

New Year Brings Change to Ryan White Programming

The following governmental agencies provide the funding for the Ryan White Program that serves the Northwest Illinois HIV Care Connect region:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
The Illinois Department of Public Health



These agencies have implemented changes in the Ryan White Program effective January 1, 2011, to serve those persons with HIV in greatest need with limited funding.

The Ryan White Program provides assistance to an eligible individual living with HIV/AIDS only as the payer of last resort. This means, a person must first access community resources before asking for assistance from the Ryan White Program. To participate in the Ryan White Program, a person must meet and maintain certain eligibility requirements. Ryan White is not an entitlement program, but seeks to serve those who have the greatest need.

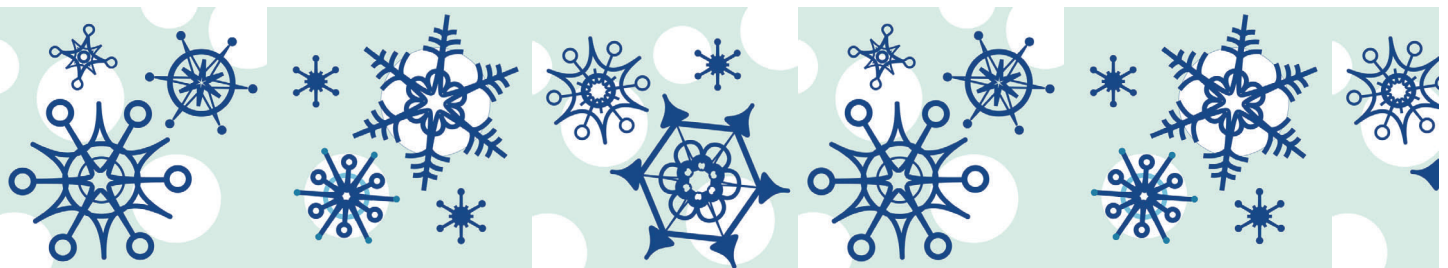
The Ryan White Program will be providing assistance beginning January 1, 2011, to an eligible person who shows a monthly "need" for services; such as nutrition, transportation, housing, utilities, etc. These changes are being made throughout the State of Illinois and the Northwest Illinois HIV CARE Connect is required to comply with these guidelines.

A person must **FIRST** apply for other community resources to meet his or her needs. The community resources are:

- 1) Medical card through the Department of Human Resources (DHS)
- 2) Link Card (food stamps) through DHS
- 3) Housing Assistance through the local Housing Authority
- 4) Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)

A person will need to show a copy of his or her acceptance or denial letter for the above community resources to their case manager.

After the community resources have been used, a person can work with his or her case manager to determine what assistance may be available through the Ryan White Program.



It's Re-enrollment Time!

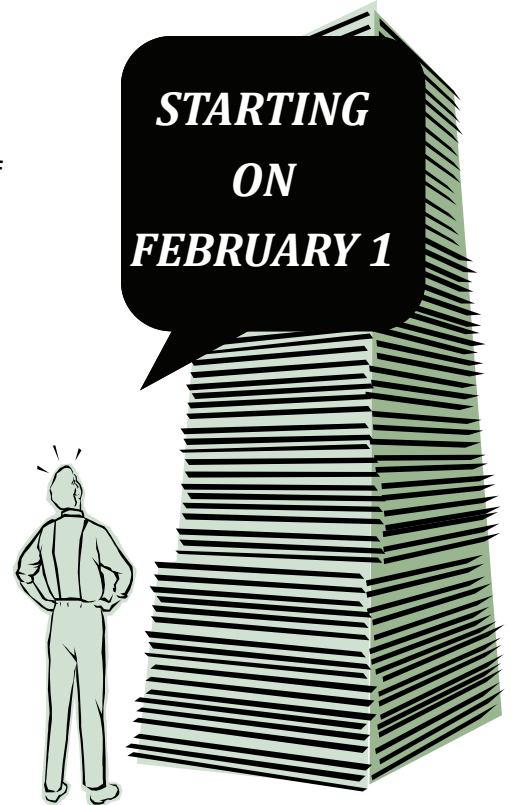
With the New Year beginning, the annual re-enrollment into the Ryan White Program begins for individuals receiving Care services. Each individual currently receiving Ryan White services thru a case manager at any one of the following: DeKalb County Health Department, AIDS Project Quad Cities, and the Whiteside and Winnebago County Health Departments, must complete "NEW" paperwork for 2011. This paperwork will need to be completed by March 31, 2011, in order to continue receiving services beyond this date.

For an individual to complete their Ryan White re-enrollment paperwork, he or she must meet with his or her case manager.

Please contact your case manager to schedule an appointment to re-enroll into the Ryan White program today.

When you meet with your case manager, please bring them a copy of the following documents:

1. Current Paycheck Stubs for 1 month or Social Security Benefits for 2011
2. 2010 W-2 Wage & Tax Statement or Social Security 1099 Benefit
3. Current Copy of Medicaid, Medicare card or insurance card, if applicable



Ryan White Local Advisory Board

The Advisory Board shall be responsible for the dual functions of Prevention and Care services. The mission of the HIV Prevention Program and the Northwest Illinois HIV Care Connect is to assure that HIV infected, affected and at-risk individuals, residing in the thirteen counties served by the Advisory Board, are provided with quality prevention and care services.

It is the policy of this advisory board to appoint and retain persons from all represented service areas, infected and affected population groups and various fields of expertise, including HIV positive people, who have an active interest in the care of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

The Local Advisory Board meets on a quarterly basis in the Rock Island area. The meetings usually last two hours and occurs from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM on the scheduled date. Notice of the meeting place is set one month prior to the meeting date. The following is the scheduled dates for the upcoming Advisory Board meetings:

February 1, 2011

If you are interested in attending, please contact a case manager listed in this newsletter under the section entitled "Connectors" on Page 4.

Meet Your New Consumer Representative

Anthony Chandler

archandler2001@yahoo.com

cell phone: 309-558-7030

Available Between 8 AM-8PM, Monday - Friday



About your Consumer Representative:

I am a HIV Poz male since 1995 when I was diagnosed with PCP and CMV Retinitis. Since that time I have been an Advocate for the HIV community, a State Lobbyist, HIV/AIDS Educator for both Illinois and Iowa. Working for many years with both IDPH, RICCA and the Virology Clinic, I performed the duties of Consumer Representative for 3 years, along with being an Advisory Board Chairperson and a number of other positions, both locally and Statewide.

Being very knowledgeable in the pandemic of HIV/AIDS, I have been a teacher, mentor, volunteer and supporter for many clients both here and nationwide. I am an active participant in the national website of POZ Magazine and have worked as an advocate and educator on the Gay.com web hosting site as well.

My "door" is open to anyone wanting to just talk or need comforting when all else seems to fail. Please feel free to email me whenever you need something. Emails are checked numerous times a day. Probably faster than voice messages.

Any other questions please don't be afraid to ask. I love to talk. Thanks to everyone in advance.
Anthony Chandler , Consumer Representative

Peer Educators Wanted...

In 2011, the Northwest Illinois HIV Care Connect is developing a peer education program that will assist with both referring and linking to HIV positive individuals to care. Peers are individuals living with HIV/AIDS that will receive two levels of training. Responsibilities of the peer education program may include the following.

- Meeting with newly diagnosed to explain HIV/AIDS and self-care

- Assisting with connecting clients to services

- Assisting with medical appointments, such as appointment reminders, transportation, and attending medical appointments with the client

Incorporating peers in the health care process is an important step towards ensuring individuals living with HIV/AIDS remains engaged in primary medical care and adherent to treatments. Peers can offer encouragement and emotional support to other people living with HIV/AIDS by:

- Listening to clients' concerns and sharing similar experiences

- Offering strategies for incorporating medications and diet changes into a client's daily routine

- Serving as a voice of experience by proactively addressing and discussing shared medical issues

- Modeling health behaviors

- Facilitating support and education groups

If you are interested in becoming a peer, please contact your case manager listed on Page 4.

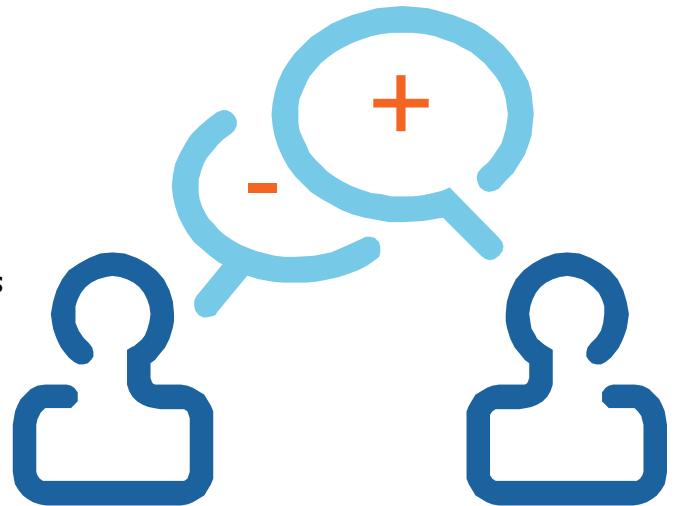


Did you know that sex partners of HIV + individuals should be tested at least yearly for HIV?

HOW DO I GET TESTED?

If your partner is HIV positive and you do not know your HIV status, testing for HIV can be arranged through an HIV case manager at any of the following agencies: AIDS Project Quad Cities, the DeKalb, Whiteside or Winnebago County Health Departments.

HIV testing is free of charge. You can choose to have a rapid HIV test and results are known in 20 minutes. However, you can also choose to wait 2 weeks to receive your results by opting for a more conventional HIV test method. HIV testing can be anonymous or confidential. All information is kept private.



WHAT QUESTIONS WILL I BE ASKED?

You will meet with staff that can answer your questions about HIV, syphilis, STDs, and provide referrals. You will be asked to provide general information about yourself and activities that might put you at risk for HIV and other STDs.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I TEST?

It is recommended that you get tested for HIV annually. However, a person may need to test more frequently than once per year depending on risk factors (how many partners, condom use, etc.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have general questions regarding HIV or HIV testing, you may contact your case manager.

Re-enrollment Time!



*Starting February 1, 2011
Call you Case manager to make
an appointment!*

Connectors

Todd Kisner - Project Director
Case Managers:

- Tracy Box (815) 720-4084
- Trish Paesani (815) 720-4086
- Mike Macocco (815) 720-4085
- Stacia Runge (815) 748-2449
- Deb LeRoy (815) 626-2230
- Marie McGinnis (563) 421-4240
- Jean Dutton (563) 421-4247
- Brenda Corley (309) 762-5433



Inside this issue:

- New Changes 1
- Re-Enrollment 2
- Advisory Board 2
- Peer Support 3

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