

Sonoma County
COMMISSION ON AIDS

HIV CARE CONSORTIUM
HIV HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
490 Mendocino Avenue, Ste. 202
Santa Rosa CA 95403
phone (707) 565-6680
fax (707) 565-6619

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SONOMA COUNTY
COMMISSION ON AIDS/ HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL**

October 14, 2009

625 Fifth Street, City View Rooms, Santa Rosa

Members Present: Ron K., Alix. S., Lynn C., Cerrissa M., Anna B., Shari B., Lisa A., David W., Glenn S., Marion D., and Susan C.
Members Absent: Steve B., Celia B., Dwayne Z., Rick D., and Herb L.,
Staff: Ellen S., and Claire E.

1. **Call to Order** – The Chair called the meeting to order.
2. **Memorial Moment** – A moment of silence was observed to keep in mind those who have passed during this epidemic.
3. **Public Comment/Announcements**
 - Due to the holiday on November 11, the next meeting will be on November 18, 2009.
 - There is a town hall meeting at UCSF on Friday evening; two Commissioners are going to discuss a national HIV strategy.
 - The next PAC community engagement meeting is planned for October 15th at West County Health Center's offices from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 - The World AIDS Day events are moving along and the Board of Supervisors date will be November 17, 2009 where its expected they will recognize December 1, 2009 as World AIDS Day in Sonoma County.
 - There is news about Ryan White Reauthorization, which had language which prohibited extension past September 30, 2009. Congress passed a Continuing Resolution which extends the program for 30 days, which gives them a little more time to resolve some of the differences between bills in the House and Senate. The House, the Senate and the President all support passing new Ryan White legislation which will reauthorize it for 3 or 4 years. The language in the House currently specifies all Transitional Grant Areas (TGAs) under Part A continue as TGAs throughout the term of the new legislation, and the Senate version has the formula portion of the ineligible TGAs going to the State. Sonoma County's formula funding is approximately \$750,000 of the \$1 million. This would decrease to 75%, 50% and 25% in subsequent years, so we would have a tapering off, not a dramatic drop off as we had feared.
 - **Summary notes from the September 2, 2009 Meeting** – A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The minutes were approved as written.
4. **State of the Epidemic - Report from the Department of Health Services**
 - Shari gave an update on Center for HIV Prevention and Care. Staff cuts were approved on October 6th and will take effect on October 27th. The positions eliminated are 2 therapists, the

CQI champion, an outreach worker and an administrative staff. There will be no more mental health services onsite for individuals. The Center is working with other agencies to see if groups can continue with another agency.

- Director of Clinics, Shari Brenner also shared that due to changes in the epidemic, the medical infrastructure in the County and recent changes in funding; Public Health is convening a Planning Process to look at HIV medical care. A work group will begin meeting soon to identify whether a new model for delivery of HIV medical care in Sonoma County can be developed that is sustainable over time. She shared the timeline for the project, the charter of the workgroup, the criteria for inclusion in the work group and the communication plan. The communication plan includes some points throughout the process where updates will be provided and input sought, and she asked that the Commission consider its role in disseminating information about this process. She will be sharing similar information, and asking a similar question, at the PAC Road Show tomorrow night.
- The Part A Fiscal Agent provided a midyear expenditure review. At midway through the Ryan White Part A fiscal year, there are three areas of service that will be under expended (chemical dependency outpatient, home health care and child care) these funds will be returned to the HIV Services Plan and be allocated to the next category which is medical care.

5. Agency Updates

- Food For Thought is continuing the women's group even though there has been funding cuts. This years Calabash was the biggest ever.
- DAAC is still able to offer the fixed HIV/HCV testing site on Mondays and syringe exchange on Friday evenings. Exchange and testing in Guerneville ended in September; however, staff will do arranged exchange services twice a month, or as the need arises. A collaborative partnership has developed between the syringe exchange and the Family Practice Residency Program, which brings a physician and a resident on-site twice a month; SWCHC, which runs the Residency Program, now, is considering this site as a possible satellite medical clinic.
- Lomi is continuing mental health counseling; there have been losses in Part D and Part A funding resulting in a 25% loss.
- Face to Face is increasingly dependent on donations.

6. Executive committee: Recommendations for the HIV Services Plan

- The Executive committee concluded that making incremental changes is an effective and proactive way to modify the system of care. They agreed that waiting until we had all the final information would likely delay important decisions and ultimately impact the Commission's ability to respond in a timely manner. The group agreed that the current FY2010-2013 HIV Services Plan with large cuts to areas that are highly valued and no cuts to other services is not in line with the values of the Commission (i.e. the FAWG non-funding recommendations, the Reauthorization Principles and Sonoma Co. Guiding Principles). Commissioners have already unanimously agreed to review at the Plan.
- The group requested staff and agencies be as transparent as possible when discussing budget reduction impacts including; discontinued services; lay offs; changes in funding levels; and, implications for clients.
- The Chairperson presented the new action items brought from the Executive committee. After a lengthy discussion the Executive committee decided not to make any major funding recommendations at this time but to focus on the transition work that began in 2005. The group was unanimous that the work of the Commission should focus on providing accurate information to clients (by agency staff and through PAC) and that clients should be helped to understand the transition process to non traditionally HIV service providers (by agency staff).

- The first action item recommends that current and future scopes of work for publicly funded HIV service agencies include transition services to increase client capacity to utilize mainstream services. HIV providers will also mentor mainstream providers in the delivery of services to clients with HIV/AIDS.
 - In order to promote the health of the HIV-positive community the Executive Committee is strongly recommending that effective immediately (FY09-10) the Grantee modify current agency scopes of work to include objectives to: Work together to provide accurate information to clients about the changes to the Sonoma County HIV System of Care and the changes that will be implemented ongoing over the next years. Transition clients to services outside of traditionally HIV-specific agencies when appropriate. Provide technical assistance and collaborate with non-HIV specific service providers in Sonoma County so that they can provide the highest quality services to HIV-positive individuals. These changes to the FY09-10 Scopes of work would be strengthened in the RFP for FY2010. This Action item was moved and seconded and approved unanimously.
- The next Action Item contained two recommendations which were handled separately.
 - Medical Transportation vouchers to needed medical appointments will be provided by the medical staff funded in categories #1 and #2, and in its current lower position in the services plan (#11) it is unlikely to be funded. As a critical barrier to access to care the Executive Committee recommended that the service category Medical Transportation be moved to #3 to follow Primary Medical Care and Case Management. It is further recommended that Medical Transportation be funded at Scenario #2 (\$4,000) to cover the costs of clients' transportation vouchers to medical care. The recommendation was moved and seconded with eight votes for and two abstentions.
 - A second recommendation was made to allow timely incremental changes to the HIV Services Plan (Incremental changes are those which do not change the categories within the services plan and/or reduce/increase the total plan allocation, but rather represent small shifts within the approved plan that are required in response to rapidly changing economic conditions) It was recommended that a standing Action Item to review the services plan and make necessary modifications be placed on each Commission Agenda. The recommendation was moved and seconded and was passed with nine votes.
 - The Fiscal Agent then made a recommendation to re-open the Action Item with an additional recommendation. Because DentiCal funding for adults was eliminated (in Governors Budget) except for emergency treatment there are more uninsured HIV+ individuals and a need for additional Ryan White funds to support basic Dental services., The Dental Task Force considered this possibility in January and again during the FAWG convening, but since the final State budget had not been approved, action at the time would have been premature. Home and Community Based Health Care has been historically underutilized. The fiscal agent recommends that \$10,000 be added to the Dental services category in the FY2010-2013 Plan, and that recommends that \$3,000 remain in Home and Community Based Health Care. The remaining funds will be added to the Plan.

A member of the public questioned if this would be allowed under public meeting notice regulations. Staff agreed to verify this. A commissioner questioned whether it would be perceived favorably by the public. This recommendation was tabled pending discussion at Executive Committee.

7. Positive Stories

- Dr. Baylor and Dr. Toub volunteered at the needle exchange which resulted in bringing a client back into care.
- Sean is the Assistant Program Manager at Interlink, Goodwill Industries. Congratulations Sean!

8. PAC/RAC Committee update

- PAC continues to meet every three months to do business and in the interim hold community meetings. The first community engagement meeting was on Thursday, September 17th at Food for Thought. Thirty people attended including consumers and providers. The second meeting is tomorrow night at WCHC. Agencies are encouraged to send fliers to clients and post as early as possible so clients know about the meetings. Susan suggested that these meetings can be held in many non-HIV service agencies so that a bridge can be built for them to receive services in those agencies and to build trust. Lisa will contact Susan to discuss this and get contacts.

9. COA Discussion on Role of Planning for HIV Services

- The commission discussed the appropriate role for COA in providing information to the community about the planning process. Shari will provide updates at each Commission meeting, and asked whether Commissioners would be willing to use the COA meeting, PAC meetings, special meetings, and/or all of the above to assure that the largest number of people received updates and had the opportunity to give input. She said that she was collecting e-mail addresses of people who were interested in being part of whatever community forums were held, and hoped that others would forward any information on as well.

10. New Business

- The nominations from Executive committee for the 2010 officers are; Lynn, David, and Cerrissa. There were no other nominations. The slate passed. The new officers begin their term at the January meeting.

11. What's new in HIV?

- There is a request for a consumer advisory board for managed MediCal. There are stipends for participants. Marion will forward information for Lisa to share at tomorrow nights community meeting.

12. Items for next meeting agenda. Standing Action Item HIV Services Plan adjustment.

13. Closure – Meeting was adjourned at 7:05

The next meeting is on November 18, 2009 at 4:15 p.m.

due to the holiday on November 11

625 Fifth Street, City View Rooms