



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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Marin HIV/AIDS Care Council Meeting
MINUTES
(approved 03/12/08)
February 13, 2008
4:30p.m. - 6:30p.m.
899 Northgate Drive - 4th Floor Conference Room
San Rafael, CA 94903

Council Members Present: Roy Bateman, Will Boemer, Wade Flores, James Frazier, Peter Hansen, Jennifer Malone, David Witt.

Council Members Absent: Jeff Byers, (AU), Walter Kelley (AE), Pam Lynott (AU).

Staff Present: Cicily Emerson, Chris Santini, Michael Schieble, Sparkie Spaeth.

Public : Jon Botson – Marin County Specialty Clinic, Elaine Flores, Andy Fyne – Marin AIDS Project, Sally Lue.

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:33p.m. by Co-Chair Boemer.

II. Roll Call

Roll was called by Council Support and quorum was established with 6 of 10 Members present. CM Witt arrived at 4:35p.m. after roll call. The final attendance was 7 of 10 Council Members present. CM Byers (AU) and CM Lynott (AU) were absent and unexcused. CM Kelley (AE) was excused due to illness.

III. Review and Approval of Agenda – VOTE

The agenda was reviewed. CM Frazier motioned to approve the agenda as published.

A voice **vote** was conducted. All were in Favor. None were Opposed. The agenda was approved unanimously.

IV. Review and Approval of January 9, 2008 Minutes – VOTE

CM Malone made motion to approve the January 9, 2008 minutes. CM Hansen seconded.

A voice **vote** was conducted. All were in Favor. None were Opposed. The January 9, 2008, minutes were approved.

V. General Announcements

CM Bateman made the request of the Marin County Systems Administrator to unblock a list of gay and lesbian websites, including the Horizons Foundation. CM Bateman was pleased to report that the sites were unblocked and available within two hours of the request.

CM Malone announced that MAP had moved to their new location. [910 Irwin St. San Rafael between 3rd and 4th Street]. There will be an Open House Friday, March 7, 2007, from 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

S. Spaeth announced that she will present a report about the Marin Care Council at the HIV Health Services Planning Council meeting on February 25, 2008 meeting. [see www.sfcarescouncil.org for meeting time, location, and agenda].

Public Comment: None

VI. Public Comment – None

VII. Co-Chair Report

Co-Chair Boemer 1.) Welcomed Co-Chair Flores' return.

2.) CM Boemer reported on the recent "Field Trip" to the HIV Health Services Planning Council meeting in San Francisco on January 28, 2008. The Marin contingent included; CM Boemer, CM Frazier, CM Kelley, along with C. Emerson and M. Schieble from Council Support. CM Byers and S. Spaeth were in attendance since they sit on the San Francisco Council. Enrique Asis, the San Francisco Training Manager met with the group prior to the Council meeting and gave an introduction and overview. The Council agenda included training on Robert's Rules of Order. CM Boemer stated, "that San Francisco does them [follows Robert's Rules] by the book". He encouraged all Council Members to attend the San Francisco meeting especially at the time of funding.

Co-Chair Flores, a Member of the San Francisco Council added that, "the San Francisco Council prioritization and allocation process was very different [from Marin] and it would be interesting to attend.

Public Comment: None

VIII. Membership Committee Report

Committee Co-Chair Hansen reported that at the recent February 5, 2008, Membership Committee meeting the: 1.) Quarterly attendance had been reviewed. 2.) Committee Members reported on their individual recruitment efforts. 3.) Additional recruitment plans for Council Member applications were developed and assigned. 4.) The training and planning calendar for 2008 was reviewed.

Co-Chair Frazier concluded the Membership report. He announced the resignation (via e-mail) of Diva Berry effective 01/23/08. The Membership Committee was saddened that D. Berry had resigned from the Council and additional information about D. Berry's concerns should be solicited. C. Emerson will be contacting D. Berry by phone to gather any additional information about her resignation and feedback on her experience as a Council Member.

CM Witt suggested that a debriefing be done when a Council Member leaves the Council. CM Boemer stated that the Membership Committee will be developing an exit questionnaire to get feedback from all Council Members when they resign.

Public Comment: None

IX. Community Outreach and Advocacy Report

Co-Chair Witt reported on the January 25, 2008, COAC meeting. 1.) The meeting day /date has been changed to the fourth Tuesday of the month. COAC will not meet in February and the next scheduled meeting is March 25, 2008. 2.) The outreach efforts of in 2007 were reviewed. The value of conducting a Forum in Novato [pros & cons] was discussed. 3.) The next Forum is scheduled for May 2008 in San Rafael. 4.) CM Witt stated the 2008 outreach strategy will include partnering with other local organizations. Instead of conducting regional Forums, outreach will be done by participating in other community meetings as a presenter on the agenda.

CM Bateman commented that the Committee [would] "sharpen the focus of the goal of the outreach".

Public Comment: None

X. Medicare Part D Update

CM Witt started his presentation by stating, "Medicare-Part D is not any simpler this year [compared to last year]. The co-pay on brand name drugs went up and HIV medications are all branded (brand name). There is a price increase of the co-pay for generic, brand, and specialty drugs. Specialty drug

are very expensive and the co-pay is usually 25% - until the threshold for catastrophic coverage is available. The impact is that a Client will “blow through the donut hole quicker”.

Q&A:

Q. CM Malone asked how the increases work with someone who has health insurance.

A. CM Witt: The individual will have a share of cost and will meet it quicker.

CM Malone emphasized that funding by the Direct Emergency Financial – Pharmaceutical Assistance category would be impacted. CM Witt commented that this may enable an individual to qualify for MediCal. CM Frazier stated, “if there is surplus money we may need to move it [to Direct Emergency Financial –Pharmaceutical Assistance]”. CM Boemer commented that Anne Donnelly from Project Inform and the individual case manager are “strong resources” for developing a plan for individuals. CM Witt reiterated that the Clients affected are individuals with private health insurance and not MediCal Clients.

Q. CM Bateman asked if there was a national organization that is advocating for and specific to prescriptions.

A. CM Witt indicated that the Consumer Union was advocating for overall healthcare, but not specifically on this prescription issue.

Public Comment: None

XI. Transportation Program Discussion

C. Emerson distributed the “County of Marin – Sub-Category Summary Sheets / Transportation”. (See *Attachment #1.*) Included in the handout was information from the Infrastructure Work Group on transportation. C. Emerson reiterated the recommendation of the IWG, noting that services would be for Clients in severe need and in crisis, not based on the zip code analysis.

Andy Fyne of the Marin AIDS Project started his presentation by stating, “it’s a well used program”. In the 2007 contract, MAP reported 70 users [Clients] in eleven months - resulting in 238 units of access for busses and ferries. Additional usage data was given. The Volunteer Transportation Coordinator, a full time position was eliminated due to changes in funding. The position developed a pool of volunteers to provide transportation to Clients. Volunteers providing transportation increased compliance, insuring that a Client kept scheduled appointments. Currently, Case Managers are trying to coordinate transportation.

Mr. Fyne’s report included additional Client data on use of public transportation. A general discussion followed on public transportation and the use of cabs and ambulances.

Public Comment: None

XII. Food Program Discussion

Jon Botson of the Marin County Specialty Clinic distributed a report titled, “Ryan White Food Program Update” dated: 02/13/08. (See *Attachment #2*) Starting in July 2007, 102 Clients in the Marin County Ryan White System of Care utilize the food program and receive food cards each month. 75 Clients qualify based on severe need and 27 Clients qualify based on income. Monthly and projected annual costs of the program were reported. A summary comparing the budget years; 2006-'07, 2007-'08, and allocations for 2008-'09 was reported.

The Council asked about the system of monitoring and any possible abuse in the program. Mr. Botson described the control and tracking system he has set-up to administer, distribute, track, and monitor the cards. If monthly audits show that a Client “double dipped” [received more then the monthly allotment] they forfeit their cards for the next month. Mr. Botson reported that abuse of the benefit is rare.

C. Emerson clarified that available State funds for food have no “carry over” into the next budget year, however Ryan White funds do not expire.

Public Comment: None

XIII. Update On 2007-'08 Budget and Carryover – VOTE

C. Santini distributed a report recapping the amount spent by Service Category (March through December 2007) (See Attachment #3). The data is from invoices received through December 31, 2007. Fiscal Year 2007-'08, ends February 29, 2008.

Following questions about the data, C. Santini stated that having checked with Service Providers she was confident that all Marin County and Ryan White funds would be spent by the end of the fiscal year. C. Santini reported that **\$9,360.00** was unspent and available from the Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment service category and available for re-allocation. The State funds could be spent through June 2008.

CM Flores made motion that 50% be allocated to transportation and 50% be allocated to Direct Emergency Financial Assistance. There was no seconded to the motion.

6:25p.m. Point of Order.

CM Witt made motion to extend the meeting time to 6:45p.m. CM Boemer seconded.

Vote was done by voice. All were in favor. None were opposed. The meeting was extended by 15 minutes.

CM Witt made motion to allocate 33.3% to Transportation (\$3,120.00), 33.3% to Direct Emergency Financial Assistance (\$3,120.00), and 33.3% to Non Medical Case Management (\$3,120.00) for a total of **\$9,360.00**. CM Frazier seconded.

Discussion: CM Frazier requested that the transportation amount be used to purchase gas cards.

Public Comment: C. Santini expressed concern that the motion allocated funds to a category(s) in which the money could not be spent. S. Spaeth suggested that the funds might be assigned to the 25% Core Services using the priority rankings.

A roll call vote was conducted and the motion passed by a vote of (4) to (2).

Vote:

Ayes: CM Flores, CM Frazier, CM Hansen, CM Witt.

Noes: CM Bateman, CM Boemer.

Recuse: CM Malone.

XIV. Division of Public Health Report

C. Santini reported that (165) 2007 Client Satisfaction Surveys had been mailed and the deadline for return was February 22, 2008. (56) surveys had been completed and returned to date. There is a \$20 gift card incentive mailed out when the completed survey is received.

C. Emerson briefly stated that additional funding may become available from the "Stop Loss Provision". This would increase the amount of the 2008-'09 award.

Public Comment: None

XV. Next Step – New Business

- Confirm Sonoma County presentation about Project Reconnect.
- Co-Chair Boemer to monitor San Francisco agenda topics. Areas of interest to Marin and possible attendance to San Francisco meeting.
- Schedule Epi data 101 training for Council.
- Training on "Informed Consent" legislation.
- Next Meeting March 12, 2008, 4:30p.m.-6:30p.m.

XVI. Meeting Adjourned at 6:40p.m.