

**Virginia HIV Community Planning Committee
Meeting Summary**

Members Present: Odile Attiglah, Mark Baker, Heather Bronson, Tomas Cabrera, Rhonda Callaham, Denise Clayborn, Dr. Rosalyn Cousar, Vontrida Custis, Hugo Delgado, Carrie Dolan, Gregory Fordham, Richard Hall, Robert Hewitt, Deirdre Johnson, Martha Lees, Elaine Martin, Nicholas Mattsson, Michael McIntyre, Patrick Plourde, Ruth Royster, Whitney Scott, Paul Searcy, Bruce Taylor

Members Absent: Bill Briggs, Betty Cochran, Caroline Fuller, Takecia Griffin, Dr. Joseph Riddick, Edward Strickler, Jr.

Other Attendees: Ben Alonso, Kathleen Carter, Jennifer Flannagan, Ami Gandhi, Rachel Rees, and Jane Moore of the Virginia Department of Health; Sue Rowland and Martina James of Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS; Gloria McCall, visitor

Total of 32 attendees.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was convened at 8:35 a.m. by Elaine Martin and introductions were made.

Membership

Takecia Griffin is on maternity leave. Caroline Fuller is on medical leave from her position at the Virginia Department of Education. The membership committee will be meeting to review application.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Election of Co-Chair for 2007

Dr. Rosalyn Cousar was elected as the new community co-chair and will begin serving at the January 18th meeting. Gregg Fordham, out-going co-chair, was recognized for his hard work and dedication.

Overview of Budget Allocations by Population and Region

Elaine Martin presented on "VDH HIV Prevention Program Funding Analysis," noting there has been a 2% decrease in direct service funds (totaling \$48,520). The percentages of people living with HIV in regions and amount of funding going to the regions were discussed, noting that there are disparities in several regions and that budgeting is definitely a balancing act due to geography, cost of living, etc. Concerning data by population, she reiterated that CDC no longer uses tables of allocation and data are now based on expectations and best guesstimates. Good data will become available as soon as PEMS 3.0 is up and running. The committee discussed which agencies are receiving

money and changes that have occurred, including a drop in funding to local health departments; more contractual money going to the state health department for test kits, etc.; and more money going to community-based organizations. In 2007, there will be a shift in funding when agencies will be asked to pay part of the costs for DEBI trainings (e.g., registration fees which will not be refunded) so that the money can be utilized for the training. There will also be a decrease in community planning funding. Lastly, the issue of how to allocate the money fairly was addressed. This is an ongoing struggle which impacts several areas: small agencies cannot always compete successfully for grant money; geographic challenges in rural areas impact effective service delivery; and costs in Northern Virginia are higher than in other areas, to name just a few.

Population Prioritization:

Resolving issues from September meeting - After the September meeting, Bruce Taylor requested that Carrie Dolan recalculate the data for the Black population leaving out cases that were MSM in the prevalence and incidence categories. After doing so, Ms. Dolan indicated that the final scores did change; however, the final rankings remained the same. Mr. Taylor had also asked about the NIR (no identified risk) factor. Ms. Dolan stated that she realized there is an unequal distribution of NIRs and unknowns in the race and risk categories, but this is a limitation of having priority populations from different categories (race/age/risk/mental status/housing status, etc.). She went back and looked at her notes from an earlier CPG meeting and due to this limitation, it was decided it was important not to rely only on the incidence and prevalence data. She created a category called risk that categorizes the risk as demographic (1), situational (3) or behavioral (5) to offset some of the bias introduced by overlapping categories. Ms. Dolan concluded by thanking Mr. Taylor for his request.

Discussion of subpopulation inclusion - At the last meeting, the HCPC had decided that sub-populations should be included within each of the priority populations. Elaine Martin stated that the objective was to identify subpopulations that we want to target with prevention funds. Ami Gandhi presented the group with a list of sub-populations for each priority population. This included sub-populations from the 2003 HIV Prevention Comprehensive Plan and those that were identified during the community services assessment. The group discussed each population and reviewed the listed sub-populations. Decisions were made on which sub-populations should be kept, deleted, and added. Ms. Gandhi will send out a final list of sub-populations to the HCPC for comments and approval.

Presentation on the “Compendium” and the “DEBIs”

Jennifer Flannagan presented information on CDC’s Compendium of HIV Prevention Interventions with Evidence of Effectiveness (Compendium) and Diffusion of Effective Interventions (DEBIs). The Compendium provides state-of-the-science information about interventions with evidence of reducing sex and/or drug related risks and the rates of HIV/STD infections. DEBIs are science-based, statistically significant, and proven to be effective interventions recommended by CDC. More information can be found at www.effectiveinterventions.org.

Elaine Martin explained that the committee’s next step is to choose the interventions and encouraged members to visit the Web site and become familiar with DEBI interventions.

She announced that Ms. Flannagan and Ryland Roane have requested approval to attend VOICES/VOCES training in December. Discussion followed concerning the pros and cons of the DEBIs.

Lunch

Call to Action Workgroup met during the lunch break.

Subcommittees

Ryan White - The Ryan White Subcommittee opened with welcome and introductions from co-chair, Rick Hall, and VDH representative, Ben Alonso. Minutes were distributed and approved, with a suggestion to send future meeting minutes to subcommittee members by e-mail and/or regular mail prior to the next meeting. Mr. Alonso then gave an update from VDH that included a summary of the recent annual public hearings. He asked subcommittee members for suggestions on how to improve consumer attendance and participation in public hearings and the planning process. Several members stated their opinion that public hearings are not effective because consumers will not speak openly about problems in the presence of their providers. Also, consumers are tired of being surveyed and feel that nothing ever changes. Members were reminded that the next Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need (SCSN) will be held soon. Mr. Alonso notified members that he will be in charge of planning the SCSN and would appreciate their constructive suggestions to make it a more effective process. One member suggested using key informants to gather information. Another member suggested that, at the next SCSN, VDH give an update on their activities since the 2004 SCSN. For each need that was listed, VDH should give an account of the progress made to address needs, as well as report any barriers. As many consumers are mistrustful of large agencies, VDH needs to be more honest and transparent. By documenting progress on initiatives, VDH can help assuage frustrated clients who feel their concerns are not being heard. A suggestion was made that the SCSN include a peer and self advocacy session for consumers. A comment was made to make subcommittee meetings more productive. Discussion followed regarding past problems, current endeavors, and future goals of the subcommittee. Mr. Hall reminded the group of the desire to invite representatives from the regional consortia to join the subcommittee to improve communication and collaboration between prevention and care services. Deirdre Johnson and Vontrida Custis volunteered to attend and report on consortium meetings in Central and Eastern regions, respectively. Mr. Alonso and Mr. Hall will draft a letter to the regional consortia to invite members to participate in subcommittee meetings. Finally, a request was made for Diana Jordan, Director of Health Care Services at VDH, to attend the next meeting.

STD - Jane Moore, Nurse Manager for the TB program at VDH, presented on the history of treating tuberculosis and current programs and practices which she oversees within the Division of Disease Prevention. She also talked about the Newcomer Program, explaining that immigrant incidence is not confined to northern Virginia as many immigrants are attracted to the agricultural economy of southwest Virginia. Ms. Moore explained Virginia statutes that enforce home isolation and DOT (Direct Observed Therapy) which is one-on-one therapy by health department staff. Discussion followed concerning the risk of contracting TB for HIV+ individuals. Ms. Moore reported that the risk of infection is not greater, but the risk of progressing to active disease is much greater for HIV+ individuals.

Overview of PEMS data collection forms

Rachel Rees, PEMS/Evaluation Coordinator, presented on “Understanding PEMS: The Jargon, Challenges, and Complexities.” She explained what the Secure Data Network (SDN) is all about, identified PEMS access issues, and explained the process of applying for a digital certificate. Virginia has been selected as a pilot site for PEMS 3.0, and Ms. Rees will be attending training November 28-December 1 in Atlanta.

2007 Tasks and Timeline

January: Begin reviewing interventions for target populations

March: Finalize process to select interventions and discuss next Epi profile

May: Select interventions

June: Finish and provide the preliminary results

September: Grant application is due and needs to include the interventions

November: Review and finalize the new comprehensive plan

Review of September meeting summary

The minutes were approved as written.

Planning for January Meeting

- 1) Review population prioritization
- 2) Begin discussion for selecting interventions
- 3) Research and S&P Subcommittees will meet
- 4) Diana Jordan will present VDH advocacy for care services and prevention

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Elaine Martin, Health Department Co-Chair

Date

Kathleen Carter, Recording Secretary

Date