

Hudson Valley RW HIV CARE Network

Consumer Involvement Committee Meeting
40 Saw Mill River Rd. Hawthorne, NY 10532
280 Broadway, 4th Floor Newburgh, NY 12550
April 16, 2009 12:30pm-2:30pm

Present: (Hawthorne) Victor A.(co-chair), Susie A., Darlene B., Mildred L., Victor M., Thomas S.
(Newburgh) Agripino B., Larry C., Ricky D.

Network Staff: Barbara Bennet and Michelle Amatulle

Overview

Everyone received an agenda, a work plan, a KPax flyer, the webcast agenda, and an evaluation. The agenda was reviewed and introductions were done.

Updates

- Policy, Advocacy and Education Committee
 - We are in the process of putting together an opinion paper due in June regarding lack of prevention services which we're hoping to give to legislators.
 - We're planning on visits to local legislators in the near future.

- Care Coordination Committee
 - DSS Forums- This is an attempt to build relationships with the Dept. of Social Service in each county so that we can improve the understanding and clarity of what is expected from agencies and vice versa, creating a seamless entry into care.
 - Faith Based Initiative- We are contacting faith organizations throughout the seven counties and hope to have brunches with them to talk about HIV in their communities and how their role can help to reduce stigma.
 - Service Delivery Plan- Identifies the services, needs and gaps in the area. A seven county directory will hopefully come out of this.

Old Business

The previous meeting was briefly summarized. It was mentioned that the meeting seemed to emphasize that upper counties don't have as many resources as the lower counties. This will be something for the committee to address. The next General Membership meeting on June 26th will review another upper county. Victor brought up the importance of the "Denver Principles", which will be discussed more at the next meeting. There is a lot of complacency right now going on with HIV/AIDS.

- Work Plan Review
 - Legislative Training- This is something that will be ongoing and a visit to Albany is scheduled for Spring 2010.
 - Youth Mentoring- Instead of mentoring, the wording will be changed to "educating". This committee doesn't necessarily have to be the ones directly to do the educating. We can get assistance from other groups because adolescents learn best when they learn from their peers. **Action Item 1:** Victor can get in touch with the youth group from the Quality of Care Committee of the AIDS Institute to see if they can help us. **Action Item 2:** Barbara will find out more about Teen Link and see who we can contact. **Action Item 3:** Gerald will contact the Loft since they may have a younger age group. **Action Item 4:** Barbara will contact David Lovegreen, ARCS former volunteer coordinator, who may have school contacts and maybe he can come to one of our meetings to

help us figure out how to proceed. It was asked that the committee identify youth agencies that deal with kids at risk. There are youth theatre groups in Manhattan that do small plays having to do with HIV and risky behaviors. **Action Item 5:** Barbara will talk to Dr. Archbald who has school-made videos. Albany also has youth groups that we could get in contact with through Dan Teats. **Action Item 6:** Victor will also contact the African women's group. It was suggested that we put together an ad hoc committee once we have more information.

- Local Provider Information- It was agreed that this committee would like speakers to come talk about the co-morbidities that come with aging such as arthritis, diabetes, cholesterol, heart issues, etc. because there are so many people with HIV/AIDS who are living longer and as a result, having other health problems.

New Business

- Kpax and Jon Kaiser, MD
 - Kpax is a nutritional supplement to strengthen the immune system. Jon Kaiser was promoted by the Bronx Network through a dietician, Janet Escolante, who works for Kpax. Jon Kaiser also works with Kpax, has written several books, is highly respected in the field, and teaches at University of California. It was reassured that he would not push the product.
 - It was asked if anyone would like to have Jon Kaiser speak about his "Steps to a Stronger Immune System" at one of our meetings. He will be doing a seminar with GMHC. **Action Item 7:** Barbara will contact medical facilities, such as Mid Hudson Care Center and Westchester Medical Center to get more feedback.
 - Several committee members were familiar with Jon Kaiser and his product, liked Kpax and came highly recommended by doctors. So it was a unanimous decision that he come to speak with us in the Fall.
- HIV/HCV Webinar
 - There is a Webinar about Hepatitis C and HIV co-infection hosted by Albany Medical on Wednesday April 29th from 12:30-2:30. ARCS will be facilitating from Hawthorne and Newburgh.
 - **Action Item 8:** Barbara will send an email out with the details.

Announcements

Living Together is having their annual picnic at FDR park on August 9th. The Network will try to organize a bus for people from the upper counties. New evaluations were introduced and completed. Next meeting is May 21st, the following meeting in June will be after the General Membership meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Amatulle
Program Assistant