

**Virginia Community HIV Planning Group**  
**Call Summary**  
**March 19, 2021**

**Members Present:** Maria Altonen, Darryl Cannady, Robert Cheek, Doug Fogal, Beverly Franklin, Russell Jones, Joseph Lyttle, Elaine Martin (VDH Co-Chair), Gia Martinez, Clay Porter, David Pintor, Bryan Price, Alexandria Robinson, Robert Rodney, Thomas Rodriguez-Schucker, Nechelle Terrell (Community Co-Chair), Thomas Villa, Kysha Washington,

**Absent:** Yolanda Alexander, Keith Arendall, Antonia Bowman, Gennaro Brooks, Victor Claros, Anthony Hayden, Bobby Jones, Rodney Lewis, Daniel Lopez, Shannon Meade, Anjeni' Moore, Darryl Payne, Doris Plant-Hill, Jennifer Shiflett,

**Others present:** Kristen Donovan, Ashley Yocum, Sadie Adkins, Oana Vasiliu, Cameron Rose, Rachel Stallings, Deryk Jackson (Norfolk TGA Planning Council), Vanessa Slaughter, Scott Thompson, Ana María del Río-González, Unsar, Maureen Nieves, Tim Agar

**Greetings and Introductions – Elaine Martin**

- Attendance
- Approved February minutes- Approved VIA email

**Old and New Business-Elaine Martin**

- General Assembly
  - SB1138- with the Governor
  - HB2079- with the Governor

**Prevention and Care Updates**

- **Prevention:**
  - Getting ready for the third round of the Ryland Roane fellowship program. Applications will be sent out in April
  - The Strength In Peers harm reduction site has been approved. We are waiting on the Commissioners approval for the Chris Atwood Foundation's application.
  - Recruiting for the DDP Hotline staff. Resumes can be sent to [Sarah.Lannon@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Sarah.Lannon@vdh.virginia.gov)
- **Care:**
  - In the process of finalizing Ryan White Part B contracts
  - Reminder: we are still in Open Enrollment in the Special Enrollment Period
    - To enroll in a Marketplace Plan during the 20-21 Special Enrollment Period, please call Benalytics at 1-855-483-4647

**TGA, EMA and Regional Updates-Regional Reps**

- COHAH - Doug Fogal
  - Recipient Report (HAHSTA)
    - Recipient received a partial Notice of Grant Award for Part A GY '21. All RW recipients received a partial award. The full award is usually received later in the spring around May.
    - Question asked if there were dental visits occurring?
      - Noted that capacity has decreased but they are available.
    - Question asked if there was an evaluation to see how many people (RW patients) have fallen out of care during the pandemic?

- There has not been a study but the grant year ends at the end of February 2021 and the RSR (RW Programs Service Report) data closes at the end of March 2021. That may provide an opportunity to review that type of information.
  - Question asked does anyone provide mobile dental services?
    - Not aware of any
  - Question asked if there would be a spending shortfall?
    - There would be a shortfall which would fall less than the 5% penalty threshold.
    - HRSA is looking for ways to get a waiver for EMA's that would have excessive amounts of money left over. The rules are legislatively mandated, so HRSA has to wait to see if they can get approval from Congress.
- Committee Reports
  - Community Education and Engagement Committee (CEEC)
    - They are planning to hold a Community Listening Session (CLS) for February 2021. The session will be open to anyone in the DMV and HIV status does not matter.
    - They attempting to put together a “commercial” to advertise the CLS
  - Research and Evaluation Committee (REC)
    - January 2021 was the first meeting of the new year and the committee discussed obtaining information for the Needs Assessment from the DC Cohort. They are looking for information from July 2017 to June 2019. Also review information that was gathered by the 1906 Project
  - Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC)
    - There were PRSA Meetings in January 2021. Virginia and Maryland met on January 11, 2021 and DC met on January 12, 2021.
  - Integrated Strategies Committee (ISC)
    - They received (5) services standards from the Service Standards committee in HAHSTA. They will begin reviewing those standards starting in February 2021.
    - Also continued working on the Immigration position paper in collaboration with the consultants from George Washington University (GWU)
    - GWU provided an overview of the Immigration position paper
- EMA Priority Setting and Resource Allocations (PSRA) for GY31/FY21 was held on 1/28/2021.
  - This year's PSRA process has been done over the course of the past 5 months. Presentations included:
    - Service Utilization in September 2020
    - Epidemiology in October 2020

- Ending the Epidemic in November 2020
  - Other resources available in December 2020
  - Data Analyst from HAHSTA provided a presentation of the spending from GY'30
- Overview of the Priority Setting process for EMA-wide GY '20 Priority Setting data
  - Motion and seconded to approve the GY '21 Priority Setting data for the EMA which was a carryover from GY'30 Priorities.
  - Motion and seconded to approve the entire slate (EMA, DC, MD, VA) of priorities as voted on in their Jurisdictional meetings.
- Overview of the Resource Allocations for Regional services for GY '20
  - Motion and seconded to approve the GY'31 Resource Allocation data for Regional Services which is a carryover from GY '20 Allocations.
  - Motion and seconded to approve the entire slate (EMA, DC, MD, VA) of resource allocations as voted in their respective Jurisdictional meetings.
- It was noted that starting 2021 that HRSA is moving to a non-competing continuation model. This year there will be a full application process then following two years they will have to provide an update/annual report and the funds will be automatically provided. Stated that Part B has been using this model on a five-year continuation as opposed to three years.
- Other business reporting
  - Anthony Gutierrez from Gilead will be hosting Town Halls throughout the EMA
  - Kimberly Scott announced that the Federal Marketplace will reopen in February
  - Next COHAH meeting is March 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. 6pm to 8pm
- Norfolk TGA - Thomas Rodriguez-Schucker
  - **Community Access Committee:**
    - The Community Access Committee continues to plan for the statewide consumer retreat slated for October 2021. The committee is working to get speakers/presenters so that they can finalize the agenda for the retreat. The committee is also finalizing the consumer satisfaction survey and is researching how to provide an internet reimbursement for unaligned PLWH to attend the virtual meetings.
  - **Quality Improvement & Strategic Committee**
    - QISP is currently reviewing the previous RFP that went out for the triennial needs assessment and making changes as the committee sees fit. This will be finalized at the next committee meeting. The committee will also be reviewing the examples of Service Standards provided and updating the current standards to be more reflective of the proper format.
  - **Membership & Nominations Committee**
    - The membership & Nominations committee reviewed a new application at the last committee meeting and will be interviewing that individual at the

next scheduled committee meeting. The applicant is a young, unaligned consumer. In efforts to gain more input from the Norfolk TGA, the committee has sent out invitation letters to sub recipients asking for help in recruiting unaligned consumers, and a letter to city representatives in the TGA, informing them of Ryan White planning council and inviting them for their input.

○ **PART C UPDATE**

- The following is a summary report of Ryan White Part C, EIS activities from October 1, 2020 thru January 28, 2021 along with general award information.
  - The Part C resident geographical area covers patients residing in the following areas
    - Norfolk TGA,
    - State of Virginia, and
    - North Carolina, inside and outside of Currituck County
  - The award performance period is May 1 through April 30.
  - Costs not covered by Parts A and B
    - Parts A and B claims paid after those grants closed but before the Part C closes. Mental health and other cost shares are examples.
    - Costs for TGA patients not covered by Part A due to limited TGA funding
    - Costs for oral health provided non-TGA providers
    - Costs for rare other services needed but not covered by Parts A or B. An example is transportation or food assistance for a North Carolina patient that resides outside of the TGA.
  - The below data covers patients served during the period between October 2020 through February 25, 2021, May 1 through September 30, 2020, and May through April 2020

Service	10/2020 through 2/25/2021	5/2020 through 9/2020	5/2019 through 4/2020
Non-MCM	195	180	263
Food Bank	0	0	1
HIPCSA	21	23	127
Oral Health	26	18	60
Office Visits/Labs	50	59	125
Medical Transportation	0	0	1
Total Unduplicated Patients	238	241	385

- Southwest Region - Bobby Jones
  - No updates provided
- Northwest Region - Darryl Payne

- No updates provided
- Eastern Region - Gennaro Brooks
  - No updates provided
- Northern - Nechelle Terrell
  - No updates provided
- Central - Rob Rodney
  - No updates provided

**PrEP awareness, intentions, and use among Latina immigrant transgender women in the DC metropolitan area**

- Preliminary Findings

**Small Group Reporting and Discussion**

- What we found interesting:
  - Addressing whole health
  - Addressing transhealth
  - Making everyone is aware
  - Specific data re. Latina Trans women and attitudes toward PrEP
  - Success in reaching this underserved population: Kudos to the research team and community partner!
  - Low adherence to PrEP is a concern
- Differences if studies done elsewhere:
  - Discrimination numbers may be higher – housing, employment
  - Every city needs to have their own studies as it will be different for each ethnic group as everyone has their own experience
  - Do we have good data/any data re. number of Latina trans women in other areas of VA? Community partners capable to serve them? Where?
  - The sense of community among Latina trans women in NoVA and Eastern region doesn't exist in rest of VA. These other areas have had less messaging and therefore less awareness. Important to work thru community influencers to reach this audience in other areas.
  - Other parts of VA may have different priority groups (underserved), e.g., PWID in Southwestern VA, etc. Would be good to conduct similar study of them and their needs to guide our prevention strategies.
- How can VA increase PrEP awareness, coverage, stigma, disparities?
  - What steps to take in advance of people knowing about PrEP
  - Assess stigma that pharmacists may have
  - Provide additional education, support for CEs, etc. from Board of Pharmacy
  - Normalizing adults having sex to make people more comfortable to seek resources
  - Less targeted messaging and have broader messaging (not just a gay issue)
  - Need a pot of money for agencies to host awareness events
  - Include rural areas in our marketing for PrEP
  - Have at least one Spanish speaking person per department
- Role of Pharmacists to expand PrEP:
  - Will need a plan to rebuild momentum with PrEP campaign as Covid-19 pandemic is brought under control.
  - Important to provide local pharmacists with training, tools and support for them to increase PrEP uptake, linkage to HIV care, etc.

- How might we leverage tele-PrEP services?
- Implementation of PEP:
  - Need specific plan to inform/train/equip providers: Emergency Depts., pharmacists, PCPs, etc.
  - Pharmacists could potentially play a major role to provide timely access to PEP if the insurance authorization/reimbursement issues are addressed in advance of need. VDH may need to take the lead to help figure this out.
  - Need to involve CBOs to raise awareness of PEP and how access.
- How can VA increase awareness and use of PEP?
  - Not broadly marketed to the larger population, just to the medical world
- U=U
  - People are aware that they keep up with appointments, etc. and what that means for their lives
  - They have power to end the epidemic
  - Need ongoing campaigns to increase awareness among general population, esp. Latinx communities, and among PCPs.

**Adjourn- 11:00**

**Next meeting – April 16, 2021**

- **Upcoming Topics**
  - New STI National Strategic Plan
  - New Hepatitis National Strategic Plan
  - Cabenuva Update
- **Requested topics:**
  - Aging and HIV
  - Covid-19 Vaccine and PLWH
  - Treatment as Prevention
  - Grassroots organizing and community mobilizing around issues of prevention, stigma, and treatment to include Prep
  - VAMAP efforts towards digital records and electronic submission of applications/recertification
  - HIV Syndemic