



HOPE Notes



News from your HOPE Center Health District

North Central

Special points of interest:

- *Important information for "blue" card holders*
- *History of Ryan White CARE Act*
- *HOPE Center Web site*
- *Needs Assessment and Satisfaction Surveys*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

For those of you who have a ACC clinic card (blue card) you have always picked up all your medications at the ACC pharmacy. Unfortunately, the first of September MCCG Administration informed us that they will no longer provide HIV medications after October 31st.

Why? The hospital did not receive the funding they requested from the county and are financially no longer able to provide HIV medications. They *will* continue to provide other medications such as medicine for cholesterol, diabetes, high blood pressure etc.

How will you get your HIV medication? You will need to come to The HOPE Center and discuss your options with one of the staff. You will probably qualify for the State's drug assistance program (ADAP) but you must apply and provide us the necessary paperwork before we can submit your application. IF you qualify and your application is approved you will receive your HIV medications from a pharmacy of your choice. However, your application takes time to process.....so DON'T WAIT...we don't want you to miss your HIV medications.

Should I get rid of my "blue" card? **NO, NO, NO!** You will need to keep your card active to pay for your lab work, x-rays, other medications, etc. Only where you get your HIV will change....everything else stays the same. (Ryan White is always the payor of last resort...if there is another payor source (blue card) then we must use it).

What do I do first? Call us at 405-7220 and schedule an appointment to meet with one of the staff. You will need to bring with you:

1. Proof of income (current check stubs for 1 month). If no income then a letter of support.
2. Picture ID.
3. Proof of residency; a water bill, phone bill or any statement addressed to you and your address.

Remember, after October 31st you can no longer pick up your HIV medications from the ACC pharmacy. It is vital to your health that you continue your HIV medication because if you stop your medication the HIV virus may become resistant to the medication and then the medication will no longer fight the virus.

You and The HOPE Center have a partnership....we are here to help YOU but we can't help YOU if YOU don't help us.

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT..CALL US TODAY!!!!

Part C Expansion Grant Application

On July 19 Dr. Deborah Parham, Assistant Surgeon General mailed a letter to all Part C grantees. The letter addressed our supplemental grant application. Basically it stated, "thank you for your interest in the Expansion Grant....as indicated on page four of the guidance (HRSA-07-139), the HIV/AIDS Bureau anticipated allocation of \$6 million for ongoing expansion funds.....unfortunately, the receipt of these funds did not come to fruition."

The letter continues..."Since the funding has been recommended in the President's budget for FY 2008, HAB will continue with the objective reviews process....IF funds are appropriated to Part C we will be prepared to award funds to Part C grantees with the most favorable scores received from the objective review". And the closing....."as always, your commitment to serving persons living with HIV/AIDS is commended".


Very, very disappointing news especially since we had allocated a large portion of the award for dental services. We can only trust our grant is "favorable" and the funding is available next year. We'll keep on doing what we do best....thanks to the staff and the grant writing team for your time and effort in writing this grant application.

Clinic Announcements



Congratulations to Melanie Yarbrough for completing and passing the Certified Professional Coding course and test! We're very proud of her!

Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members: Wanda Smith, Program Assistant; Chad Cavender, Program Assistant, Lisa Knight, LPN. We are currently searching for a nurse to fill the vacant nursing position. Once we are fully staffed and trained we will expand operating hours.

Dr. Joseph R. Swartwout, District 5-2 Health Director, will be retiring October 1st. We will miss him terribly and wish him good health and happiness. Thank you Dr. Swartwout for your many year of public service and involvement with the Ryan White Programs. 



And...don't put away your tissues...Dr. Waite has informed us he will be leaving Georgia and relocating to the Boston area. He anticipates he will be moving around the Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays. At this time we don't know if we will attempt to secure another Primary Care Physician. This issue will be discussed during the October Continuing Quality Meeting.

Attorney Larry Brox resigned from Georgia Legal Services and attorney Amanda Kent will be here during Tuesday's clinics to assist you with any legal issues you wish to discuss.

The clinic will have a Part B (formerly called Title II) site visit on October 3rd. Our Part B liaison, Wendy Brisco, will be visiting with us from Atlanta.

HRSA informed us that Project Officer Mei-Ying Li is no longer assigned the State of Georgia. Ms. Mei-Ying will have the State of SC and Stephanie Yun has been name Project Offer for our State. Ms. Yun has worked in the field of HIV/AIDS in the categories of prevention, policy and evaluation. We look forward to working with her during the coming months.

Ryan White CAREAct

The CARE Act is named in honor of Ryan White, an Indiana teenager whose struggle with AIDS and against AIDS-related discrimination helped educate our nation about the needs of people with AIDS. The AIDS epidemic, which began in the early 1980's, had created a need for primary medical care to American living with AIDS who had little or no health insurance. On August 18, 1990 Congress passed Public Law 101-381, the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. This Act is administered by The Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) which is within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The original CARE Act was divided into four different "Titles" which are now called "Parts". Care funds come from the HIV/AIDS Bureau of HRSA and then to you by way of the different "parts". The four different "parts" are:

Part A (formerly Title I)	Grants awarded to eligible metropolitan areas (Atlanta has Part A, not us)
Part B (formerly Title II)	Grants awarded to states. (we have)
Part C (formerly Title III)	Grants awarded to primary care providers through local health department, hospitals, etc. (we have)
Part D (formerly Title IV)	Grants to provide care and support for children, adolescents, women and families living with HIV/AIDS. (not us)
Part F	Special Projects of National Significance (SPNX) to support development of innovative models of HIV/AIDS care. (not us)

Mr. White died on April 8, 1990, at the age of 19, just a few months before Congress passed the Act that bears his name.

Ryan White Statewide Conference

For years now, people throughout Georgia have shared their desire to come together with other Ryan White programs to learn, share, build skills and network with colleagues from part A,B,C,D and F. A steering committee was formed and has worked for the past year planning the First Statewide Ryan White Conference! The conference will be held in Atlanta October 24th through the 26th.

The conference will include HRSA representatives and there will be two tracks; one programmatic and one clinical. During the evening of day two, the State will honor some local champions who have contributed so much in the effort to improve the lives of people living with HIV here in Georgia. Please take a moment to consider nominating one of your heroes. Champion Nomination Forms are available at The HOPE Center.



HELP Us Build a Better Clinic....

You may have noticed that many changes are being made in health care services and delivery systems. As mentioned earlier the "Blue" clinic card will no longer provide HIV specific medications; managed health care; new procedures to even get into the emergency room. The administration and staff of The HOPE Center have worked over the years to make sure you have proper access to care. To assist in this process the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Committee has commissioned a new Needs and Gaps Assessment to insure the access to HIV Care continues to address the needs of the consumer and the dollars spent on available services are spread to the most critical areas of needed services.

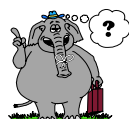
We need your help to get as many consumers as possible to complete a Needs Assessment tool. The Needs Assessment tool is available on The HOPE Center website home page at www.myhopecenter.org (see the link on the lower left of the page) or you can ask any staff member of The HOPE Center or The Rainbow Center for a paper copy of the tool. Staff from The Rainbow Center will be available at The HOPE Center on clinic days to administer the tool in an interview format and to assist consumers that do not have Internet access.

The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete and for your time and effort you will receive a gift for completing and turning in one of the surveys. You will have the choice of an honorarium of \$5 or an flexible LCD flashlight with an integrated laser pointer. A staff person must collect your survey or must see you submit the survey on the Internet to receive the gift; only one gift per consumer.

No personally identifiable data is collected on the survey tool so your comments cannot be tracked back to you so please be very honest in your answers so the CQI Committee can form a clear picture of your needs and how those needs can be addressed. For question on the survey tool or to receive a copy please call 478-750-8080 x7 or email Johnny@rainbowcenter.us.

Visit us @

Last year your Continuing Quality Improvement committee voted to create a web page for The HOPE Center. The committee believed the web site would be helpful to those searching for HIV care, provide consumers with helpful information and would be beneficial to healthcare providers who wanted to learn about our facility. The site has our mission statement, services, consumer Bill of Rights, contact information, newsletter, consumer satisfaction surveys, links to other resources, and many other areas of interest. During the past year the site has received over 500 "hits" and the committee voted to fund the site another year. This is just another way you can tell us what you want, how we're doing and offer suggestions for improvements. Please check out your clinic at www.myhopecenter.org.



Don't Forget.....

Four times a year; March, June, September and December, we conduct Consumer Satisfaction Surveys. Surveys are available at our web site, www.myhopecenter.org. and The HOPE Center. Please take a minute and fill one out. The surveys are confidential so let us hear from you!