

# Hudson Valley RW HIV CARE Network

**Policy, Advocacy, & Education Committee**  
280 Broadway, 4th Floor Newburgh, NY 12550  
40 Saw Mill River Rd. Hawthorne, NY 10532  
August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 10am-11:30

**Present:** (Hawthorne) Teri Aliotta, Lorraine Anglin, Dawn Kittell, Andrew Lehto, Robert Maher (co-chair), Deborah May, Gerald Yarn.  
(Newburgh) Agripino B., Michael G.  
Network staff: Barbara Bennet and Michelle Amatulle

## **Overview**

Everyone received an agenda, minutes from the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, a screen shot of the website legislative contacts, June legislative email, Congressional Advocacy Talking Points: August 2009 recess, Tips for Requesting a meeting during the recess, and an evaluation. The minutes were approved (Lorraine, Gerald).

## **Announcements**

- The KPax Seminar: “7 Steps to a Stronger Immune System” will be on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Newburgh from 12:30-3.
- The AIDS Quilt showing, which is also part of TOUCH’s 20 year anniversary, will be on Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, – Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> at Rockland Community College. It will be the largest display in the Northeast. The opening ceremony is at 3pm on Thursday. Proceeds will be donated to the Network for the Consumer Involvement Committee. There will be a proposal to the Executive Committee to combine this event with the General Membership meeting. Rob will hear about the logistics sometime next week.  
**Action Item 1:** Rob will send information in an email for potential volunteers
- The Bylaws are pending approval from AIDS Institute. The bylaws must be ratified in the October meeting before they can officially go into effect.

## **Old Business**

- **Website**  
The website is live, but a few issues need resolution:
  - The “Join our email list” is currently not working properly, but those interested can contact the Network staff for now.
  - There is no tab for specific HIV information  
Please let Network staff know if there are sites that this committee would like to have included on the links page or if a link is missing,**Suggestions:**
  - Change “Documents/Media” to “Resources” and include HIV information there.
  - Make “Resources” a drop down menu that would show documents and media; (Documents include: minutes, white paper, bylaws, service delivery plan, press releases, etc).
  - Include “Understanding Lab Reports” somewhere in the website.
  - Change “Providers” to “Members”; “Providers” is under construction.
  - For Resources, include a mini directory or have a link to the Tri-County Resource Directory.**Action Item 2:** Deborah will work on putting that together.

- Make the membership form “fill-able.”

- **Action Item 3:** Rob will try to take the PDF and make it a fill-able form.

ARCS Public Relations will be working with Network staff to do any updates on the site.

- **White Paper**

Lorraine gave the updates for the white paper. Deborah created ten (10) recommendations for the ad hoc committee to work from. (attached)

- We changed the title to “Failure to Adequately Fund HIV and HCV Prevention Programs Now Means Increased Treatment Costs in Ten Years”
- Andrew will be working on HIV/IDU stats; Zulma is going to be working on the number of substance treatment facilities and IDU's in the area; Barbara will work on funding loss; Gerald has put together a survey for the consumer component; Rob will get anecdotal information on Ryan White funding for HCV; and Lorraine is working on cost impact.
- Rob contacted the NYC Part A Planning Council and there is no discussion taking place around HIV and HCV. They're trying to just get a bill passed, will find out more information. Jose Serrano was successful in getting the ban on needle exchange Federal funding passed in the House but it didn't pass in the Senate.
- Teri agreed to help with information on ADAP funding and to also contact Bill Larkin.
- Dawn will answer the survey questions that Gerald will be constructing.
- The next conference call will be August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Please contact Michelle if you would like to join.

**Action Item 4:** Michelle will send Teri a packet for Bill Larkin.

**Action Item 5:** The ten recommendations and details about the next conference call will be sent out to the group.

- **Legislative Emails**

The legislative contacts spreadsheet was viewed in conjunction with the June legislative email. It was decided that everyone's name on the committee be included along with their county of residence or work to give it more of an impact. It will show that it's coming from more than one person all over the Hudson Valley, where they have constituents.

**Action Item 6:** An email will be sent out asking for permission to list the committee's names and county of residence.

## **New Business**

- **HATMA (HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act) Reauthorization update**

HATMA's reauthorization could be a one year or three year extension. The one year extension would allow some components to expire and Congress will be able to change it and reduce funds. A three year reauthorization is sought by HIV/AIDS advocates.

Matthew Lesieur will present at our next meeting in September.

The CAEAR Coalition documents, “Congressional Advocacy Talking Points: August 2009 recess” and “Tips for Requesting a meeting during the recess” were received from Kay Scott and they outline issues about HATMA reauthorization. On the back are two letters that you can send to your local legislators asking them to continue funding for HATMA.

- Two websites which provide information about current Federal or State legislation were discussed. These sites were included for discussion to encourage committee members to search for current legislation that is appropriate for this venue.
- **Action Item 7:** Deborah volunteered to research advocacy sites.

On the federal level, it was asked if the committee should also take a stand on the healthcare reform bill. It was suggested that the Network or this committee (if in agreement) take the clear position on single payer universal federally funded healthcare. A volunteer would be needed however, to draft a page of updates on the healthcare reform bill and then a loosely structured policy statement can be made on healthcare reform.

**Action Item 8:** Andrew will look into this.

**Action Item 9:** Barbara will contact the other networks to see if they have a position on healthcare reform or if there is anything else that we could sign onto regarding HIV legislation.

- Michael G. will provide updates from the Leadership Training Institute, LTI in future meetings  
There is a self management training coming up and a Mentorship training in September.  
The application can be sent electronically for those interested.

Next meeting is September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Amatulle  
Program Assistant