

**S.C. HIV Planning Council**  
Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2014  
Brookland Lakeview Community Center  
1218 Batchelor Street  
West Columbia, SC 29169

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order by Gary Rhett, the Community Co-chair.

HPC Members Present

David Alexander  
Connie Barnes  
Kabra Benford  
Michael Bivens  
Troy Bowers  
Veronica Brisco  
Christine Beyer  
K. Allen Campbell  
Quinton Ellison

Susan Fulmer  
Mary Wright Golden  
Adrena Harrison  
LaVonda Johnson  
Alex Karydi  
Stacey Jennings  
Michael Luciano  
Deadra Malloy  
Lottie McClorin  
Gerald McNair

David Pable  
Angel Payton Harmon  
Tricia Phaup  
Harry Prim III  
Gary Rhett  
Denise Rivera  
Tyrone Small  
Larry Walton  
Shehan Welihindha  
Vera Bishop-Wright

HPC Members Absent

Carlton Boyd  
Glenda Schleich

Laura Cahue

Pamela Shepard McKnight

Ex-Officio Members

James Cooper  
Mulamba Lunda

Alton Murray  
Reg Posley

Mario Smith

DHEC Central Office Staff

Pam Davis  
Monetha Gaskin  
Lewis Hicks  
Keisha Hightower

Roshan McDaniel  
Tony Price  
Bobby Rogers  
Janet Tapp

Jennifer Turner  
Charmella Tyler

Guests

Joyce Belton  
Jeanetta Herring  
Elizabeth McLendon

Dasia Robinson  
Lamar Wheeler  
Clay Outen

Eric Johnson  
Joann Doctor  
Rick Felder

Staff

Donald Wood

**Minutes:** The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed.

**Action Item:** A motion was made by David Pable and properly seconded to accept the minutes as distributed. The motion passed.

### **Presentations**

**Linkage to Care: Identifying Opportunities for Seamlessness:** Christal Davis, the Ryan White Program Data Manager, provided an update on our efforts to link consumers to the Care system and retain them in care. The ultimate goal is for all persons with HIV to have undetectable viral load.

**Updates from the SC Department of Corrections:** Larry Walton, a Social Worker with the SC Department of Corrections and an HPC member, provided the group with an update on the integration of HIV positive inmates into the general population at the Department of Corrections. The inmates can now be placed according to the least restrictive level of security that is required.

John Barkley, who was to present information on the SCDC implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act program, is ill and unable to attend today. He will hopefully be able to share his information at the June HPC meeting.

### **Lunch**

**Call to Order:** Following lunch, the meeting was called back to order by Gary Rhett. At that time, announcements were accepted from members and guests.

**Ryan White Patient Equity and Choice Act:** Tim Boyd from the AIDS Healthcare Foundation provided the group with an overview of the bill and requested that members individually contact their congressional members in support of the legislation.

**STD/HIV Division Report:** Janet Tapp provided an update on the happenings within the STD/HIV Division. She noted that Leigh Oden will return from maternity leave in a few weeks. The Division will host a meeting on its Telemedicine initiative in the near future. The recently hosted a very successful meeting to discuss strategies regarding prevention for positives. They are also working on several perinatal prevention efforts.

**Prevention Programs:** Tony provided updates on DHEC's STD/HIV Prevention Program activities: <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/stdhiv/index.htm>.

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- DHEC submitted its HIV prevention annual progress report to CDC in late March.
- In late March, DHEC also submitted its close-out report to CDC for the past five years of STD prevention funding.
- DHEC submitted an application in late March for new CDC funding to establish an HIV continuum of care collaborative with selected federally-qualified health centers. If funded, this will support DHEC providing coordination, technical support and public health program assistance so that the FQHCs can establish routine HIV testing, seamless linkage to care, treatment and prevention services for newly identified HIV positive clients, and re-engagement in care for those previously diagnosed.

- DHEC received a site visit from John Snow Incorporated and CDC in regards to South Carolina being one of the seven states participating in the national HIV data to care project.
- Chelsea Gonzalez joined the STD/HIV Division as our program nurse consultant on April 17.
- The National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan was updated for 2014 – 2016 and released in early April. <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hhs-actionplan.htm>
- The South Carolina Viral Hepatitis Strategic Planning Committee meets on April 24.

**Ryan White Programs:** Charmella Tyler provided an update on the Ryan White Programs. She reported that:

1. Ryan White Part B/MAI/EC has received its partial award for FY2014-2015 and awards letters have been dispersed to service providers, which was 30% based on their last year's base award in April 2014. 7 new contracts began April 2014 (Available on DHEC website).
2. Full HOPWA awards for FY2014-2015 have been dispersed to service providers in April 2014. 3 new HOPWA contracts & 1 TBRA contract began April 2014 (Available on DHEC website).
3. The Ryan White Part D Non-Competing Continuation progress report application was submitted on March 28<sup>th</sup> to HRSA. The report is a The Budget year is for 11 months, beginning August 1, 2014-June 30, 2015. The NCC Progress Report provides a status report of the current Part D project year & proposed objectives for the upcoming BY2014-2015.
4. Ryan White Year End Reporting is underway for FY2013-2014 for Ryan White & HOPWA.
5. The Ryan White Part B Supplemental Grant Application is Due May 28<sup>th</sup> to HRSA. This grant typically pays for ADAP medications but may require new strategies for GY 2014-15.
6. HOPWA CAPER (Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report) is due from service providers by April 30, 2014. This annual report is submitted to HUD by DHEC to measure and evaluate program outcomes related to housing stability, homelessness prevention, & improved access to care & support.
7. The Ryan White Part D Statewide Meeting was held April 14<sup>th</sup> at DHEC. The service providers provided updates re: their Part D program and initiatives around the state.
8. The proposed Presidential Budget for FY 2015 plans to consolidate the Part C & D program, with an overall increase of \$4 million dollars. By consolidating the Part D program within the Part C program, this will allow for increased efficiencies, more streamlined grants administration, and less reporting burden and it will also allow more funding to be made available for direct patient care services. Current Part D grantees will be able to apply for funding as a Part C grantee. A Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program 2015 Parts C/D Consolidation Proposal Webinar will be held Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4-5 for Part D grantees & Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-5p for Part C grantees. Critical elements for the FY2015 FOA will be discussed.
9. The Ryan White Part B MCM Workgroup meets monthly and focused largely on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) from October 2013 – March 2014. The group recently updated the training calendar for the MCM Training Series (schedule available on SC DHEC website). The MCM Workgroup recently formed a sub-committee, MCM Efficiency Sub-committee, to meet weekly for six (6) weeks. The group identified areas of need for additional efficiency in the areas of forms, documentation, and assembly of information to enhance the MCM Intervention.

### **ADAP Updates**

1. AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) has been busy as Affordable Care Act (ACA) open enrollment came to an end on March 31<sup>st</sup>. To date, there were about 250 individuals enrolled in a

Marketplace plan, which ADAP provides support. This number may increase; ADAP will have better numbers at the end of this month.

2. Next open enrollment is November 15, 2014 to February 15, 2015.

3. ADAP will be changing pharmacy vendors for its Direct Dispensing Program, beginning June 1, 2014, from CVS Caremark to PantherX. ADAP has begun sending communication to enrollees and the new vendor PantherX will begin sending more information in the coming weeks. Providers are working with ADAP to make this transition seamless.

**Administrative Report:** Donald Wood reviewed the evaluations from the February meeting and the New Member Orientation. He also presented the Council's financial report through March 31. He reminded everyone about the importance of submitting your meeting RSVP in a timely manner. Susan added that if the problem of people not returning their RSVPs continues, it may be necessary to go to a ticket system for lunch so that those who RSVP will be ensured lunch before the food runs out.

**Executive and Membership Committees Reports:** Gary Rhett provided the Council with a brief recap of the Executive Committee conference call. The committee reviewed and approved today's meeting agenda and discussed future meeting topics. The committee also discussed updates for the HIV Prevention Plan and the potential to revisit the mileage reimbursement policy. He also asked all new member who did not attend the orientation to meet with him individually.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**Prevention:** Larry Walton provided a brief summary of the two motions that the committee would like for the Council to adopt related to the ARTAS and Willow interventions. The committee will meet again on May 22.

### **ARTAS (Antiretroviral Treatment and Access to Services) Motion for Special Consideration**

#### **Priority population(s) for this intervention: Newly Diagnosed HIV+ Individuals**

- Whereas, the named intervention has been researched and proven to be an effective intervention with the indicated priority population(s); and
- Whereas, CDC classifies the intervention or public health strategy among the most highly recommended by being included in the Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions (DEBI) project and/or the Compendium of Evidence-based HIV Prevention Interventions; and
- Whereas, the Prevention Committee of the S.C. HIV Planning Council (HPC) has conducted a thorough review of the intervention or public health strategy, the research literature related to the intervention, and special considerations related to implementation in South Carolina; and
- The Prevention Committee moves to add the special considerations listed below to the South Carolina Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan.

The HPC Prevention Committee recommends the following special considerations related to implementation of this intervention in South Carolina:

1. Transportation is an issue in South Carolina. Many people live in rural areas with limited to no public transportation. Special consideration when implementing the ARTAS intervention is to provide transportation assistance (i.e. agency pick-up, bus token, taxi cab voucher).

2. Unreliable telephone service and contact information. Many clients utilize pre-paid cell phones with limited available minutes, which hinders the ability to communicate with providers, case managers, and intervention staff. Agencies should consider providing pre-paid calling cards or other incentives.
3. Lack of stable housing. Individuals are displaced for various reasons (i.e. incarceration, unemployment, and hospitalization). It is recommended that in conjunction with providing intervention services, staff utilize other social service avenues, such as HOPWA, Drug and Alcohol services and mental health.
4. Marketing the ARTAS intervention. Use a multidisciplinary approach. Make sure other organizations are aware of who is providing the ARTAS intervention.

The motion was adopted by the Council.

### **WILLOW (Women Involved in Life Learning from Other Women) Motion for Special Consideration**

#### **Priority population(s) for this intervention: Heterosexual HIV Positive Women**

- Whereas, the named intervention has been researched and proven to be an effective intervention with the indicated priority population(s); and
- Whereas, CDC classifies the intervention or public health strategy among the most highly recommended by being included in the Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions (DEBI) project and/or the Compendium of Evidence-based HIV Prevention Interventions; and
- Whereas, the Prevention Committee of the S.C. HIV Planning Council (HPC) has conducted a thorough review of the intervention or public health strategy, the research literature related to the intervention, and special considerations related to implementation in South Carolina; and
- The Prevention Committee moves to add the special considerations listed below to the South Carolina Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan.

The HPC Prevention Committee recommends the following special considerations related to implementation of this intervention in South Carolina:

1. Transportation to and from the intervention: Many areas are very rural in our state; consequently, many areas do not have public transportation or taxi cab services. It is recommended to have personal transportation available for participants not just bus tickets/tokens due to the lack of public transportation and/or program crossing multiple county lines.
2. Providing the intervention over the course of several days (i.e. in a retreat setting, Friday through Sunday or four Fridays in a row) works better than providing intervention during the week.
3. It is recommended that facilitator assisting with WILLOW should have some alcohol and drug knowledge.
4. It is recommended that participants go through Healthy Relationships after completing WILLOW.
5. Specific considerations and/or adaptations are made for other populations participating in the WILLOW intervention (i.e. transgender individuals).

The motion was adopted by the Council.

**Care and Support Services:** Angel Payton-Harmon reported that the committee discussed the following items:

- Peer Advocate Training survey. The survey has been extended to May 15.
- Potential partnership with SCAPPA to create a certification process for Peer Advocates
- The development of a curriculum for the peer program.

**Needs Assessment:** David Pable reported that the committee met with Christal Davis to further discuss her presentation and its application in implementing the 2014 Needs Assessment project. The committee also received the final update on the WSM survey results. The committee will be targeting people who are in some phase of being out of care for the next survey.

**Positive Advocacy:** Veronica Brisco reported that the committee is doing very well this year. During their last meeting they discussed the Peer Institute. They are seeking a funding source to assist consumers with the cost of travel to attend the meeting. The next PAC meeting will be held on May 13.

### **Workgroup/Task Force Updates**

**Adolescent Sexual Health Workgroup:** Christine Beyer reported that the workgroup met last week. She provided an update on the status of House Bill 3435 (Comprehensive Health Education Act overhaul). They also discussed the recently completed Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The information in the survey will be used to update the workgroup's Call To Action Report. She noted that the state Department of Education's workshop for Special Needs Teachers went very well. They are considering offering it again in the near future.

**Corrections Workgroup:** Tyrone Small reported the workgroup will meet again on June 9, September 8 and December 8. He will send out a reminder in advance. Persons who are interested in joining should contact him or Susan.

**Hispanic/Latino Workgroup:** Susan Fulmer reported that the group did not meet this period. However, a subcommittee continues to work on the toolkit for providers and that a focus group was conducted in the Greenville area recently to follow up on the needs assessment survey results.

**African American MSM Workgroup:** K. Allen Campbell reminded the Council that the MSM HIV Prevention Institute will be held on Friday, June 20 at the Brookland Banquet and Conference Center, 1058 Sunset Boulevard in West Columbia.

This year's conference will focus on topics and workshop sessions emphasizing the importance of survival for men who sex with men (MSM) and those professionals that work directly with them. More importantly, attendees will learn ways to outwit, outplay, and outlast HIV and other STIs in South Carolina. The institute will offer two separate conference tracks. The professional track will offer workshops topics that will address issues related to individuals that work in the field of prevention, offer prevention services, or have interests in prevention. The YMSM track will offer workshop topics that will address issues exclusively related to young men between the ages of 18 to 29 who have sex with men. Registration is ongoing and a limited number of scholarships are available.

**SC HIV Task Force:** Michael Bivens reported that the group will meet later this week at Brookland Baptist Church. They have an all new Executive Committee which will take office this month. They are

also sponsoring to Medicaid Expansion workshop. The information was previously distributed to HPC members.

### **Unfinished Business**

**June Meeting Presentations:** The following topics will be presented at the June meeting:

- ✓ 2013 HIV Prevention Progress Report
- ✓ Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Update

### **New Business**

**Future Presentations:** A list of future presentations was discussed. The following presentations will be given at future meetings

- ✓ Summary of Prevention Services Statewide for 2013
- ✓ Training on Parliamentary Procedures has been requested. Rather than offer that in a brief presentation at an HPC meeting, it will be offered as a free-standing training to HPC members and K. Allen Campbell has graciously agreed to conduct the workshop.

### **Announcements**

Susan Fulmer advised the group that the call for proposals for the SC HIV, STD and Viral Hepatitis Conference has been released. The deadline to submit an abstract is May 5.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05.**

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Wood,  
Program Administrator