

**Virginia Community HIV Planning Group**  
**Four Points at Sheraton Hotel, 9901 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**June 22, 2018**

**Members Present:** Tim Agar, Sylvester Askins, Roy Berkowitz, Gennaro Brooks, Shawn Buckner, Jerome Cuffee (Community Co-Chair), Daisy Diaz, Pierre Diaz, Colin Dwyer, Doug Fogal, Beverly Franklin, John Humphries, Bobby Jones, Russell Jones, Elaine Martin, Eric Mayes, Victor Claros Outlaw, Darryl Payne, Anthony Seymore, Stanley Taylor, Nechelle Terrell, Robyn Wilson

**Absent:** Rashaad Banks (represented), Reed Bohn, Earl Hamlet, Cristina Kincaid, Marquis Mapp, Gia Martinez, Diane Oehl, Bryan Price (represented), Robert Rodney, Joyce Turner, Stacie Vecchietti

**Others present:** Shalesha Majors (represented Rashaad Banks); Carol Napier (represented Bryan Price); Kathleen Carter, Renate Nnoko, Brenna Pevato, Alyson Scullin, and Andrew Strumpf of the Virginia Department of Health; Tom Villa (guest of Victor Outlaw); Katie O'Connor of the *Virginia Mercury*

**Greetings and Introductions – Elaine Martin and Jerome Cuffee**

**Approval of April Minutes** - Motion passed to approve the minutes.

**HIV Care Services (HCS) Update – Renate Nnoko**

- Three vacant full-time positions--Interviews will start the week of June 23.
- Services Coordinators are working with Curtis Smith, Fiscal Monitor, to schedule grant year 2018 site visits to sub-recipient sites.
- VDH asked the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to develop a Request for Proposals for housing.
- Kimberly Scott and Gloria Robinson conducted a weeklong tour of five agencies in the Southwest region that provide Ryan White (RW) services. They identified opportunities to support agencies' strategic plans and needs that meet the goals of the RW program and the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan. The site visits generated ideas for service expansion and collaboration. HCS will incorporate these ideas and additional funds into modifications.

**Quality Management (QM) Update – Renate Nnoko**

- The QM team has begun its regional consumer trainings. The first was in Williamsburg on June 20. Topics covered Ryan White and ADAP, housing, and employment services for those reentering the workforce. There will be a focus group and needs assessment at each consumer training. The next training will be July 18 for the Central region; September 26 for Southwest; October 17 for Northwest; and Northern will be either November 7 or 14. Further details will be announced.
- Quality Management plans are past due. Agencies that have not submitted the plan are out of contractual compliance with VDH and need to submit immediately.
- Statewide Quality Improvement Project for sub-recipients will be due in July. Due date has been updated to July 15, 2018 per agency feedback.
- PrEP Ambassador Program has launched statewide with HIV Care. HCS partnered with LGBT Life Center in Eastern to add consumers to the PrEP Ambassador program. Consumers were trained in March on being an ambassador and advertising PrEP.
- Agencies participating in Peer Review have been notified by Katrina Comolli at VCU Peer Review for GY18 and site visits have been scheduled.

## **HIV Prevention Services Update - Elaine Martin**

- The first Comprehensive Harm Reduction (CHR) site was authorized for Wise County in the Lenowisco Health District. A MOA will be signed this week at VDH, and services will start in July. Will include a mobile operation to better reach clients in rural areas. Want to do a soft launch to see how it goes (syringe services program shut down in Kentucky because data was collected appropriately – don't want that to happen here). Bruce did a pre-operational site visit and will provide training. VDH received an application from Health Brigade in Richmond and it was conditionally approved.
- UVA is using telemedicine to train Lenowisco and clinicians at the Harrisonburg Health Care Center to provide treatment for mono-infected HCV patients.
- Colin reported that CHR barriers continue in Roanoke. It looked as if the Sheriff was going to sign a letter of support; however, he declined, and is following the lead of the Police Chief. Colin mentioned an editorial in the Roanoke Times and Elaine advised community members to contact their legislators if they would like to see changes to the program as VDH cannot change the requirements.
- NASTAD – VDH won a “Chair’s Challenge” award for its work on CHR.
- Weeklong kick-off meeting in Atlanta for PS18-1802 – meeting was scripted with limited question/answer periods. CDC has sent out a list of new testing variables. The number of variables is concerning to VDH and led to further stigmatization and less testing. VDH had supplied substantial feedback to CDC on this issue.
- HIV Prevention Planner position interviews are scheduled next week.
- Program evaluator (Mary Beth Cox) hired for the 1506 grant.
- Media campaigns launched - “Virginia Gets Tested” – four spokesmodels on board.
- Pilot project at ten Walgreens stores statewide for Hepatitis C testing; have already found several positives.
- Elaine and Diana Jordan made educational visits to Virginia legislators in Washington, D.C., in May.
- PrEP - new site at Mt Rogers, additional sites in Petersburg, Fredericksburg, Lord Fairfax and Carilion are pending.
- Kimberly Scott and Elaine will send out a letter for joint cooperation between prevention and care to agencies soon; communication barriers are in place, may be due to confidentiality concerns. Elaine asked members to spread the word in the community. The letter will present a unified front for better services to clients.

## **Regional updates:**

### **DC EMA – Tim Agar**

- Washington, DC Regional Commission on Health and HIV met for the first time on May 31 after previous DC Planning Council was dissolved in March.
- New Commission represents merger of RW Planning Council and DC Prevention Community HIV Planning Group
- CHPG members Doug Fogal and Renate Nnoko are newly appointed commissioners.
- Mayor Muriel Bowser created the new Commission and appointed all new members...there was no grandfathering in of previous DC Planning Council members
- The Commission is still looking to seat three additional ‘unaligned’ consumers from the Northern Virginia portion of the EMA. Unaligned means individuals who do not receive a stipend or a salary from a given agency. Receiving RW services does not affect consumers’ eligibility.

- Standing committees of the new Commission are meeting throughout the month of June for orientation and designation of individual committee chairs and vice-chairs.

#### **Southwest - Colin Dwyer**

- Received report from CCS Drop-In Center – Recently hired an HCV linkage coordinator to work with the FOCUS program that will help to close gaps between initial preliminary HCV+ test and linking to confirmatory testing and treatment. Danville Center is up and running and looking for a space better equipped to offer prevention services. Medical director and case managers are on staff and providing services to RW clients in the area already.
- Mt. Rogers (Dr. Shelton) will be sending CHR application soon - cluster of Hepatitis C infections found - not officially an outbreak but VDH is mobilizing in case one occurs in the future. DIS in Mt. Rogers region is looking into effective ways of accessing online messaging boards where people communicate about drug sales. She is also looking into public spaces that could be used for testing and prevention events to offer HIV/HCV testing to at-risk individuals around Wytheville.
- Meth coming back in the state, may be due to the opioid epidemic restrictions.

#### **Northwest - Darryl Payne**

Summit in October in Fredericksburg - topics will include support groups for heterosexual males and females, transportation to treatment barriers

#### **Eastern – Robyn Wilson**

- Hampton Roads Pride event
- Hamptonroads.org for list of events
- CHW training yesterday, next one is Sept. 25, location TBD

**Central** – no report (both Cristina and Reed out)

#### **Northern – Nechelle Terrell**

- Several events have been planned in the Northern region for National HIV Testing Day. Alexandria Health Dept will participate in an HIV Awareness Day worship service at Kingdom Fellowship Church. HIV testing will be conducted and an HIV+ speaker will do a testimony during the service. AHD is co-sponsoring a comedy show on June 27 that will include HIV testing, and the Getting to Zero campaign will sponsor a "Sketch and Play" on Thursday, June 28. PW Co., ARE and FAHASS have extended their testing clinic hours or have added a testing clinic on Wednesday for National HIV Testing Day.
- Many agencies across the region, including Inova Juniper, participated in Capital Pride held June 9-10.

#### **Molecular HIV Surveillance – Andrew Strumpf**

Andrew presented on molecular HIV surveillance, the systematic collection and analysis of HIV genotype data that supplements routine HIV surveillance activities, and presented data from 2013-2015.

**Bylaws Review** - Renate read the changes made by the bylaws committee and discussion followed about why the changes were necessary. Elaine will work on language for Article IV. Membership – “Should job changes result in more than two current members....” and also for voting for substantial issues when members cannot attend. Major voting issues will be noted in the email that goes out two weeks before the meeting. Question: Do we want the co-chair to serve one two-year term in their six-year tenure as a CHPG member? Community co-chair position will be for one two-year term, then that

person will step down to give another member the chance to serve. Bylaws revision vote will not be taken today because revisions need to be made before the vote takes place. Beverly made a motion for Elaine to send out and members will vote by email. VDH will take the track changes off for the changes that were agreed on today; she will only put track changes on the items that still need revision. Renate reminded Robyn that the membership committee needs to meet before or soon after the August meeting when Tim, Roy, Diane, and Stanley come off as members. The motion passed with one nay, two abstentions.

#### **PrEP Work Group – Robyn Wilson and Eric Mayes, co-chairs**

Objective today is to come up with a work plan, finish date, and person responsible for each one:

- 1) Tool that focuses on adherence
- 2) Best practices guidelines related to adherence, PrEP education, health literacy
- 3) Explore transportation solutions

Flesh out work plan – Eric will send a draft to members – reduce barriers (mainly transportation); adherence; increase health education; and compile other resources. Robyn will coordinate putting together survey questions for clients. Eric will begin compiling a resources guide, and Jerome will explore transportation solutions.

#### **Drug User Work Group – Roy Berkowitz**

Bruce facilitated - looked at tasks and objectives to see if they need to be revised; all in agreement to keep them as is. Then he asked about drug user health issues in the communities – questions, concerns, issues.

#### **Health Disparities Work Group – Nechelle Terrell**

Developed a brochure to distribute to Virginia colleges and universities; Renate provided an update of the brochure. The group provided clarity to Elaine’s question – will be a fact sheet rather than a brochure. Discussed issue of using the VDH logo that might discourage readers.

#### **Monitoring & Improvement Work Group – Tim Agar**

Wrapping up review of the goals in the integrated plan, making recommendations to VDH. Issues: Are the goals too broad? Is the timeline too generic? Systematically went through and reviewed each goal; also have follow up questions that we need to respond to HRSA. The group may need to re-organize as Renate and Tim are leaving.

#### **Meeting wrap-up**

Topics requested for future meeting:

- Piece related to integrated plan
- Hepatitis integration or hepatitis update
- “Have an IDU come and speak to us about their experiences.”

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50.