

**Virginia HIV Community Planning Committee  
Meeting Summary**

**Members Present:** Dan Alvarez, Odile Attiglah, Rhonda Callaham, Dr. Rosalyn Cousar, Vontrida Custis, Milinda Daye, Hugo Delgado, Gregory Fordham, Richard Hall, Martha Lees, Nick Mattsson, Ruth Royster, Edward Strickler, Silvia Villacampa

**Members Absent:** Bill Briggs (represented); Heather Bronson, Caroline Fuller, Diane Guillard, Robert Hewitt, Elaine Martin, Paul Miller (represented); Robert Rigby; Bruce Taylor (represented)

**Other Attendees:** Caroline Campbell, Kathleen Carter, LaNisha Childs, Kate Cooke, Jennifer Flannagan, Chauntele Taylor, Shelley Taylor-Donahue of the Virginia Department of Health; Emily King (representing Paul Miller); David Hoover (representing Bill Briggs); Linwood Alford, Open Door Resource Center, guest; Sue Rowland, Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS, presenter; Seth Croft, Richmond Organization for Sexual Minority Youth, presenter

Total of 26 attendees

**Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Flannagan at 8:35 AM.

**Old Business**

➤ **Supplemental MSM Needs Assessment Funding – Jennifer Flannagan**

The Division of Disease Prevention was awarded about \$10,000 less than the amount requested in the MSM supplemental funding grant application. Funds will be used to target young African American MSM aged 13-24 for needs assessment activities. Jennifer indicated that Elaine Martin had asked for members to look for individuals in their areas to work 20 hours per week January through December 2009. Members were asked to send resumes of interested individuals to Elaine.

**New Business**

➤ **2009 Meeting Schedule**

January 8  
February 27  
April 16  
May 29  
July 16  
September 11  
October 29  
December 18

## **Membership**

- Mark Baker, Denise Clayborn, and Girum Mekonnen have resigned their memberships.

## **Update on Joint Prevention and Care Planning – Jennifer Flannagan**

Jennifer spoke to representatives from New Hampshire and Nebraska and will be in contact with Centers for Disease and Control (CDC) project officer, Stanley Philip. Mr. Philip also serves as Kentucky's project officer and was involved in the successful merging process of its planning groups. Jennifer distributed the revised CPG application and requested members look at content, not formatting. Elaine Martin, Bill Briggs, Shelley Taylor-Donahue and Jennifer made changes to the application. Jennifer went through the CPG application document with the group and added revisions. A revised draft will be e-mailed to members. Jennifer asked members to review the by-laws and send comments to her and Elaine.

## **Update on Expanded HIV Testing Grant – LaNisha Childs**

LaNisha Childs, Expanded Testing Grant Coordinator, presented an update on the Expanded and Integrated HIV Testing Grant for Populations Disproportionately Affected by HIV, Primarily African Americans. She stated that the grant has become priority #1 in Field Services at VDH. CDC's goal was 1.5 million additional tests per year and Virginia's portion of that is 40,000 tests. She indicated that setting up testing in emergency rooms has had setbacks, e.g., many staff who signed on in the early stage have since left. Testing is also being conducted at correctional facilities (exiting inmates only), community-based organizations and substance abuse treatment centers. The test kit used is Inverness Clear View, which must be refrigerated and costs \$8 per test. Conventional testing will continue at Sentara Norfolk General, Richmond Community Hospital, INOVA Alexandria, INOVA Mt. Vernon, and Riverside Regional Medical Center. Only MCV has agreed to do rapid tests and follow-ups beginning December 15 (a VDH staff person will be present.) LaNisha indicated that most ER's in Virginia just don't have the time and staff. CDC is holding a conference in National Harbor, MD for physicians participating in the project on December 2-3 and is requesting stats on a periodic basis; last stats were submitted in October. LaNisha asked members having any ideas for testing sites in their areas to please contact her at (804) 864-7948 or [lanisha.childs@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:lanisha.childs@vdh.virginia.gov).

## **Upcoming Legislative Issues – Sue Rowland, Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS**

Sue Rowland, Executive Director, asked the following question of the committee: "Why is the rate of HIV not declining in our state?" She indicated that during tough economic times one question always comes up: Should HIV prevention be considered as a "core" state program? Next the group practiced role playing, specifically how to get the attention of legislators if all they had was time to "walk with me" and talk. Sue posed the question, "What would you say in those first five seconds of a conversation if you only had that much time to get someone's attention?" (Member responses to Sue's questions can be found at [www.voraonline.org](http://www.voraonline.org).) Members then reviewed a map of Virginia showing pockets of support for HIV prevention from legislators and areas needing more focus and support. Sue encouraged members to visit their legislators *before* they come to Richmond for the General Assembly session.

### **Richmond Organization for Sexual Minority Youth (ROSMY) Expansion – Seth Croft**

ROSMY is a support organization founded in 1991 targeting youth ages 14-20. Seth announced that ROSMY will be opening an office in Charlottesville on January 5 and another office in Hampton Roads later in 2009. The organization's name will eventually be changed but for the time being it will keep the acronym. Seth serves as the Coordinator for Social Equality and facilitates training for organizations and individuals working with youth. The next training is scheduled for December 4. For more information, please call (804) 644-4800 or visit [www.ROSMY.org](http://www.ROSMY.org).

### **HIV Care Services: Structure and Programs – Shelley Taylor-Donahue**

Shelley stated the award for centralized eligibility will soon be announced. HIV Care Services is also looking at centralizing labs throughout the state with Phyllis Morris taking the lead on this project. Trophile testing is now available through ADAP. She reported on recently held public hearings with both prevention and care in Richmond and Norfolk; the big issue in the central region was lack or difficulty obtaining dental care and housing. She reported on preliminary data received from 272 surveys entered as of today's date. The next step is to move forward in setting goals and objectives for the next three years. Concerning the unmet needs assessment, approximately 53% have been identified as not receiving care in the past 12 months (down from 64%). Shelley thinks progress was made this year and she wants to build on this progress. Goals and objectives will be worked on at the Ryan White subcommittee meeting this afternoon. A draft document will be e-mailed to all members and will ask for endorsements from state-wide agencies asking for concurrence.

### **Subcommittees**

#### **Ryan White: SCSN, SCP, Public Hearings**

Shelley Taylor-Donahue reported that the main goal was to work on goals and objectives that are doable and measurable. The group began by editing the operational definition of continuum of care and core services. The group was in agreement with the values as written. Shelley suggested that no more than three goals be set and to make sure that the objectives are measurable and that they can make a measurable difference. Some suggestions made were:

- make the objectives consumer-driven
- make the objectives sequential
- change the sequence of the goals: Make Goal #2, #1; Goal #3, #2; Goal #1,#3
- direct clients to financial aid services such as 2-1-1
- include prevention and care providers in VDH's Resource & Referral List and update the list annually
- make objectives more related to preliminary findings based on survey data

Comprehensive plan: drafted vision for definition of continuum of care and core services for Virginia; shared values; three goals and number of objectives directly related to survey data received regarding service needs identified; integrated prevention into all of those elements to create a seamless program between prevention and care. Shelley will present at the HIV prevention contractors meeting next Thursday, December 3, 2008. Draft documents will be

available by the first week in December and will be sent out to all Statewide Comprehensive Planning Committee members. After the document is completed, Community Planning Group members will be asked for letters of concurrence.

**HIV/STD Integration & Testing: STD Survey Results – reported by Martha Lees**

Martha Lees gave an overview of the STD survey that was sent out to CBOs to see how many of them included STD messages, treatment, etc. Only 17 responses were received; however, of those 17 responses, STD messages were included. Martha noted that the survey will be sent to university medical centers and that Elaine Martin will send it out when “tweaked” to college student audiences.

**Update on the HIV Incidence Project – Kate Cooke**

Kate Cooke, HIV Incidence Coordinator, reported on how the HIV epidemic is tracked in Virginia and the components of the HIV reporting system. She detailed how the system collects data and the purpose of the HIV Incidence Surveillance program, which provides national and area-specific, population-based estimates of new HIV infections each year. The old reporting system was document-based; once data was in it couldn't be updated. As of May 1, 2007, the format changed to patient-based and now the data can be updated.

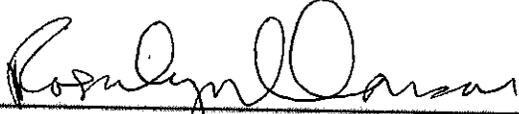
**Review of August Meeting Summary**

A motion was made to approve the minutes as written.

**Planning for January Meeting**

- 2008 Year-End Evaluation report
- Review of revised membership application and bylaws
- Update on joint prevention and care planning

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

  
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Rosalyn Cousar, Ph.D., Community Co-Chair

1/27/09  
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Date

  
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Kathleen Carter, Recording Secretary

1/13/09  
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Date