

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

November 3, 2008

Holiday Inn Express -19621 International Boulevard, SeaTac WA

Steering Committee Members Present:

Richard Aleshire Co-Chair
Steele Desmarais
Shireesha Dhanireddy
James Dutro
Barry Hilt
Micheal Moshier
Sam Curd
Linda Lindegaard

Dennis Bookhart Co-Chair
Al Brownell
Joe Vela
Gwen Handcox
Joseph Ready
Dennis Klukan
Debbie Stimpson

Steering Committee Members Absent:

Bob Harrington (E), Darren Augenstein (A), Ron Padgett (E), Doug North (E)

Guests Attending:

David L., AETC; Tabitha J., Program Manager at Lifelong AIDS Alliance, filling in for Laura T.; Lauren F., DOC; Stuart P., Tibotec; Bert J., Glaxo-SmithKline; Tony M., Abbott; Ann G., Pfizer; Kris N., Ramsell; Jin Y., Ramsell; Phoenix G., Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; Jerry S., Bristol-Myers Squibb; Todd M., BMS Virology; Jodi D., PCAF; Mary S., AIDSNET Region 5; Steven C., Group Health; Jennifer S., Pfizer

DOH Staff Attending:

Richard Aleshire, Brad Roter, Sheila Ichita, Rhonda Bierma, Teri Eyster, Brown McDonald, Tracy Mikesell, Lauren Fanning

DOH Staff Absent:

None

Business Meeting

Motion was made by **Dennis K.**, to approve the August, 2008 meeting minutes; **Joe R.** seconded the motion with one correction – Micheal M. pointed out that the minutes listed him in Region 6; he is actually in Region 5.
Minutes approved.

Agenda adoption proposed by **Joe R.**, **Dennis B.** seconded the motion.
Agenda adopted as proposed.

Data Reports and Program Updates – Rhonda

Rhonda went over the data reports and pointed out some ups and downs in the numbers.

Budget Report – Richard

Richard talked about the status of the agency cutbacks and the state of the economy. DSHS is being required to make a change to the way they have allowed spenddown to be paid by EIP. EIP will have to make changes by March 31, 2009. EIP is working on the process of how to make the changes and implement them. EIP will no longer be able to

pay spenddown in advance, anticipating a client's expenses but clients will have to incur expenses and take their receipts to DSHS. This change is as a result of rule clarification by CMS to DSHS.

EIP – Teri

Teri talked about possible changes to payment for spenddown and how the changes will affect clients impacted by the changes.

- Medicaid-Only spenddown Clients: These EIP clients can get HIV prescriptions through their EIP eligibility to count towards meeting their spenddown. They can also count household members medical expenses with receipts, as well as over the counter prescribed medications.
- For EIP clients with both Medicare and Medicaid (duals): EIP will assist with meeting Medicare Part D prescription co-pays and deductibles; limited medical and lab services and dental services at EIP contracted providers until spenddown is met.
- Other options for duals to explore:
 - Some Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MA-PD) plans cover more than 80% - if a client is EIP eligible, then EHIP can pay MA-PD premiums.
 - Medical Savings Plan (MSP), DSHS can help pay Medicare Part B premiums and qualify for Extra Help Part D subsidy.
 - Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities (HWD) is another option for clients, it requires workers to have part time work, but with no set number of required hours. If a client is EIP eligible, then EHIP can pay the HWD premiums which results in the client getting full Medicaid.

Information on Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities (HWD) can be found at: http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/Eligibility/HWD_FAQs.htm and the Ticket to Work Program can be found at: http://www.yourtickettowork.com/program_info.

EHIP – Tabitha Jenson, Program Manager at Lifelong AIDS Alliance, filled in for Laura Treadway. Tabitha shared the following Evergreen Health Insurance Pool (EHIP) Program updates:

Washington State Health Insurance Pool (WSHIP) updates

- A mailing will be sent to clients by WSHIP, it is mandatory that they respond, or they could lose their WSHIP coverage, effective 12/31/08.
- Drug co-pay cost increase
- Notification went out to clients that mail order drugs cost less for a 3-month supply
- Open enrollment for 2009 Medicare Prescription Drug plans starts on 11/15/08 and goes through 12/31/08.

Membership – Richard

Richard introduced potential new member, David Lee, Washington State Training Manager, AIDS Education & Training Center (AETC).

EIP Staff changes - Richard

Ngozi Mbanugo has returned to work, she was on Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) caring for an ill parent, Carri Comer will be going on maternity leave in a couple weeks (or sooner), and Barbara Stuart is out ill and currently hospitalized.

General Program Topics

Dental Services thru EIP

The biggest challenge is trying to get dental providers to contract with EIP. Micheal M. offered to solicit dental services to dentists at the local community level. David Lee offered to go into the community to do a dental training with Case Managers. Joe V. mentioned the relationship he has developed with the dental society in Benton-Franklin Counties and how he is utilizing their service as a way to get the word out.

Statewide Client Level Database – Richard

HIV Client Services has contracted with the University of Washington to begin a plan for 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 (Health Resources and Services Administration - funder of Ryan White programs) to gather information about services provided to an unduplicated count of clients. Ron P., Dennis B. and former EIP member Mark G., have joined the committee to work on advising about such a client level database. The Washington State Department of Health would be the keeper of the database.

Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Grant – Steele gave an update

The purpose of this grant from HRSA is to increase the number of people of color referred into the EIP program and receiving services. 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 and/or EIP.

Steele has enrolled 4 people in EIP that were not previously in care.

Subcommittee Reports

Client Caucus – Joe R. gave the report from the November 2, 2008 meeting

- Linda L. and Micheal M. attended new member orientation with Richard prior to the meeting yesterday.
- Richard discussed the topics of the Monday Steering Committee meeting.
- Richard talked of possible budget cuts to the EIP program.

Formulary Report – From Brad Roter

The committee reviewed the entire formulary.

The only new medication recommended as an addition to the program's formulary was a different formulation of Prezista (darunavir), a protease inhibitor. The new 400mg formulation was recommended along with the current formulations of 300mg and 600mg. There is no cost impact. There are no new medications to treat HIV in the upcoming "pipeline."

Dennis B. made a motion to accept Brad's recommendations, **Gwen H.** seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Budget discussion

The committee began developing a contingency plan for State Fiscal Year 2010 (7-1-09 to 6-30-10), and brainstormed several options to reduce program expenditures. HIV Client Services staff will attempt to calculate the cost savings of each suggestion so the committee can prioritize them at the February 2009 meeting. In May, once we know more about federal and state budgets, the committee will vote on recommended actions to offer the department for a July 1, 2009 implementation. Richard provided an overview of the EIP program, its budget, what all it currently covers, the current eligibility requirements and the potential budget cuts being faced. The recommendations brainstormed by the group include:

- Mandatory WSHIP/insurance
- Case Manager's assist clients to move to insurance
- Look at administrative and staff cost reduction
- Reduce/eliminate contributions to Regions
- Eliminate events such as CAREvent
- Un-grandparent 301-370% people
- Reduce formulary
- Re-address with insurance providers to accept clients
- Re-define family to include Domestic Partnership's
- Residency – change to 6 months in Washington
- Residency – change U.S. citizens only
- Eligibility based on AIDS diagnosis only
- Eligibility based on a CD4 count of 300 or lower
- 10% cut across each line item, which would result in a wait list once funds were spent
- Look at clients with Veterans Administration benefits to encourage them to use VA
- Look at Medicare Part D plans as to which have more favorable co-pays
- Only pay premiums rather than co-pays and deductibles also
- Eliminate paying for dental services
- Reduce medical/lab to the most critical services – life-saving
- Only pay CD4 and Viral Loads lab tests twice per year
- Decrease amount paid to pharmacies
- Decrease amount paid for medical/lab (currently 133% of Medicaid)
- Contract with single lab provider
- Contract with a single pharmacy provider (mail-order)
- Concentrated action by AIDS advocates (AIDS lobby day is 2-18-09)
- Calculate effect of not paying Spenddown
- Investigate higher rebate returns

A small workgroup consisting of Dennis B., Dennis K., Darren A., Joe V., Gwen H., and Brad R. will meet between meetings to prioritize the brainstormed list and provide a recommendation at the February meeting.

Vote on potential new member

Motion was made by **Dennis B.** to add David Lee to the Steering Committee. **Dennis K.** seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Terms expiring

Three people are at the end of their 3-year terms on the Steering Committee:

- Sam Curd agreed to serve another 3-year term.
- Robert Harrington was absent so he will be contacted to see if he would like to serve another 3-year term.

- Barry Hilt will leave the committee and was given a plaque for his dedicated service to people in Washington State living with HIV/AIDS. Mary Saffold was nominated as Barry's replacement and she will be voted on at the next meeting.

Public Comments – Richard

None

Announcements – Richard

Don't forget to vote by November 4th!

Future Agenda Topics – Richard/Dennis

Budget contingency planning

Vision Document - #4

Medical monitoring project (MMP)

~Meeting Dates for 2009 ~

2/2/09, 5/4/09, 8/3/09, 11/2/09