

**Virginia Community HIV Planning Group
Hilton Garden Inn Richmond Airport
Meeting Summary**

Members Present: Tim Agar, Odile Attiglah, Chris Barnett, Shimeles Bekele, Roy Berkowitz, Susan Clinton, Jerome Cuffee, Janet Hall, Cheryl Hoffman, Gregory Fordham, Ruth Fordham (Community Co-Chair); Robert Hewitt, Jennifer Kienzle, Cristina Kincaid, Martha Lees, Elaine Martin (Health Department Co-Chair), Nick Mattsson, Diane Oehl, Dorothy Shellman, Edward Strickler, Stanley Taylor, Adam Thompson, Rhonda Turner, Chris Widner

Members Absent: Marilyn Freeman, Mike King (represented), Donte' McCutchen, Diane Oehl (represented); Rick Zimmerman

Other Attendees: Ashley Carter, Kathleen Carter, Hunter Robertson, Bruce Taylor, and Laura Walser of the Virginia Department of Health; Johanna McKee and Donna Cantrell of PAMAAETC; Bob Martin of Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services (representing Mike King); Bernice Morgan (representing Diane Oehl); Kenneth Pinkela, guest; Lindsay Walton of Macaulay & Burtch, PC; Phillip Bailey, guest; George Miller of ViiV Healthcare; Robert Suttle and Sean Strub of Seroproject; Robbyn Kistler of the Kaiser Family Foundation

Welcome and Introductions

Elaine Martin called the meeting to order at 9AM.

Review of February Meeting Summary

Motion was made to approve the minutes as written.

New Business

By-laws revision - Elaine brought forth the issue regarding seat-sharing for members from the same government agency. She stated that, if allowed, it would help guarantee representation from that agency at meetings. It was discussed and decided by vote that an agency could share a seat on CHPG; however, that agency would have only one vote. The Policies and Procedures Committee will amend the by-laws and put forth procedures on the mechanics of shared seating prior to the August 16th meeting.

Membership – Bruce Taylor

Bruce distributed a list of the seven nominees and two alternates recommended by the Membership Committee that met on April 10th. There are currently 28 members, but two members will be coming off due to excessive absences. The membership committee focused on representation from the Central and Northern regions, HIV-positive individuals, MSM, and minorities, particularly African Americans. A motion was made and seconded to approve the

nominees. The vote carried with one abstention. An orientation is scheduled for June 12 (the day before our next regular meeting) at VDH.

HIV Prevention Update - Elaine Martin

- ∇ *Collaboration with Walgreens for National HIV Testing Day* - Since 2011, Greater Than AIDS and Walgreens, together with local health departments and AIDS services organizations, have provided three days of free HIV screenings during June. This year's event is scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2012 (National HIV Testing Day) through Saturday, June 29, 2012. Testing will be provided on-site, and rapid oral HIV tests are preferred.
- ∇ *HIV Planning Group Co-Chair Leadership Training* - Elaine Martin, Bruce Taylor, and Ruth Fordham are tentatively scheduled to attend a two-day leadership training in Houston, TX in June. The training will provide a forum for information and peer-to-peer exchange opportunities among government and community HIV planning co-chairs.

HIV Care Update - Hunter Robertson

- ∇ *SPNS* - The Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Systems Linkages and Access to Care Initiative held its third Learning Session on April 17-18, 2013 in Richmond. Pilot sites shared progress on piloting innovative linkage and retention interventions over the past year with stakeholders from around the state. Over the next several months, VDH will be preparing for expansion of successful interventions in other sites and regions of the state, as well as collaboration with other systems linkages efforts including the Care and Prevention in the United States (CAPUS) initiative.
- ∇ *ADAP Enrollment* - Enrollment for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) continues to grow, and was approximately 4,300 in April. Part B made a large ADAP medication purchase with unused service funds at the end of the grant year (March 31) to increase inventory of medications at Central Pharmacy.

HIV Criminalization – The Seroproject – Sean Strub and Robert Suttle

Sean Strub, Executive Director, and Robert Suttle, Assistant Director, of Seroproject based in Milford, Pennsylvania, spoke about their efforts and experiences in combating HIV-related stigma and advocating for sound public health and HIV prevention policies based on science and epidemiology rather than ignorance and fear. Seroproject is particularly focused on ending inappropriate criminal prosecutions of people with HIV for non-disclosure of their HIV status, potential or perceived HIV exposure, or HIV transmission. Seroproject's HIV criminalization work includes raising public awareness through community education efforts and outreach to people with HIV who have been criminalized to create a network of advocates who can speak first-hand about the effects of criminalization on their lives. More information can be found at info@seroproject.com.

Workgroup Updates – HIV Criminalization

Updates and recommendations from workgroup members from the meeting of the previous night were reported to the full committee. Project Sero members attended the work group meeting, as did a representative from VORA. Research was reviewed by the group pertaining to

HIV criminalization and its effects on HIV testing/care. The task of the group is to craft a recommendation from CHPG to VDH on the committee's findings regarding HIV criminalization and its impact, if any, on public health. The group will meet again in June.

HCV Task Force - Laura Walser

Laura Walser, Hepatitis Coordinator, is hoping to form a Hepatitis C Task Force as an ad hoc CHPG committee. The first two topics that she would like the task force to address are 1) HCV testing for baby boomers and 2) the development of a viral hepatitis action plan for Virginia. She had previously outlined the CDC recommendation to perform HCV screening for this birth cohort (those born between 1945 and 1965) at the February meeting. One issue with screening this group is that while CDC recommends they be screened, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends against this routine screening for HCV infection in asymptomatic adults. This dilemma creates the need to identify reimbursement or funding options to pay for HCV screening for baby boomers and identifying the health care service settings most likely to identify patient/clients who are in this population. The HCV action plan for Virginia is a document that CDC is requesting from all states outlining the state's mission regarding hepatitis C infection, services that are provided, and programs and resources that exist both within the state agencies and in the community. There are existing action plans from states, including New York and Florida, which could serve as a jumping-off point for the development of this document for Virginia. Laura asked that members interested in participating in the task force to meet on the night before the CPG meeting in June. Laura sees the task force as fluid, in that people may want to be involved for some topics and not others. The group is also open to stakeholders outside CHPG, and she asked members to contact her if they know anyone who might be interested in being involved.

Greater Than AIDS: For Virginia – Kaiser Family Foundation – Robbyn Kistler

Ms. Kistler presented on the *Greater Than AIDS (GTA)* campaign, a public information response focusing on the U.S. domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic developed and led by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Through targeted media campaigns and community outreach, *GTA* seeks to increase knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS and confront the stigma surrounding the disease, while promoting actions to reduce its spread. *GTA* was developed in support of *Act Against AIDS*, an effort by CDC to refocus attention on the domestic epidemic and the President's National HIV/AIDS Strategy. Members formed workgroups based on the health regions that they represented to provide VDH with feedback on the appropriateness of *GTA* campaign materials for Virginians.

Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) – Hunter Robertson

Members broke into small groups and learned the process through a participatory exercise.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.