Committee will be meeting to address the specific barriers about communications that need to be addressed on the social service side, while the NYSDOH/AIDS Institute is reviewing the same for clinicians. The clinical review will include communication issues about viral load, CD-4 counts, and other treatment issues. Curricula development and subsequent trainings for providers in the region are anticipated later this year.

IV. Contingency Plans for Reduced Year15 Award (T. Petro)

A revised Year 15 (3/1/05-2/28/06) budget totaling \$5,859,122 was distributed which subtracted out reductions made by the WCDH in several outreach programs as well as the termination of one of the legal services contracts (serving immigrants). The budget includes carrying all other programs and the addition of funding for treatment adherence (under the recently released RFP) and for the HIV uninsured care pools (ADAP, ADAP-Plus, Home Care, APIC).

Since a reduction in the Year 15 award is anticipated, NYC is developing contingency plans for reducing programs by 5, 10 or 15%. The NYC spreadsheets were distributed along with NYC planning principles for making cuts. A similar Tri-County spreadsheet was reviewed which demonstrated how much might have to be shaved off the Year 15 budget at the same levels. If the Year 14 carryover (underspending) holds at an expected \$550,000 (the amount will not be finalized until April or May), then a 5% cut in the award would require a reduction of \$292,956; at 10%, \$585,912; and at 15%, \$878,868. The Tri-County plan of how/what to reduce will be taken up at the February Steering Committee meeting. The Title I award will probably be announced later that month.

V. CCSNYS Presentation (M. Hodgson-Vargas, O. Mays)

After the Steering Committee meeting, the Council of Community Services of NYS provided lunch and Muriel Hodgson-Vargas and Odell Mays led a round table discussion about their Title I-funded program which provides one-on-one technical assistance, group workshops/trainings and conferences, and the quarterly compilation and distribution of training schedules. CCSNYS affords its highest priority for technical assistance to HIV/AIDS services organizations in the Tri-County region that are minority-run or serve primarily communities of color.

On February 3, 2005 the Council of Community Services of New York State (CCSNYS) is sponsoring a free "Nonprofit Financial Symposium" to be held at Greyston's Room for Reflection, 1:00-4:00 pm. The session will be led by Doug Sauer, CSW, CCSNYS Executive Director, and Kelly S. Mathews, Director of the CCSNYS Nonprofit Accounting Service Center. Contact Jennifer Poscia at 914-375-2646 to register. A flyer about the symposium and a pamphlet and one-page summary of CCSNYS services were distributed.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: February 9, 2005, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Planned Parenthood, WP Center.