



**AIDS Drug Assistance Program
Statewide Conference Call
Emergency ADAP Update**

Minutes

**January 19, 2011
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

The purpose of this emergency conference call was to provide critical and time-sensitive information regarding a new development in ADAP that will aid in providing medications to clients in the program from February 1 – March 31, 2011 of the Ryan White Fiscal Year.

Lorraine Wells opened the call with a brief overview of the purpose of the meeting and turned the meeting over to Tom Liberti, Bureau Chief of HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Liberti explained Florida’s role in providing pharmaceutical services to thousands of clients while in crisis since it began April 2010. A host of strategies were implemented to carry the program through the fiscal year including reducing the formulary, reducing the FPL and other actions. Yet, by May of 2010 we were faced with a 26-30 million dollar funding gap to continue the program through the fiscal year.

The Bureau had to discover ways to further reduce cost while continuing to serve clients in the program, knowing funds would dissipate before the end of the year. By redirecting Ryan White funds, and receiving additional funds from HRSA and General Revenue, the gap has narrowed to \$14 million dollars today.

We have had communications with the Governor, Legislators, and community partners to impress upon them the severity of this crisis. At this point we will run out of funds in February of this year. Other attempts to close the gap included requesting the use of 2011 funds which was denied.

We have now reached out to NASTAD/Welvista for help. We have asked Welvista to provide services for six to eight weeks to help close that gap. At this time Welvista has agreed to help. This will enable clients to receive drugs for February and March. However, this is a temporary solution.

On April 1st, Florida will receive \$85 million in Ryan White grant funds. We have also applied for a supplemental grant with HRSA. We have gone before the Senate and will go before the House and have applied for additional General Revenue funds.

Florida

After addressing current client funding, we will address the waiting list. Currently there are over 2,800 people on the waiting list which amounts to \$28 million. With the funding we hope to be appropriated in April, we should be able to enroll these clients into the program. With that said, Mr. Liberti turned the meeting back over to Lorraine to discuss more specifics of the transition.

Lorraine explained that Welvista is a non-profit organization located in South Carolina that serves as a specialty mail order company for the uninsured or underinsured who need access to life saving medications. Under the agreement, Welvista will cover medications for approximately 6,500 clients who are currently in the ADAP program who can have 100% of their drugs filled by Welvista.

These clients will be deselected from the ADAP database as "*Transitioned to Welvista*" status. This means they will not be automatically closed for not picking up and will be returned to ADAP on April 1, 2011. This is NOT a Disenrollment, it a transition.

We have been working with NASTAD, Welvista, the Fair Pricing Coalition, Part A's, and Community Partners to coordinate this project. Our statewide pharmacy is a pivotal component in this process and more discussions will be had prior to implementation so that all details are outlined for everyone.

In the meantime, we will have conference calls to discuss the pieces as they are put into place. We will follow up with the HAPCs and case managers.

Lorraine explained the process of transitioning the clients to Welvista.

- ❖ ADAP will provide Welvista a list of the clients who have been selected by the ADAP database who meet the criteria. The list will include all of the information needed for Welvista to fill prescription orders.
- ❖ These clients will be deselected in the database and marked Transitioned/Welvista. Once this period is over, they will be selected to be returned to ADAP.
- ❖ Welvista will fill orders and mail all medications directly to the County Health Departments (CHD) at the designated facility address for that county. An email from Justin Ferrill was sent this week regarding the mailing address for each CHD.
- ❖ If there is more than one facility in a county where clients could pick up their medications, the CHD must designate one facility as the mailing address to provide to Welvista.
- ❖ Clients will pick up their medications from the CHD designated facility.

We anticipate this transition will begin on February 1, 2011.

Welvista is currently exploring the possibility of dispensing medications for 60 or 90 days which will save on administrative costs and provide a sufficient amount of medications to the client with no need for refills. However, this is inconclusive at this point.



Additional Information:

- ❖ Medications mailed from Welvista will be packaged by patient name. Welvista is aware they must provide complete labels for each prescription.
- ❖ Pharmacies will transfer the current prescription on file and we are aware that some may need new prescriptions written.
- ❖ ADAP will provide CHDs with the list of clients selected for transition.
- ❖ Clients remaining in the program will be served by ADAP as usual.
- ❖ Applicants applying for the program will still go on the waiting list as there are no funds to serve those on the waiting list at this point.
- ❖ **PLEASE NOTE: If you are ready to place orders or if you have just placed an order, contact Brenda Sowell with Central Pharmacy before dispensing medications. Every dollar spent is critical at this point. We will need to ensure those left in the program are able to be served until the end of the fiscal year.**

In an effort to be proactive, we are willing to set up client forums for those counties that have a need.

The meeting adjourned at: 3:15 p.m.