

**Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Early Intervention Program (EIP)
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 5, 2008

Holiday Inn Express -19621 International Boulevard, SeaTac WA

Steering Committee Members Present:

Richard Aleshire Co-Chair

Darren Augenstein

Rob Carroll

Debbie Stimpson

James Dutro

Barry Hilt

Ron Padgett

Joseph Ready

Dennis Bookhart Co-Chair

Al Brownell

Joe Vela

MaryRuth Mulhern

Gwen Handcox

Bob Harrington

Dennis Klukan

Conant Eagle

Steering Committee Members Absent:

Sam Curd (E), Shireesha Dhanireddy (E), Doug North (E)

Guests Attending:

Laura Treadway, Mark Garrett

DOH Staff Attending:

Richard Aleshire, Sheila Ichita, Rhonda Bierma, Teri Eyster, Brad Roter, Alexcia Excharos, Amber Whitcher, Elizabeth Mack, Tracy Mikesell

Business Meeting

Motion was made by **Dennis Bookhart** to approve the February 4, 2008 meeting minutes, **Gwen Handcox** seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Agenda adoption proposed by **Dennis Bookhart, Al Brownell** seconded the motion.
Agenda adopted as proposed.

Data Reports and Program Updates – Rhonda Bierma

Rhonda went over information in the data reports/charts. The client data information about race has a high number of “unknowns” because it is not a requirement for clients to provide racial information and some applicants either don't check a box at all and some check the “unknown” box. The race information is spelled out more specifically on the new EIP application with the addition of a box for Hispanic or Latino/a. The new application still doesn't **require** race information from applicants, but asks them to provide it.

EIP – Teri Eyster

The rollout of the new EIP application started off a little bumpy, but is working smoother now. There has been an increase in client calls regarding family income requirements and the new cost share amounts. Overall, the new application has been well received in the community. There will be some minor revisions made to it soon.

EIP program changes were presented at the Annual Case Manager training on March 25th and will be continued for the remainder of Case Manager Trainings scheduled statewide.

Cost share changes – Richard

Richard talked about the adjustments made to the cost share and the effects it will have for clients that do and do not have health insurance. Cost share for clients with insurance decreased to either \$10 or \$12 monthly while the cost share for clients without insurance will increase to \$40 to \$120 dependent upon their income.

Rhonda will examine data to see how many and which clients are case managed.

EHIP – Laura Treadway

Staffing changes

One insurance advocate and an EHIP manager are leaving EHIP. Interviews are in process to hire one billing and one administrative position; temporary help in the interim seems to be working. As a result of the two vacancies, the department is doing some restructuring.

The client satisfaction survey planned for spring has been postponed until fall, 2008.

There have been some billing issues with Regence Blue Shield; they handle a very large number of Medicare Part D clients. Billing problems are being resolved and hopefully EHIP will be added as the direct billing address.

WSHIP Changes:

- 2008 applications have new rules around start dates for most applications received. The earliest that coverage can take effect is the first of the month following a WSHIP application. The sooner WSHIP applications are given to EHIP, the sooner the client can get on WSHIP.
- WSHIP is tightening up how they handle reinstatements and non-payments. These usually happen with clients because they do not renew their EIP coverage by the yearly renewal date. WSHIP has been generous in the past, which has been good for the clients whose EIP coverage lapses, but has also caused problems on both ends. Clients whose EIP lapses will now experience difficulty getting their medications and will lose their WSHIP coverage once they are 30 days past due. Clients who lose WSHIP cannot get back on for 12 months, so it is critical that clients don't let their EIP coverage lapse. Educating clients about coverage issues will be increased.
- WSHIP prescription benefits will change in 2009. Co-pays may go from \$7 or \$15/drug to \$2, \$50, or \$100 per drug. Prescription out of pocket max will still be \$500/year.

Membership – Richard

There are 2 vacancies, one for a region 5 consumer (Kitsap and Pierce Counties)(see client caucus updates below) and one for the MAI Grant position.

Client Services staff changes – Richard

Martha Davis, new permanent office assistant, started with Client Services on April 22, 2008. Martha will be the first voice you hear when calling HIV Client Services. She will be answering the mainline phone and fielding calls to staff. She will also be able to assist callers with general information.

Val Myer, Community Programs Contract Coordinator, will retire from Department of Health at the end of May, 2008. Val has worked in state government for more than 26 years.

General Program Topics

Dental Services through EIP

The reinstatement of the dental program has had some challenges. And beginning July 1, 2008 EIP will also cover King County EIP clients who are not on Medicaid. So far, there are approximately 10-15 dental providers contracted with EIP.

Federal Poverty Level increase (FPL)

Richard discussed the EIP program and Steering Committee request to the Department of Health to raise the financial eligibility amount from 300 to 500% of the FPL. The request was denied this year due to concerns about the economy in general, but EIP may make the request again next year when the budget projections could be better.

Statewide Client Level Database – Richard

HIV Client Services has contracted with University of Washington to begin the development of a database that would compile information from various clinics across the state and all Ryan White funded entities in the State per a requirement from HRSA (funder of Ryan White programs).

Consumers Ron Padgett, Dennis Bookhart, and Mark Garrett have joined the committee to work on developing such a client level database. The Washington State Department of Health would be the keeper of the database.

MAI Grant – Effective Date February 2008

The purpose of the grant is to increase the number of people of color into the EIP program. Funds will be used by the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to locate people who have been diagnosed as HIV positive in the last 5 years, are currently not in care, and make efforts to get them into care.

National ADAP Projects across the country include formulary medications that State ADAPs cover; as some states have more money for services than others. Here is the link to NASTAD's ADAP Monitoring Project which has information on all state ADAP programs:

[http://nastad.org/Docs/highlight/200847_ADAP%20Summary%20FINAL%20PDF%20\(3-31-08\).pdf](http://nastad.org/Docs/highlight/200847_ADAP%20Summary%20FINAL%20PDF%20(3-31-08).pdf)

Subcommittee Reports

Client Caucus – Joe Ready

- An update was given to the Client Caucus on the Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) and the Care & Prevention Project (CAP) by Alexcia Excharos, Amber Witcher, and Mark Garrett.
- Conant Eagle gave his resignation to the Client Caucus. He is moving out-of-state for family obligations.
- Richard discussed the topics of the Monday Steering Committee meeting.
- Gwen will be attending the formulary subcommittee meetings through June, 2009. She will attend the November 2008 formulary subcommittee meeting to fill in for the remainder of Jim Holm's term.
- Dennis Bookhart was voted in as Client Caucus co-chair person for the next fiscal year, from July 2008 through June 2009.
- Gwen Handcox was voted in as the other Client Caucus co-chair person from July 2008 through June 2009.

- The Client Caucus discussed possible replacements for Conant Eagle, consumer representative for region 5.

Formulary – Brad Roter

- Brad explained issues with the new EIP formulary medication, Maraviroc and the test (Trofile) needed to determine if Maraviroc will work for the client
- Brad has reviewed the current EIP formulary and will recommend some small formulary changes be made.
- Brad will have a certified mental health doctor review the EIP mental health drugs on the formulary.
- Brad asked that a motion be made to lift restrictions to the formulary and support the addition of medications to treat tuberculosis and MRSA.
Motion made by **Darren Augenstein** to lift restrictions and support the above mentioned motion, **Dennis Klukan** seconded the motion.
Motion unanimously approved.

Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) & Care & Prevention Project (CAP)- Alexcia Excharos, Amber Whitcher, Elizabeth Mack, Mark Garrett

Alexcia presented on the Care and Prevention Project (CAP) article that was written in the Department of Health statewide Quarterly Epidemiology Report, *"Assessing HIV Care in WA using information from patient interviews and medical charts."* This article included analyses similar to data collected from MMP. Alexcia presented information on CAP because the MMP data has not been released yet and sampled patients from 2007 are still being interviewed. Alexcia, Amber, Elizabeth, and Mark also gave an update on the Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) and the monitoring plans for the remainder of 2008.

Nominations for Co-Chair Person & New Members

David Lee and Doug North were not present at today's meeting so voting will be postponed until the next Steering Committee meeting in August.

Co-chair person nominations – Dennis Bookhart was the only person nominated.

Joe Ready made the motion to elect Dennis Bookhart as the co-chair person for another year. Jamie seconded the motion. Dennis was voted in unanimously to continue in the co-chair role for another year, from July 2008 – June 2009.

Members Leaving the Steering Committee

Richard gave Conant Eagle a certificate in recognition for his committee work. Rob Carroll received a plaque for his years of dedicated service to people living with HIV/AIDS in Washington State, a member since 2005. Cathy Cochran will also receive a plaque for her years of dedicated service to people living with HIV/AIDS in Washington State, a member since 1995.

Public Comments – Richard

Joe Vela acknowledged EIP staff for their great responsiveness to his clients in Benton-Franklin counties.

Announcements

Richard handed out the Vision document with updates done by the committee on items #1 and 2. At the next meeting, the Steering Committee will discuss item #3 of the Vision document on page 9.

Future Agenda Topics

Sheila will work with the Holiday Inn Express for availability of the Evergreen Room for the first Mondays in February, May, August, and November, 2009.

Richard made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Ron Padgett seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Remaining Meeting Dates for 2008

August 4 and November 3