

News from the Grantee:

One of the most important responsibilities of the Dutchess County Department of Health is to manage and administer the Ryan White federal grant to Dutchess County.

The Department is responsible for contracting for the services that have been prioritized and for which funding has been allocated by the Dutchess County HIV Health Services Planning Council. The Department also monitors the service providers and conducts site visits to each agency to ensure that the services are in compliance. The goal is to ensure an effective, compassionate and well integrated system of care for people living with HIV and AIDS in our county.

Over the past month and in the coming weeks, the Department will be working with the Planning Council to complete a needs assessment survey and define a comprehensive services plan for our area. Let your voice be heard. Contact the Planning Council to participate in the survey

HRSA Updates:

Fiscal Year 2008 Awards:

MAI
\$112,436
Fiscal year 2008:
August 1, 2008 –
July 31, 2009

Part A
(Formula & Supplemental)
\$1,065,398
Fiscal Year 2008:
March 1, 2008 –
February 28, 2009



The face of HIV knows no race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, or politics. It only knows SUFFERING, HARDSHIP, and DEATH. It continues after 25 years because we haven't stopped it.

**TIME TO OWN IT
TIME TO END IT**

Letter from the Chair:

Dear Community,

Welcome to our first Dutchess County HIV Health Services Planning Council newsletter. This publication will be issued quarterly to update you about the work we do and provide information about the Ryan White Program and HIV disease.

The Ryan White CARE (Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency) Act has funded services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Dutchess County since 1995. The goal of the CARE Act is to provide full access to services for people living with HIV/AIDS, and to reduce disparities in healthcare and health outcomes. The Dutchess County HIV Health Services Planning Council (DCHIVHSPC) is a volunteer board appointed by the County Executive to provide effective planning and funding allocations to address the health care needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. The Council meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Catharine Street Community Center in Poughkeepsie at 5:00pm. Meetings are open to the public, and committee membership is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

Our community needs you to be a leader today. You can help people living with HIV/AIDS get the care they need and the health services they deserve.

I invite you to join us.
Ben Barile
Dutchess County HIV Planning Council, Chair

Ryan White



Ryan White was a young man with AIDS from Kokomo, Indiana. In the 1980s, he drew national and worldwide attention due to his infection. He became infected with HIV from a blood product as part of his treatment for. He was diagnosed with AIDS on December 17, 1984. When the public school that he attended learned of his disease there was enormous pressure from parents and faculty to bar him from school premises. Due to the widespread fear of AIDS and lack of medical knowledge at the time, he was removed from school. His family filed a lawsuit, seeking to overturn the ban. The trial lasted for eight months, ending with Ryan being allowed back at the middle school. However, threats of violence and of parents suing remained, and they moved to a new school.

At his new school, Ryan was received as a celebrity by faculty and students who were more educated regarding HIV and AIDS. He participated in several yearly benefits for children with AIDS and was a friend to many who either had AIDS or other potentially debilitating conditions. He disliked the spotlight on him and he emphasized that he would trade his fame at any moment if he could be free of the burden of the disease. Before he died of pneumonia caused by his illness in April 1990, he worked to educate people on the nature of HIV and AIDS, to show it was not a "homosexual disease" and that it was safe to associate with people who were HIV-positive. Being outside the stigmatized "normal" groups, he became a poster child for HIV infection in North America. Upon his death, his funeral was a standing-room-only event held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Upcoming Meetings

April 2008

- ◆ April 16th
◆ PLWH Committee
5:30 pm
- ◆ April 21st
◆ Evaluation Committee
3:30 pm

May 2008

- ◆ May 7th
◆ Membership Committee
3:00pm
- ◆ Executive Committee
3:30pm
- ◆ Full Planning Council
5:00pm
- ◆ May 14th
◆ Planning/Allocations Committee
9:30am
- ◆ May 19th
◆ Evaluation Committee
3:30pm
- ◆ May 21st
◆ PLWH Committee
5:30pm

June 2008

- ◆ June 4th
◆ Membership Committee
3:00pm
- ◆ Executive Committee
3:30pm
- ◆ Full Planning Council
5:00pm
- ◆ June 11th
◆ Planning/Allocations Committee
9:30am
- ◆ June 15th
◆ Evaluation Committee
3:30pm
- ◆ June 18th
◆ PLWH Committee
5:30pm

- ❖ The Evaluation Committee, Planning and Allocations Committee, and the PLWH/A Committee meetings are held in the Planning Council office.
- ❖ The Membership Committee, Executive Committee, and the Full Planning Council meetings are held at the Catharine Street Community Center.
- ❖ All meeting dates, times, and places are subject to change.

▪ If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Planning Council at: 845-452-8805 or info@hivplanningdutchess.org

Planning Council Updates:

The 2008 fiscal year for the Planning Council began this month on March 1st for the Part A funds. The annual cycle of allocations and contracts begins again, while the daily work of assisting those living with HIV continues.

Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring the orderly and integrated progression of all the Planning Council's work. The Committee oversees the operations of the entire Planning Council and works with all the committees on their tasks. The committee is currently looking at the impact on the re-authorization on the future of our Ryan White program.

Membership Committee:

This Committee recently asked all Planning Council members to get involved in recruitment efforts by participating in a Traveling Road Show. Members will be visiting the Manor at Woodside and various physicians in Dutchess County in attempt to attract older adults and others who are infected or affected by HIV. The Membership Committee continues to pursue prospective members. While it has been difficult at times, the committee has been able to recruit six new members in the past year.

Evaluation Committee:

The main objective of this committee this quarter has been working along side the Grantee to help begin the process of updating the Needs Assessment. Through surveys and other data sources, the Committee will be able to constructively create an understanding of the needs of those infected in Dutchess County and subsequently update the Comprehensive Service Plan.

Planning and Allocations Committee:

The Committee has been working on preparing for the 2008 fiscal year. Allocations were made for the MAI award and the Part A award. This was a helpful part of our allocation process. The knowledge that the committee has on each program helps the Planning Council better and more accurately identifying clients' needs.

PLWH/A Committee:

The PLWH Committee has continued to work side by side with the Membership Committee in getting new members involved in the Planning Council, especially those living with HIV/AIDS. The Committee has also been assisting with the Needs Assessment process. Surveys are being used to assess the needs of those living with the disease.



We Invite You to Join Us!
Dutchess County HIV Health Services Planning Council
Family Partnership Center
29 North Hamilton St., Suite 221 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Tel: 845.452.8805 • Fax: 845.452.8828
Email: info@hivplanningdutchess.org
www.hivplanningdutchess.org

