

# STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## **DRAFT HIV Care Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes** **Monday, March 8, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** **Laboratory Services Training Room, Laboratory Services Division, Denver**

**Members Present:** Judy Bagley, Jeff Basinger, Monica Carten, Jennifer Chase, Kell Delaney, Ernest Duff, Jessica Forsyth, Robert George, Jason Hindman, Ana Hopperstad, Terrence Hughes, Lee Jackson, Merilou Johnson, Guy Lively, Susan Mead, Martha Monroe, Arthur Powers, Peter Ralin, Anthony Stamper, Lucio Torres-Florez, Leslie Wirpsa, Michael Dorosh

**Members Absent:** Richard Blair, Craig Chapin, Jordan Hayes, Hazel Ann Harris, Valerie Hagedorn, Reina Lopez, Jennifer Pappas, Roseann Prieto, David Sellon, Kishore Shetty, Stewart Thomas

**Department Staff Present:** Bob Bongiovanni, Thelma Craig, Todd Grove, Maria Jackson, Santos Rivera, Jo Palma

**Guests Present:** Mike Gilbert, Brian Bennett, Arman Lorz, Rabeeha Ghaffar, Chris Grano, Innael Miranda, Ruth Pederson, Joan Taylor, Jay Fredrickson, Maria Lopez

### **I. Introductions**

Merilou Johnson welcomed committee members and asked members to introduce themselves.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

The January 11, and February 22, 2010 meeting minutes were approved pending the correction of attendance records.

### **III. Brief Reports:**

#### **A. AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)**

##### **1. Utilization Summary – Sue Mead**

General usage statistics for February are as follows: there was a 2% decrease in clients served, and a 1% decrease in number of prescriptions filled. In terms of total cost, the Boulder area saw a 7% increase, the Denver metro area saw a 2% decrease, the North saw a 9% decrease, the

South an 11% decrease and the West a 5% decrease. HAART usage decreased by 3%, and non-HAART by 8%. The decrease in total drug cost was due to a decrease in patients, and prescriptions filled.

2. Summary of Insurance Expenditures and Projections – Todd Grove  
HIAP experienced an unexpected increase in February, from \$150,000 to \$191,000 that staff believes is attributed to late billing. For Bridging the Gap, there was a slight increase in utilization, possibly due to increased awareness of the program. \$110,000 remaining in the Bridging the Gap program will be allocated to ADAP.

3. Summary of Medication Expenditures and Projections – Bob Bongiovanni

Colorado unemployment rates for past months have been revised and show an increase in unemployment; this resulted in a revision in the mathematical model used by CDPHE, and the overall effect is a lowering of projected demand in the future. Tobacco fund moneys are flat-funded, and staff has yet to hear about the Part B award from HRSA. Until the actual Part B award is received, CDPHE will budget based on an assumption of flat funding. Multiple factors—including the national budget and changes to the federal Ryan White legislation—may affect the Colorado federal award. Ramsell Public Health was funded as primary benefits manager, and Walgreens is a new ADAP provider effective April 11, 2010. Until a contract is signed with Walgreens, the Apothecary will continue to provide medications, for at least one more month. Staff is working with Ramsell to develop letters to send out to those who will be impacted by this change, such as clients, case managers, providers, and prescribers of ADAP medications. This change will mostly impact those who received their medications through the mail.

B. Committee Chair

The Steering Committee is working on developing an agenda for the full-day, all-committee meeting on May 10, 2010. This meeting will not be used to task members of the care committee with the development of the combined comprehensive plan or the coming needs assessment. Instead, the goal will be to draw on the expertise of the committee members to help advise the department on how to improve the system of HIV/AIDS care and treatment in Colorado. This meeting will serve as an introduction to the integration of HIV prevention and care, a way to create system efficiencies and what are they, to discuss elements and practices to be standardized, and look at other state's integration processes for issues around program sustainability due to the uncertain economic situation impacting HIV care and treatment services.

C. Committee Workgroups

1. ADAP

Arthur Powers reported that the ADAP workgroup has been working diligently to try to minimize the impact that the ADAP shortfall may have on patients involved in the program. Part A has been routinely represented by committee member Anthony Stamper, and his support as well as the support from Department staff and community, has been very helpful. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 15 at 10 am at CDPHE.

2. Medical Advisory

Reformulated Norvir tablets have arrived, and are being covered by Medicaid.

3. Communication

Nothing to report for this month

4. Pharmacy

Sue Mead reported on a discussion regarding ADAP formulary changes, how the transition will be handled, and how patients responded to letters they recently received about ADAP changes. There was discussion around informing the AIDS Service Organizations and pharmacies of ADAP changes. Ms. Mead discussed the systems involved in back-billing Medicaid and how to handle partial bottles in ADAP inventory.

**IV. Part A Update**

Part A is in the process of updating their comprehensive plan, and is also now funding Early Intervention Services (EIS) and outreach. Part A used unmet need data, a review of current gaps in services, and what CDPHE had been funding, to focus on early intervention services with a focus on linkage to care. For those interested in learning more about the Denver HIV Resources Planning Council, the committee and workgroup meeting times and locations are posted on the web DHRPC site at [www.dhrpc.org](http://www.dhrpc.org)

**V. Next Meeting:** April 12, 2010 from 10-11:30 a.m. at LARS

**VI. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.**