

Sonoma County
COMMISSION ON AIDS

HIV Prevention Local Implementation Group
HIV Care Consortium
HIV Health Planning Council
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SONOMA COUNTY
COMMISSION ON AIDS/HIV CARE CONSORTIUM
HIV HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
July 8, 2009
490 Mendocino Avenue**

Members Present: Glenn S., Marion D., Alix. S., Lynn C., Cerrissa M., Shari B., Rick D.,
Herb L. Lisa A., Dwayne Z., and Anna B.
Members Absent: Ron K., Susan C., Ruben C., Celia B., Steve B., and Harold L.
Staff: Kelly E., Ellen S., and Claire E.

1. **Call to Order** – Lisa called the meeting to order.
2. **Memorial Moment**
3. **Public Comment/Announcements**
 - Lynn announced that there will be a rally at Courthouse Square at 6:30 tonight about the proposed State cuts to several important programs.
 - Lynn also announced that DAAC was able to fund Sean to do ReConnect work. The pilot project will begin with clients graduating from Drug Court, Turning Point and Perinatal services. The project will serve all DAAC clients that need to reconnect regardless of HIV status.
4. **Minutes from the June 10, 2009 Meeting** – A motion was made by Alix and seconded by Dwayne to accept the minutes. The minutes were approved as written.
5. **State of the Epidemic - Report from the Department of Health Services**
 - Shari reported that during the transition to e-HARS the best available information is that as of today, there have been 2,034 AIDS cases and 1,147 deaths, and 301 HIV cases and 13 deaths.
 - As reported last month, the County is dealing with enormous budget issues. The Center for HIV Prevention and Care lost \$500,000 and two providers as of July 1. The State budget has not been determined but whatever is decided, will have a huge effect on the County.
 - As you know, the Governor has proposed elimination of 100% General Fund support to the State Office of AIDS, except ADAP. The ADAP reduction is \$12.3m, \$10 million from formulary modifications and \$2 million from premium payments for those at 200% of poverty.
 - The Conference Committee proposal includes: no decrease to Early Intervention, Home and Community Based Care: reduced by \$538,000, or 9% of the GF allocation, Therapeutic Monitoring Program reduced by \$714,000 or 9% of the GF allocation, Housing reduced by \$101,000 or 9% of the GF allocation to Residential AIDS Licensed Facilities Program.

- The State Office of AIDS is doing a thorough job of contingency planning and is seeking input from a wide range of people. They are considering adopting a tier system, very similar to our scenarios.
 - Shari reviewed the Office of AIDS tier scenarios. The primary focus is on essential services (primary medical care). All individuals would receive screening annually for needs. In Tier 1 services all individuals are eligible to receive medical care. Tier 2 services are funded after Tier 1; services include the rest of HRSA core services. Only those who are at high risk of transmission (MH, SA), falling out of care, or non-adherent are eligible for these services. After Tier 2 services are provided, support services are provided for clients for whom those services are critical in order to continue in medical care. Reconnect has prepared us, and limited funds require us, to be responsible gate keepers for services.
 - The County receives \$1.5 million from the State office of AIDS that has not been part of the Commission discussion because it has never been in jeopardy before. We need to prepare for that unknown as well. Also, the County health realignment money has been significantly cut and will be cut potentially more after the new state budget is adopted.
 - Shari requested that the COA decide if we want to amend the services plan in light of new information as it emerges. She also asked to consider changing the implementation date of a new services plan to deal with new realities. There is still duplication of services throughout the care system and we should decide whether or not we want to consider that issue in an amendment to the plan.
 - Kelly reported that prevention has already had large cuts to HIV staff support. If there is funding for a testing program, the focus will be on routine testing. DAAC is providing high risk testing. The future of Education and Prevention funding is unknown, currently those services aren't being provided and contractors were given a stop work notice.
 - HRSA sent a letter, which was shared at the meeting, stating that for the second year in a row, Sonoma County doesn't meet all the eligibility criteria to receive Part A funding. Congress is considering an extension of the CARE act, and HRSA is looking into what is legally required for TGAs that do not meet eligibility criteria. One thing being discussed is giving the TGAs' Part A Formula funds to the state. Nothing has been decided at this point.
 - To comply with the Brown Act staff will look for another meeting location since an earlier time creates conflict for individuals.
 - After last months Commission meeting, there were several meetings to seek funding for Reconnect. DAAC has offered to take the lead since they have just started a pilot program.
- 6. Positive Stories** – Lynn shared that the new program “Got ya covered” reached well over 85 MSM and has provided 53 HIV tests. Half of the individuals were young MSM, and one HIV positive individual was identified. The program lasted just over one month and included an internet component.
- 7. Budget update**
- Commissioners discussed the Office of AIDS tier scenarios as a plan for Sonoma County. Lynn described the situation with County Alcohol and Drug Services where the decision was made to change the provider of service from the County to the community in order to maintain the same level of service and reduce the cost. The Commission is now faced with the need to make decisions that will maintain a system of care that is in the client's best interest and operates effectively, within resource realities. Services that are available in the County outside of Ryan White funding must be used so that RW funding can be used for services that are not available

anywhere else. In a climate of reduced funding, and according to HRSA guidance, individuals who are most in need must be served first.

- Commissioners had questions about how eligibility screening would occur in the Office of AIDS model at Tier 1. The medical case management model that has been worked on will be important as client acuity will be more important than ever to ensure people get critical medical services.. Other questions and concerns were raised about adopting a Tier system where Sonoma chooses services for each of the three tiers and does not wait until Tier 1 is fully funded before funding services in other Tiers, as per the State plan.
- Staff suggested having a group of unconflicted commissioners and the most recent FAWG members review the information with guidance from the Commission to bring a draft document to the Commission. Commissioners asked that all Commissioners be involved in that discussion. At the request of the Commissioners, staff will prepare a survey designed to frame this discussion for our next Commission meeting. Commissioners also requested a chart illustrating funding changes so that members can better understand the economic picture prior to the discussion. Staff will use the survey information to structure the funding discussion at the August Commission meeting.

8. PAC/RAC Committee/Community Relations Committee

- Lisa gave an update that PAC has been working and will provide more details next month.

9. HIV Services Update

- The Services committee provided a place to hear about changes to local service delivery, that group no longer meets so that discussion isn't happening anymore. Providers may choose to meet and can have an Agency update item on the Commission agenda to inform Commissioners on pertinent changes and the impacts to the system of care.

10. Items for next meetings agenda

- The review of the survey summary document and pie charts will inform the budget discussion. DSA nominees and retiring Commissioner acknowledgements and the final reading and vote of the revised Bylaws will be on the August 12th agenda. The homeless services count and has been postponed until the September meeting.

11. Closed session – Administrative business

- The new member application was discussed and approved for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

12. Closure – Meeting was adjourned at 7:00

***The next meeting is on August 12th, 2009 at 4:15 p.m.
625 Fifth Street, City View Room, Santa Rosa***