

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, July 12, 2006
Planned Parenthood – White Plains Center

APPROVED MINUTES

- Members Present:** V. Alvarez, C. Archbald, MD, T. Ashe, F. Avellanet (for R. Schiffrin), M. Bannister, C. Brazil, C. Carroll, G. Diaz, A. Hardman (for C. Burwell), L. Hilton, R. Maher, D. Marlowe, J. McGovern, J. Park, T. Payne, M. Piazza, D. Scholar, K. Scott, A. Shurin, S. Sullam (for H. Blecher), P. Taddeo (for S. Levine, MD), S. Wayne and G. Yarn
- Members Absent:** L. Beal, L. Bennett, D. Capasso, H. Fitzgerald, B. Ilardi, D. Kittell, R. Leandre, M. Littles, A. Paige-Bowman, S. Pemberton, K. Slade, and O. Young
- Guests Present:** M. Cubria (Greyston), M. Hodgson-Vargas (CCSNYS), H. Jones (Mt. Vernon Hospital), J. Maldonado (Urban League)
- Staff Present:** J. Lehane, T. Petro, and B. Reyes
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I. Approval of Minutes

The June 14, 2006 meeting minutes were approved with one correction to the Title II report: The June 29th legislative visit was to NYS Assembly man George Latimer (D-Westchester), not Richard Brodsky.

II. Announcements

- Dana Marlow of Nyack Hospital will be leaving to take a teaching position at Fordham University's Department of Social Service in Tarrytown.
- Muriel Hodgson-Vargas announced that CCSNYS project assistant Donna Bell has accepted a position at ARCS, leaving a vacancy at the Mount Vernon office. Please contact Muriel at 914-667-6752 or mhodgson@ccsnys.org for more information about the position.
- Susan Wayne announced that Family Services of Westchester has a position open in its Families in Transition program. For more information contact Susan at 914-948-8004 or swayne@fsw.org.

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- Larry Hilton announced that he will be retiring at the end of the month. Larry was instrumental in establishing the only needle exchange program in the Tri-County region in Mount Vernon. He has made many contributions to the HIV/AIDS community, participating on the Title II Network, co-chairing the Westchester AIDS Council, chairing the Mount Vernon AIDS Task Force, and as a voting member on the Title I Steering Committee. Larry is moving to North Carolina to continue his work with PLWHA and to be nearer to his family. A cake was provided to help celebrate.
- A NYSDOH handout titled "Methamphetamine and HIV: Basic Facts for Service Providers" was included in members' folders.

III. Update Reports

Living Together (V. Alvarez)

- The Living Together Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 15th at FDR Park in Yorktown. About 200 people are expected. Those still looking to attend should contact Gerald Yarn as soon as possible at 914-937-2320 x129. Two Mets game tickets are being raffled off and many toys for the children of LT members were donated for distribution.
- On June 8th the Living Together meeting was held in Rockland County. Tom Petro talked about how case management services play a central role for consumers in the Tri-County region. It was noted, however, that due to the high turnover of case managers, it is often difficult for consumers to develop a relationship with a new person and, therefore, receive consistent service. There are plans to re-RFP Title I case management services in Year 17 (3/1/07-2/29/08), pending the results of the reauthorization process.
- There will be a meeting of consumers at the AIDS Institute in August (date TBD), the focus of which will be primary medical care and how consumers and clinicians exchange information.
- Several LT members participated in the June 29 legislative visit to NYS Assemblyman George Latimer. Mr. Latimer was not aware of the extent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York and especially in the Tri-County region. He expressed his appreciation for the education provided by the group and promised to support HIV/AIDS legislation.

Title II (T. Ashe)

- The Network staff worked together with the Yonkers HIV/AIDS Providers Task Force to hold the June 23rd Symposium in Tuckahoe. About 85 people attended.
- The Case Management Committee is working on a brochure for new case managers that will provide them with contact information and a brief description of services per agency. All Ryan White-funded case management programs are being asked for a summary description of their programs which should be forwarded to Tracy Ashe or Yelitza Acevedo.
- The Title II Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for July 21st and Andrea Torres from Westchester Hispanic Coalition will be giving a presentation on immigration law and how it may interfere with providing HIV/AIDS services to undocumented people.

- At the legislative visit to Assemblyman Latimer on June 29 by the Title II Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) and Living Together, it was noted that the assemblyman was not aware of how some of the suggested changes to the CARE Act reauthorization funding allocation formula would affect HIV/AIDS services in NYS. His name was added to the Network's mailing list in order for Mr. Latimer to receive the monthly newsletter.
- The next Network CAB meeting will be held on July 25th at St. John's Riverside Hospital.

Caribbean Conference (C. Archbald, MD)

Dr. Archbald reported that the conference, "Trouble in Paradise: The Diaspora Responds to the HIV/AIDS Crisis in the Caribbean – At Home and Abroad," was held on June 22nd at the Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. Approximately 120 people attended and joined the conversation about HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention among Caribbean people. One of the outcomes of the conference was a proposal to partner or "twin" with towns in the Caribbean to raise awareness about the risk for HIV infection and keep the momentum going.

DEBI Training (B. Reyes)

Seven agencies in the Tri-County region will take part in the CDC-sponsored DEBI (Diffused Effective Behavioral Intervention) training, "Healthy Relationships." The University of Rochester will be conducting the four-day training on October 23-26, location to-be-determined. There are four training slots available for other agencies who might be interested in developing teams to work on this systematic approach to behavior change. The teams are composed of both provider and peer educators who work as trainers within their agencies. For more information contact Basil Reyes at 914-813-5119 or bar3@westchestergov.com.

CARE Act Reauthorization (J. Park, Director of Office of HIV/AIDS Policy, NYCDOHMH)

The Ryan White CARE Act has not yet been reauthorized. A bill has been introduced and passed by the Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. This bill will be reviewed by the House's Energy & Commerce Committee on Friday, July 14, 2006. The committees are trying to come to consensus about various issues in order to bring the final bill to both chambers for a vote.

New York State is opposing some of the language and methods of determining award formulas in the current bill. They recently ran the numbers using the proposed changes in the formula and determined that the impact would result in a substantial loss in funding for the entire state. Rumor has it that the issue of the use of a proposed 90% HIV "proxy" (i.e., assume .9 HIV cases for every AIDS case in states without name-based HIV reporting) to determine the amount of grant awards is off-the-table. The use of the proxy for HIV cases could have reduced the funding for NYS and other states that are able to account for each HIV case. (NYS has only .56 HIV cases for every AIDS case.)

There seems to be an acceptance of some of the principles proposed by President Bush, including support for the 75/25 allocation of services. This would mean that 75% of funding must be allocated for core medical services and no more than 25% for social support services. The six core services HRSA has identified are drug reimbursement, primary medical care, dental care, mental health, substance use treatment, and case management services. The current-year Tri-County Title I budget is portioned at just the opposite, i.e., 75% for social service supports and 25% for core medical services.

IV. Title I Year 17 (3/1/07-2/29/08) Spending Priorities (T. Petro)

An updated Year 17 (3/1/07-2/29/08) spending plan was presented for a total budget of \$5,609,602 which would carry all current service initiatives plus a suggested amount of \$400,000 for the HIV Uninsured Care Programs (ADAP, ADAP-Plus, Home Care, and APIC). The budget also included support for the CHAIN study and for a Westchester-based treatment adherence program administered via NYC through the AIDS Institute. The Steering Committee unanimously approved the plan as presented along with the following motion:

The proposed budget will be used for the re-application of the Ryan White CARE Act Title I funds. At a later date, the spending plan may be revisited for specific contract issues to better comply with potential changes to the HRSA definitions following the reauthorization of the CARE Act.

V. Epidemiological Trends (J. Lehane)

Five-year “trend” tables were presented using AIDS data through 12/31/04 reported as of 2/2/06. The four tables – one for each county and a fourth summary table for the entire Tri-County region – were comprised of data for four demographic variables: race/ethnicity, gender, age and risk exposure. With the data grouped in five-year increments, the following trends for the region become much more apparent: by AIDS cases, the epidemic is increasingly affecting black and Hispanic women aged 40-49 who were infected through heterosexual transmission. Steering Committee members requested a similar analysis for HIV data. Staff will make an HIV presentation at a future meeting, but cautioned that the collection of HIV data just began in 2000 in NYS, and that year-to-year trends are less obvious.

Next Steering Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, September 13, 2006
10:00 am-12:00 pm
Nyack Hospital – Rockland County