

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

August 3, 2009

Holiday Inn Express -19621 International Boulevard, SeaTac WA

Steering Committee Members Present:

Richard Aleshire Co-Chair

Darren Augenstein
Al Brownell
Steele Desmarais
Shireesha Dhanireddy
Jamie Dutro
Gwen Handcox

Dennis Klukan
Micheal Moshier
Doug North
Ron Padgett
Joe Vela
David Lee (was present)

David Lee was at the meeting; his name was left off the list of attendees.

Steering Committee Members Absent:

Debbie Stimpson (E), Joseph Ready (E), Sam Curd (E), Mary Saffold (E), Dennis Bookhart (A), Linda Lindegaard (E), Bob Harrington (A), Doug North (A)

Guests Attending:

Steven Carzasty - Group Health, Andrew Nichols – Mom’s Pharmacy, Robert Spirock, Liliana Eagan – Gliad Sciences Inc., Jerry Stenbakken – Bristol-Myer-Squibb, Tony Molchan – Abbott, Jody Dumont – Pierce County AIDS Foundation (PCAF), Tabitha Jensen and Laura Treadway – Evergreen Health Insurance Program (EHIP)

DOH Staff Attending:

Richard Aleshire, Sheila Ichita, Rhonda Bierma, Teri Eyster, Tracy Mikesell

Business Meeting

Motion was made by **Joe V.** to approve the May 4, 2009 meeting minutes as written; **Al B.** seconded the motion.

Minutes approved.

Agenda adoption proposed by **Dennis K., Joe V.** seconded the motion.

Agenda adopted as proposed.

Additional agenda item suggestion:

Invite Pharmaceutical representatives to give an informational speak on trials and new drugs. Have each representative describe where the company stands on specific drugs on the EIP formulary. One pharmacy drug representative explained that there is only specific information pharmacies are able to speak on. Pharmacies can only share information about medications that have been approved by the FDA and it may be more appropriate for AETC to present the information from a neutral standpoint.

Action item:

Richard, Al B., David L., will develop the criteria for future discussion with the pharmaceutical companies.

Data Reports - Rhonda

Rhonda gave an overview of the data reports for the past 2 quarters of 2009. She pointed out the items that had notable changes.

Over the past year, there has been an increase in clients reporting Hispanic/Latino ethnicity and an increase in clients reporting race as multi-racial. There has been a corresponding decrease in the unknown category for both race and ethnicity. Race and ethnicity data are self-reported by clients at the time of enrollment and annual renewal. In April 2001, we began collecting these data separately.

Budget Report - Richard

Much time has been spent working on reducing the budget.

Since the last Steering Committee meeting, the governor's economic forecast came out and mandates a further cost reduction of 2 percent in the general fund spending.

EIP – Teri

Teri gave the update:

- Two client service representative (CSR) positions that were "on hold" due to hiring freezes, have been filled by internal DOH lay off employees. One of the new CSR's is also a Spanish speaker. The two new staff members are currently in the CSR training process. We will let case managers know when they are ready to carry a case load.
- Abby will be transferring to a different position in Client Services beginning September 1st, and we will be interviewing to fill her CSR vacancy very soon.
- The reduced formulary for uninsured clients seems to be motivating more clients to move onto insurance, helping to reduce EIP coverage costs. Thanks to case managers and Evergreen Health Insurance Program (EHIP) for all their work in assisting clients to get onto insurance.
- New option for clients to meet mandatory Medicaid requirement: If clients are not disabled, they can get a note from their doctor stating that the client does not have a disability that prevents them from working. The note needs to also include the doctor's printed name, address, title and phone number, signature and date.
- EIP will now allow clients with Medicare who are trying to meet their Medicaid spenddown to get assistance from EHIP to pay their Medicare Advantage monthly premiums. These premium payments can also be used to count toward their spenddowns by the client requesting EHIP to provide the client documentation of premiums they pay for the client, and then the client provides this information to their DSHS worker.

Evergreen Health Insurance Program (EHIP) – Laura Treadway, Program Director

Laura talked about the recent events at EHIP. The main news is increased enrollment:

- The new applications received in June 2009 were 125, an all time record. In previous months, the most applications received in a month were in April 2009, with 95.

Jun-08		Jun-09	
Total EHIP clients	1363	Total EHIP clients	1702
New applications received	43	New applications received	125
New clients/new payables	42	New clients/new payables	58 101
COBRA clients	79	COBRA clients	117
Medicare Part D clients	398	Medicare Part D clients	458
WSHIP clients	794	WSHIP clients	1099

Hiring updates:

- Heidi Hamlin joined EHIP as an insurance coordinator; this position provides initial data entry on applications and payment adjustments plus other "operations" duties.
- Jon Choy, a long-time volunteer, joined EHIP in a temporary quality analyst position to provide needed extra support on the reviewing and reporting side because of the increase in application volumes.
- Mark Baker, new insurance advocate, joined EHIP at the end of June.
- Eli Ogburn will be leaving EHIP; his last day is Friday August 7th. He will be leaving to attend graduate school.
- Jamie Johnson, who is known to people because of her work as an HIV case manager, will be a new insurance advocate starting at the end of August.

Washington Health Insurance Pool (WSHIP) updates:

- New Standard Health Questionnaire (SHQ) rules effective July 26th, clients should continue filling out the SHQ.
- WSHIP is currently conducting annual eligibility verification and clients need to complete and return this form to keep their WSHIP and their EIP/EHIP active.
- In 2010, WSHIP will have new smoker and nonsmoker rates – the clients will need to complete and return this form or they will automatically be given the smoker rate.
- There was an increase in enrollment by 125 new people enrolled in the month of June 2009 compared to 45 in June 2008.

Membership – Richard

The Steering Committee 3-year membership terms that will be expiring in August 2009 are Jamie D. and Al B. Both have agreed to renew for another 3 years.

HIV Client Services Staff Changes – Richard

The hiring freeze has been in effect with one hundred Department of Health positions "on hold." There were about 20 layoffs agency wide, and from the layoff list, HIV Client Services gained three of those employees. George Cruz, full-time, and Fran McBride, 50 percent time, are the new client service representatives (CSR's). Anneke Jansen is the new Quality Management Coordinator. Hopefully the other two vacant positions can be filled soon.

Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) – Richard/Steele D.

Steele D. handed out the statistics from the first 2 years. She went over the comparison between 2008 and 2009 and how the work was accomplished. She also talked about some of the obstacles that clients have with getting into care.

Joe V. shared some insight into why some Hispanic/Latinos are unable to get into care. Because some clients are unable to read in Spanish and/or English they cannot complete the applications or surveys. Joe gives assistance to clients with these additional barriers to care.

At the next meeting Steele D. will explain why some clients were unable to get into care. Steele D. will be meeting with community partners between now and then; she will give an update at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

Client Caucus – Gwen H. gave the meeting report from the August 3, 2009 a.m. meeting.

Present: Richard A., Al B., Micheal M., Jamie D., Ron P., Gwen H.

Absent: Joe R., Linda L., and Dennis B.

The following topics were discussed:

- To gain more information on pharmaceutical drugs.
- The opening for a Steering Committee co-chair position for the next term.

- Steering Committee and client caucus member MaryRuth Mulhern recently passed away unexpectedly and her funeral is today, August 3rd.
- Al B., whose term is ending soon, agreed to renew for another 3 years.
- A domestic partnership update and the impact of any election on EIP.
- Inviting a guest speaker to talk about when the best time for starting and stopping HIV medications.

(No Formulary Subcommittee meeting this time) – Richard

- Brad R. on vacation. He is currently off contract with EIP and The Office of Financial Management (OFM) has been denying most renewal contracts. The contract for an HIV consultant physician will go out to bid. For now, EIP is without an HIV consultant physician.
- At the last meeting the committee decided to reduce the formulary for clients with insurance by about 3 percent.
- The next formulary subcommittee meeting will be on November 2, at noon at the Holiday Inn Express.

Other News

“Welcome back” to Shireesha D. after giving birth to a baby boy, Revy.

David L., Richard A., and Micheal M. met with the Bainbridge Dental Association. There were approximately 10-15 dentists that were present. Northwest AETC will meet with Kitsap County Dental Association in Bremerton later this year.

The next AETC presentation will be on “*Oral Manifestation in Persons Living with HIV.*”

Review Vision Document Question #4 for updates

What changes in the HIV epidemic will impact EIP outreach and service delivery?

- To have multilingual and culturally competent staff is important especially in the next 3-5 years because there will potentially be more EIP clients who are persons of color, diverse cultures, and women.
- Compare the language in the Vision Document and match it with the Case Management Standards.

Client-centered service

- Assess the needs of clients including mental health, substance abuse, and other conditions to more effectively use EIP services.
- Continue to review the EIP grievance procedure.
- The Quality Management Planning & Education Group (QMPEG) along with the client advisory group is in the process of developing a pamphlet for clients to talk to their health care providers about HIV issues and concerns.

Outreach

- Ensure that the outreach staff is competent in multicultural and culturally competent services.
- Ensure that the outreach staff is competent with serving the underserved and “other cultural populations” and their disparate health outcomes.

The impact and effect of possible new guidelines for the initiation of antiretroviral drugs on EIP and the budget

EIP currently maintains a minimal presence...

- The program should explore different avenues to provide information to the community interest and be user friendly.
- Microbicide research should be stopped. So far, the results have not been promising.
- Steering Committee should continue to watch the research that may potentially impact the EIP program.

- It was noted that the internet is not accessible to many EIP clients.
- Healthcare reform impacts on EIP will be considered.
- To monitor and consider individuals who may not be receiving case management services and find other ways to provide information to them.
- Monitor changes in the Federal immigration laws, policies, procedures, and programs that could potentially impact EIP clients.

Richard handed out a copy of Dr. Mari Kitahata's presentation, "*When to Start Antiretroviral Therapy? Earlier Initiation Improves Survival.*"

This study is also available on the Northwest AIDS Education & Training Center (AETC) website and can be viewed@ <http://depts.washington.edu/nwaetc/resources/acc.html>

Nominations for Steering Committee Co-Chair

At the May meeting **Jamie D.** nominated **Dennis B.** to continue as the Committee co-Chair, **Linda L.** had seconded the motion.

At today's meeting Richard requested any additional nominations for the co-chair and **David L.** nominated **Joe V.**

Election of Steering Committee Co-Chair

Motion was made to elect a new Steering Committee co-chair.

Joe V. was elected by majority vote to be the next Steering Committee co-chair; his term will go through July 2010.

Public comments/input

None

Announcements

David L. from Northwest AETC gave a training announcement. On Sept. 24th Brad Kosell will present pharmacy training for pharmacists on antiretroviral medications.

Shireesha D. announced a new Bremerton satellite campus provider: Christian Ramers. Christian will also go to the Snohomish County clinic on Wednesdays.

The Bremerton clinic is located in the Health District's offices at the Norm Dicks Government Center, 345 6th Street, Suite 300, and operates on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is staffed by Drs. **Robert Harrington**, **Shireesha Dhanireddy**, **Christian Ramers** and **Nina Kim**. Betty Ridge and Lisa Linden provide on-site case-management.

Contact Information

Name: Madison Clinic Kitsap Satellite

Location: Norm Dicks Government Center

Schedule Appointments: 866-463-1669

Hours: Fridays
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Address: 345 6th Street
Suite 300
Bremerton, WA 98337

On Thursdays there will be an HIV training at Madison Clinic, beginning Thursday, August 18, at 8:00 a.m.

The bulletin came out today for providers about H1N1 (swine flu) information for people that have a compromised immune system including persons living with HIV. The H1N1 virus is expected to hit here in late fall.

Future Agenda - Topics & Meeting Dates

Richard A. suggested that the Steering Committee meetings continue on the first Monday of the quarter from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express in SeaTac.

The proposed Steering Committee dates for 2010:

February 1, May 3, August 2, and November 1.

Remaining Meeting Date for 2009

11/2/09

Note the new meeting time is from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at same location.