

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, May 11, 2005

ARCS

40 Saw Mill River Road, (Route 9A)

Hawthorne, NY

APPROVED MINUTES

- Members Present:** V. Alvarez, C. Archbald MD, C. Ardizzone (for B. Ilardi), F. Avellanet (for R. Schiffrin), L. Beal, H. Blecher, C. Brazil, C. Burwell, D. Capasso, H. Temple (for E. D'Aquino), G. Diaz, K. Everett, J. Kraus (for A. Straus), R. Leandre, S. Levine MD, J. Levy, M. Littles, M. Lopez-Squillini, R. Maher, D. Marlowe, J. McGovern, T. Payne, D. Scholar, K. Scott, C. Silva (for G. Moon), L. Tackley, S. Wayne, G. Yarn
- Members Absent:** L. Bennett, H. Fitzgerald, D. Frantzen, E. Coleman, J. Ganapol, L. Hilton, A. Paige-Bowman, S. Pemberton, M. Piazza, K. Slade, M. Sosne, O. Young
- Guests Present:** D. Abramson, B. Bennet, R. Cestone, L. Jewell, R. Rivera, E. Romero, T. Stehling, S. Luyando, M. Hodgson-Vargas, S. Resilien
- Staff Present:** E. Fitzgerald, J. Lehane, T. Petro, R. Recchia, B. Reyes
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I. Approval of April 13, 2005 Minutes

The minutes were approved after a clarification was made to the announcement about the *What's New in the Treatment of HIV* presentation, i.e., Living Together was to help arrange transportation which will be provided via ARCS Title I contract.

II. Announcements

- M. Hodgson-Vargas of CCNYS announced that O'Dell Mays will present a seminar on *How to Build a Community Advisory Board* on June 9, 2005 at Greyston Health Services.
- T. Petro announced that the New York Year 15 Ryan White Title I Application received a score of 96% (an A+ for the NY EMA). Even though the score was nearly perfect there was still a 3.5% reduction due to level funding of the CARE Act and because the formula for awards holds some EMAs harmless, i.e., at a minimum loss year-to-year.

- The May 2005 issue of POZ magazine featured a story about co-infection of HIV and Hepatitis C. Melvin Littles was one of the people interviewed for the story. Check out the cover for other familiar faces.
- L. Beal reported that the consumer advisory board members of St. John's HOPE Center received six scholarships to attend a National Minority AIDS Council-sponsored conference in Newark, NJ on May 19.
- Melissa Abdullah is recovering from recent surgery. Get-well greetings can be sent to her at 2-8 Hudson St., Apt. 4C, Yonkers, NY 10701.
- Sharing Community is honoring Joel Levy and Barbara Bento-Fleming among others on June 11 at a breakfast ceremony. Contact Gladys Diaz for information.

III. Update Reports

Living Together (V. Alvarez)

- At the last LT meeting held at Sharing Community on April 28, the group discussed the importance of consumers getting trained and becoming involved in the planning process as members of consumer advisory boards (CABs).
- Victor recently met with the NYSDOH's dental clinical advisory committee and reported that some individuals stated they would not be willing to take antiretroviral medications as a prophylactic measure if HIV-infected because of the drug side effects.
- Linda Beal was appointed to the NYSDOH/AIDS Institute Quality of Care Committee.
- The Leadership Training Institute will now accept trainees only from consumer advisory boards.
- Dr. Harold Horowitz from Westchester Medical Center presented at a well-attended dinner meeting at ARCS on *What's New in HIV Treatments*; 13 new medications are due to come online.
- Victor was looking for Dr. Alvaro Carascal from the AIDS Institute's Education & Training Center to make a local presentation in June on HIV/AIDS treatment updates.
- The next LT meeting will be held on May 26 at ARCS.

Title II (T. Payne)

- The Title II Network is looking for more consumers to become involved in planning and meetings and is reaching out to CABs in the area.
- The Case Management Committee invited reps from WCDSS to speak at its June 1 meeting on how to negotiate the social services system.
- At the June 3 Network meeting, Christine Rivera, director of the NYS ADAP, and Laura Caruso, director of health policy at GMHC, will present on *Medicare: How the Changes Will Affect You*.
- On June 29, Dr. Horowitz will present a HIV/AIDS treatment update at the Network meeting at ARCS.

- The Mental Health/Substance Use Committee is planning a stigma and cultural competency forum at the end of summer.
- Contact Kelli Everett or ARCS if you have transportation needs to meetings or want to add items to the Network newsletter.

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

Reauthorization Forum (B. Reyes)

On April 22, a Ryan White Care Act reauthorization forum was held in NYC at which reps from AIDS Action, the CAEAR Coalition and the NYSDOH AIDS Institute presented positions. AA & CAEAR jointly made 12 recommendations, one of special concern being to adhere to the census bureau's metropolitan statistical areas for Title I regions which would mean the inclusion of three New Jersey counties in the NY EMA beginning next year. AA also favors changing ADAP eligibility to 350% of the federal poverty level (NY currently operates at 470%) and removing ADAP from Title II and incorporating it into Title V so that consumers can carry their coverage from state to state. The NYSDOH/AIDS Institute opposes separating ADAP from the supportive services resources available under Title II.

It was noted that CARE Act reauthorization will happen next year, but funding is likely to be level at best. Senator Enzi (R-Wyoming), who chairs the subcommittee responsible for drafting the new CARE Act, recently requested the names of HIV planning council members over the past five years and their affiliations to organizations which received Title I funding.

A letter-writing campaign was suggested to express concerns and needs about the reauthorization recommendations.

Treatment Adherence (J. Lehane)

The six proposals received in response to the recent RFP are under evaluation by a review panel. Awards will be made for contracts starting no later than September 1, 2005.

Carryover Update (T. Petro)

The preliminary estimate of Year 14 (3/1/04-2/28/05) carryover (unspent funds) is \$502,000. With prior Steering Committee decisions to plug an award deficit of \$40,620 and a WCDH staff deficit of \$54,047, there should be about \$407,333 left. Planning for this carryover balance will be done at a future meeting when the after the total is finalized. The ADAP program is still slated to receive part or all of the carryover funds.

IV. CHAIN Presentation (D. Abramson, B. Bennett)

History of the Tri-County CHAIN Project (T. Petro)

- The CHAIN project has been collecting information about HIV/AIDS services from consumers for 11 years in NYC. In 2001 Tri-County data collection began and has been going on for a full three years.
- CHAIN is a longitudinal study that has provided important data regarding service utilization as well as a profile of needs and gaps in services for people living with HIV/AIDS in our entire EMA.
- The Tri-County CHAIN project has been helpful in the planning process and information gleaned from the project has been directly related to new priorities such as, most recently, communication training for case managers and treatment adherence programs.

➤ CHAIN funding history:

Fiscal Year	Award Amount	Percent of EMA Award Rec'd	Paid from Budget
Y-11	\$330,000	4.2%	NYC
Y-12	\$330,000	4.2%	NYC
Y-13	\$330,000	4.9%	Tri-County
Y-14	\$340,000 \$ 25,000	Includes COLA <i>Replenish Cohort (one-time)</i>	Tri-County Tri-County
Y-15	\$340,000	4.8%	Tri-County

Update of the Tri-County CHAIN Project (D. Abramson, B. Bennett)

- Status of Tri-County CHAIN Cohort
 - Wave 1 (base line = 398 interviewed)
 - Wave 2 = 398 eligible at start of wave
 - 50 ineligible (died, moved away)
 - 33 declined or hard-to-reach
 - 315 interviewed
 - Wave 3 = 349 eligible at start of wave
 - 26 still active cases in the field
 - 43 ineligible (died, moved away)
 - 44 hard-to-reach
 - 236 interviewed (as of May 5, 2005)
- Prevention Counseling for Positives
 - Questions were added to Wave 2 to gather information about the types of messages delivered and to whom they were delivered in the Tri-County region.
 - CHAIN findings indicated that risk-profiling was used to determine who should receive prevention counseling, but that such profiles did not match with actual risk behaviors. In general, prevention messages need to be delivered universally and regularly.
- Treatment Adherence
 - Factors associated with greater adherence were age (50+ years old) and comprehensive primary care.
 - Factors associated with lesser adherence were drug use, low mental health, interpersonal barriers, and having counseling by case manager (this factor needs further analysis).
- Service Gaps Update
 - Patient-provider communication gap is decreasing.
 - Financial housing and permanent housing gaps are decreasing.
 - Professional mental health service gap is increasing, but supportive mental health s gaps are decreasing.
 - Transportation service gap had spiked in Wave 2 and then declined in Wave 3.
- Exposure to Trauma and Health Outcomes
 - A significant number of CHAIN participants reported experiencing childhood violence.
 - In addition, a significant number of participants reported experiencing interpersonal violence as adults. These numbers were well above the numbers reported in national studies.
 - Adults who were involved in interpersonal violence either as children or adults seem to also experience low mental health scores, are not completely adherent to medications, and many are women of color.
- Recommendations for discussion:
 1. Be aware that risk-profiling in prevention counseling often does not match behaviors.
 2. Increase sexual risk prevention counseling for MSM.
 3. Promote comprehensive primary care, which is associated with fewer service gaps, greater adherence, and more prevention counseling.
 4. Consider treatment adherence to be more negatively impacted by unstable housing and drug use than by medical factors.
 5. Pilot a mental health diagnostic screener for case managers.

V. NYS Guidelines for HIV Testing (C. Archbald, MD)

- The (draft) *NYS Guidelines for HIV Testing* have been distributed. The final text will be available on June 1st.
- In the new guidelines the focus is on universal testing rather than on risk-profiling.
- Pretest counseling will be done in groups rather than using the time-consuming individual counseling method. However, anyone can request individual counseling sessions.
- The language for the consent form is much easier to read and understand. Individuals can sign the consent form on their own attesting to have read the material and to have understood what testing they are receiving.
- There is also a uniform request for information form. This combines HIV and non-HIV information and makes the procedures HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act)-compliant. This will allow multiple providers access to the information rather than the individual filling out many, many consent forms.
- Pregnant women are included in the consent process and the single consent form includes the follow-up testing after the baby is born.
- The hope is that HIV testing will become universal and a routine part of primary care for everyone.
- There will be training on how to implement these new procedures and on how to use the new forms. The first video training will take place by NYSDOH on June 13, 2005.
- Questions were raised regarding how to deal with people who may not know about asking for individual pretest counseling. It was noted that the responsibility for understanding testing appears to have been shifted from providers to clients.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: June 8, 2005, 9:30 am-11:30 am,
Westchester Medical Center, Cedarwood Hall, Valhalla**

**Celebration of 15th Anniversary of WMC AIDS Care Center and unveiling of the new mobile
medical van, 11:30 am at Children's Hospital.**