

Hudson Valley RW HIV CARE Network

Consumer Involvement Committee
40 Saw Mill River Rd. Hawthorne, NY 10532
280 Broadway, 4th Floor Newburgh, NY 12550
February 5th, 2009 12:30pm-2:30pm

Attendees: (Hawthorne) Gerald Y, John F, Maria D, Susie A, Ruth M
(Newburgh) Tracy M (co-chair), Riquel S, Leon W, Mary G, Michael G,

Network Staff: Barbara Bennet and Michelle Amatulle

Guests: Veronica Jones., Zulma Montijo

Overview

Everyone received an agenda, the January 8th, 2009 meeting minutes, NYAC Registration form, budget cut spreadsheet, the 2009-2010 Work Plan, dental survey, and an evaluation survey. The meeting began with introductions and a moment of silence. The minutes were reviewed and accepted. (Gerald, Michael).

ADAP Presentation

Zulma Montijo from Pathstones, and Veronica Jones from Urban League did a presentation and update on ADAP. Medicaid spend down was covered, as well as eligibility, and medication issues. There are no geographical limitations for ADAP in New York.

Tracy mentioned Echo Pharmacy, which is a pharmaceutical delivery service can get medications quickly and at a low cost. He can fax the application. It was suggested that Echo do a presentation as well.

Legislative Education Day Details

The date was originally scheduled for March 10th, 2009, however it was changed to February 24th to coincide with NYAC's, New York AIDS Coalition schedule. NYAC is collaborating with all the Networks across the state.

Action Item 1: Registration forms are to be filled out and given to Michelle or Barbara today or fax it to us by February 17th.

Action Item 2: Barbara will contact Marie St Cyre, from NYAC, to conduct a training with the Hudson Valley Network. If she cannot, Victor or Tracy can provide the training since they've participated in legislative education visits in the past. The training should include information about how members will be grouped for appointments, and that everyone will be grouped by zip codes and each group will have a team leader. The team leader will open up with talking points followed by testimonials from the other members in the group. The group leader will provide closing points.

Action Item 3: Gerald will send the registration form to people who are apart of this core base. We would like to get thirty (30) people from our area

The committee is soliciting ideas from consumers for issues to discuss with the legislators on February 24th. Network staff created a spreadsheet or table, which collects information services and recent cuts. The budget cut table was reviewed, consumers should

indicate if they've lost any services on the spreadsheet and write down the region in which they live.

Action Item 4: It was asked that the committee fill out the spreadsheet to create talking points for the visit.

Talking points discussed include:

- ARCS has been impacted and has been cut \$600,000 for HIV prevention and substance abuse programs. These services are not duplicated in the Hudson Valley by other organizations.
- Heroin use is on the rise in Dutchess County. The infection rate among substance abusers in the next two years will increase rapidly. Prevention services are no longer funded.
- In Ulster County, several agencies lost funding through OASAS.
- Several medical agencies in Westchester such as Westchester Medical Center and St. John's Riverside Hospital have lost positions in the recent months.
- The CDC (Center for Disease Control) has come out with a report stating that new infections are actually higher than previously calculated.

Work Plan

The work plan for contract year April 1st 2009-March 31st 2010 was reviewed.

Dental Survey

This was sent by the AIDS Institute. It will take about ten minutes to complete. Everyone completed the survey at the meeting.

General Membership Meeting Update

The General Membership meeting will be on February 27th, 2009 10am-1pm at the Holiday Inn in Fishkill.

Peer Coordinator position Update

It was announced to the committee that the money allocated for a part time position will go towards the Consumer Involvement Committee and Network events for transportation, food, etc. There were no objections to this decision.

Future Meeting Locations

We will have an in-person meeting on March 19th. Everyone from the upper counties will come down to the Hawthorne since everyone came up to Newburgh last time. The committee agreed to meet face to face on a quarterly basis.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Amatulle
Program Assistant