



HOPE Notes



News from your HOPE Center
Summer 2007

North Central Health District

Special points of interest:

- *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006*
- *The HOPE Center web site*
- *Clinic announcements/staff updates*
- *Part C Expansion Grant Application*
- *June Consumer Satisfaction Survey*
- *National HIV Testing Day*
- *Read and Learn: "What is Chlamydia?"*

Ryan White Re-Authorization Act of 2006

In Dec. 2006 Pres. Bush signed the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006 which has an emphasis of providing life-saving and life-extending services for people living with HIV/AIDS. The new law has changed how RW funds can be used and has changed the names of the grants funding streams. The different grants streams are:

- Part A (formerly Title I) - provides for Metropolitan Cities
- Part B (formerly Title II): grants to States
- Part C (formerly Title III): early intervention, capacity building and planning grants.
- Part D (formerly Title IV): grants for women, infants, children and youth.
- Part E: emergency response employees
- Part F: AIDS education and training centers, dental education and Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS)

The HOPE Center is managed under two grants; Part B (formerly called Title II) and Part C (formerly called Title III). The new law requires that 75% of funds are spent on "core medical services". What are "core medical services?" Early intervention services (clinical care, laboratory services, etc), oral health services, outpatient and ambulatory health services, nutritional therapy, pharmaceutical assistance, medical case management, mental health and substance abuse services are examples of "core medical services". Under the new law remaining funds may be spent on "support services" and only 10% on Administrative costs. What are "support services?" Examples are outreach efforts which includes HIV counseling and testing; transportation for medical services, outside health care referrals, etc. The HOPE Center has always spent greater than 75% on direct care and 10% or less on Administrative costs....so this change will not effect our delivery of service. The new law's formula for awarding funds relies on the count of people living with HIV/AIDS and not estimated AIDS cases. The authorization for the Modernization Act of 2006 is for three years and will end Sept. 30, 2009.

If you have Internet access please check out our web site! Go to www.myhopecenter.org. You will find clinic information and links to various HIV/AIDS sites. The web site was created last August and is still being developed. Eventually we hope to have Consumer Satisfaction Survey forms, Needs Assessments, the "HOPE Notes" and other various programs. We have received over 500 "hits" or visits during the past year and the site has been very helpful when people call requesting information about The HOPE Center and services offered.



Clinic Announcements:



The hours the Center is opened has changed. New hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8:00 AM till 4:30 PM and Tuesday 7:00 AM till 3:30 PM. We apologize for the changes but Administration and the CQI committee found it necessary in order to allow current staff time off for summer vacation. Once we are fully staffed and trained the Center will return to ten hour days; Monday—Friday 7AM till 5:30 PM. We appreciate your understanding. REMEMBER.... the Center is closed for all State and Federal Holidays.

June 27th is National HIV Testing Day. Testing sites will be located through out the District. This year's theme is "Take the test—Take Control". Please call CCAN at 750-8080 or 1-800-CDC-INFO for a testing site near you.



As most of you know RN Crystal Bivins resigned in May. In June we conducted RN interviews and we made an offer but the offer was declined. Since we are short staffed Kim Warren, RN, District 5-2 HIV State Coordinator has offered to help during Tuesday's clinic. The Center greatly appreciates Ms. Warren's assistance. We are currently advertising for a nurse. Unfortunately, due to salary restrictions, we have a difficult time competing with other employers. Staffing issues are a major concern. In 2006, due to "flat or reduce" funding, increase operational and program costs and more individuals seeking care, Adm. and the CQI committee found it necessary to eliminate three positions in order to continue providing services. That meant more work and less staff to do the work. We currently have 12 employees and over 900 consumers...that's a ratio of 1 staff for every 75 consumers! The staff work hard in order to answer all the phone calls, call in prescriptions, make referrals, draw blood specimens, enter data, etc. We know you appreciate their efforts but next time you become impatient please understand they are striving very hard to provide you care and care for others. In June Dr. Waite attended the Part C "All Titles Clinical Update" conference. July 2nd Dr. Waite will be traveling to Africa to provide medical care as part of his continuing work in the mission field. He anticipates returning to the Center the first of August.

Case Manager Mikita Lofton attended “HIV Case Management” conference and provided HIV education for the Mentor Program and two health fairs.

We want to know what you think about the services at The HOPE Center, ways to improve services and your ideas. This is your Center and we value your input. The Center conducts anonymous Consumer Satisfaction Surveys four times a year; March, June, Sept. and Dec. Your thoughts, concerns and recommendations are presented to Adm. and CQI committee. Surveys are currently being conducted. Please take a moment and complete the form. Tells us how to better serve you! Together we can make a difference.



On July 12th The HOPE Center will host the 5th annual HIV/AIDS educational program for the Mentor program. The Mentor Program is part of the Bibb County Board of Ed. and strives to reach high risk young people. The program encourages young people to remain in school, provides support and educational programs, tutoring, etc. Dr. Katner’s program will begin at 7 PM and he will be available for questions and answers. This presentation has been a huge success...last year over 120 young people were in attendance. We thank Dr. Katner and the Mentor Program Dir. June O’Neil for allowing us this outreach opportunity.

Part C Expansion Grant Opportunity

The end of May HRSA announced an ongoing expansion grant opportunity which will support documented increased costs of providing core medical services, increased number of consumers and fill unmet needs for early intervention services. In Sept. HRSA will award 60 grants nationwide with a maximum grant award of 200K. The Center grant writing team completed the application and designated funding for comprehensive oral health services, nutritional services, medical transportation and educational HIV/AIDS material for consumers and outreach efforts and other additional allocations of funding. Keep your fingers crossed that our application will be approved! We’ll keep you updated.....



Read and Learn!

What is Chlamydia? Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacterium, Chlamydia trachomatis. Chlamydia can damage a woman’s reproductive organs and cause irreversible damage, including infertility.

How common is Chlamydia? It is the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted disease in the U.S. An estimated 208 million American are infected each year and women are frequently re-infected if their sex partners are not treated.

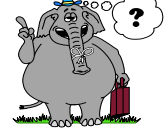
How do people get Chlamydia? Chlamydia is transmitted during vaginal, anal or oral sex. The greater the number of sex partners, the greater the risk of infection.

What are the symptoms of Chlamydia? Chlamydia is known as a “silent” disease because many infected women and men have no symptoms. In women who have symptoms might have an abnormal vaginal discharge or burning sensation when urinating. If the infection spreads to the tubes that carry eggs (fallopian tubes) then lower abdominal pain, low back pain, nausea, fever, pain during intercourse or bleeding between menstrual periods may occur. In men symptoms may include a discharge from their penis or a burning sensation when urinating. Men might also have burning and itching around the opening of the penis. Men or women who have receptive anal intercourse may acquire Chlamydia infection in the rectum, which can cause rectal pain, discharge or bleeding. Chlamydia can also infect the throats of women and men having oral sex with an infected partner.

How can Chlamydia be prevented? The surest way is to avoid any sexually transmitted disease is to abstain from sexual contact, or to be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and is known to be uninfected. Latex male condoms, when used correctly, can reduce the risk of transmission. Any symptoms such as discharge or burning during urination or unusual sore should be a signal to stop having sex and consult your health care provider. If you have been diagnosed or treated for Chlamydia (or any other sexually transmitted disease) you should notify all recent sex partners so they can see their



Don’t Forget.....



- Please try and call a week in advance if you need transportation to your clinic appointment. Call Jim Motes @ 405-7220 or 731-6119.
- No walk-in lab draws during Tuesday clinic. If you do come please understand you will have to wait till after clinic.
- Don’t let your medicines run out. Call the Center at least three days before and tell us you need your medications.
- If you have been approved for Ryan White you must be re-certified every 6 months. Don’t wait till the last minute...we have to submit all necessary paperwork to Atlanta HIV Division. ...if documentation is not sent it may result in you being cut from the program.
- What is Ryan White Consortium? Consortium is just a fancy word for “group”. Our Ryan White Consortium is a group of consumers, community based organizations (CBO’s) such as CCAN, District 5-2 Adm., Bibb County Public Health Adm., HOPE Center staff, doctors, etc. and we all meet here at the Center every month. We discuss issues and concerns regarding HIV/AIDS. We meet every third Thursday at 2 PM. Our next meeting will be July 19th. We’re always looking for new members.....Please join us and become involved in your care!
- If you’re not sure **ASK** questions. There’s no such thing as a dumb question....only dumb answers!