

Hudson Valley RW HIV CARE Network

Policy, Advocacy, & Education Committee
40 Saw Mill River Rd. Hawthorne, NY 10532
280 Broadway, 4th Floor Newburgh, NY 12550
April 2, 2009 10am-11:30am

Present: (Hawthorne) Teri Aliotta, Susie A., Lorraine Anglin, Maria D., Veronica Jones, Andrew Lehto, Robert Maher (co-chair), Gerald Yarn.

(Newburgh) Agripino B., Tracy M., Raguel S., Robert Selcov (co-chair), Leon W.

Network Staff: Barbara Bennet and Michelle Amatulle

Overview

Meeting attendees received the agenda, the minutes from the February 5th meeting, the Sheldon Silver letter, legislator list, and an evaluation. The February 5th minutes were approved as amended (Susie, Andrew).

State Budget Update

- The State Budget was supposed to have passed yesterday.
- CSP's (Community Service Provider) money would not be restored; it wasn't clear whether OASAS money would be restored.
- Direct healthcare services will be impacted by the budget which will pose problems indirectly for our consumers.
- **Action Item 1:** Barbara will follow up with NYAC (NY AIDS Coalition) or will contact a staff person of an elected official who may be able to get us more information on the budget that affects us directly.
- The letter to Sheldon Silver by Kevin Cahill was sent to us as an FYI. It might be wise to start our visits with Kevin Cahill since he put the letter together.
- It was suggested that everyone involved in the committee research information on the NY state budget. Once we establish ties and secure identity, it should be easier to receive this information.

White Paper

- A white paper is a report or an opinion policy paper that doesn't necessarily have to be very long, maybe eight or nine pages at most. It will be due on June 30th and submitted to the AIDS Institute.
- One of the topics discussed on the conference call is the importance of non-profits and the need for funding of nonprofits because they tend to be more efficient than government, therefore saving money. If non-profits were to become non-existent, the government would have to absorb those services. In addition, if people are kept medically stable, then emergency room visits, which are much more expensive, will be less frequent. All of the county's cooperative extensions or budget offices may need to be contacted for data.
- A discussion formed about how non-profits work, which led to the idea that the committee could do some education awareness about how non-profits work (what their rules and regulations are, as well as compare Part B to Part A.) Also, we can explore the different funding streams in the lower counties comparing it with the upper counties, which can be done through a mapping sequence. The mapping software can show where the gaps, needs and services are, as well as show the large region covered by the Network.

- The data results from the Penn State Vocational Survey could be used for the white paper. The data will be available in May.
- Other ideas for the white paper were:
 - Lack of prevention services for HIV/AIDS
 - HIV and substance use (needle exchange program)
It was mentioned that the needle exchange program is not really available in the Upper County region, therefore, there won't be too much support for it there.
 - HIV and Hepatitis C
 - Young pregnant women with HIV/Family-centered medical care for HIV positive moms. As an aside, there is a positive moms group at ARCS run by Julie that would serve to help with education and awareness. **Action Item 2:** We can ask Julie for a flyer so that we can promote it.
- The committee held a majority vote and "Lack of Prevention for HIV/AIDS" took the vote. Substance use, HIV and Hep C will be tied into this as well. **Action Item 3:** The network staff will create an outline on the topics of the paper and will email it prior to the next meeting. It will be approved at the next meeting with the help of the co-chairs, Tracy, and Andrew.

Legislative Contacts

- One of the work plan goals is to build relationships with local and state legislators. We can hold a legislative breakfast or make individual visits.
- The legislator list was reviewed. There could be two meetings: one in the lower counties, and one in the upper counties. First, there needs to be a consensus on a uniform message or talking points. The legislative visits can be done as individuals or as a group of three.
- During the conference call, there was a discussion regarding ways to stay in contact with legislators through a monthly email of Network updates or invite them to visit the website. It was also mentioned that there should be a quick two minute summary on the activities of the other committees to keep the Network informed.
- It was suggested that legislators be invited to the General Membership Meeting to give us some more information on the budget, perhaps ten minutes of Q & A.
- Individual visits will wait until white paper is done. It was asked if there would be another legislative training. **Action Item 4:** Network staff will put together a training. Consumer Involvement and Care Coordination can be informed of this as well which would be an opportunity for Consumer Involvement to be actively involved with Policy & Advocacy without having to come to all the meetings.

Website

The draft home page of the web site was critiqued. The page was sent to AIDS Institute last week. It was noted that the "donate" tab will be taken out. Also, the pictures will rotate but the concern is that it would require flash player and not everyone has access to flash player.

Other comments were:

- AIDS ribbon should be more emphasized, maybe outlined or made a little bigger;
- "Ryan White" is not easily seen;
- We may need to adopt a different logo that's more recognizable;
- Service providers can go under "Links";
- It was suggested that we have a map people could click on for the different counties;
- Put a scrolling calendar on the home page that changes every month listing upcoming events that comes from the calendar page such as in this site: <http://www.chartcaribbean.org/>.
- Having a media page is important for us to do press releases and share the stories that often do not get told.

Evaluations

The new evaluation forms were presented. Demographics and a Likert scale were added. The committee gave their feedback on it and revisions were noted.

Announcements

Lower Hudson Valley Peri-natal Network is holding an event called "Unique Strategies to Integrate Breastfeeding into the Workplace and Community" on Tuesday April 24th, 2009 at 9am-3pm at Good Samaritan Hospital in Rockland County; includes lunch and breakfast for \$30.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Amatulle
Program Assistant