



# RWMPC's 10th Anniversary: A Decade of Advocating for Ryan White Medical Providers and Their Patients



October 2016

## Our History



Standing Room-Only Ryan  
White Providers Rally  
August 2006

In 2006, several Ryan White Part C (formerly Title III) providers, including Kathleen Clanon, MD; Kevin Carmichael, MD; Ron Greenfield, MD; Michael Saag, MD; Vicki Sharp, MD; Alice Thornton, MD; Aimee Wilkin, MD; and Bruce Williams, MD, brought Ryan White provider colleagues together, with the support of the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) and the American Academy of HIV Medicine, to call for action on critical policy and funding issues affecting the delivery of Ryan White care and treatment. The Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition evolved from the initial rally with support from HIVMA. In 2016, RWMPC membership has more than tripled to 339 providers representing 47 states plus the District of Columbia. RWMPC is currently guided by an 18-member Steering Committee.

## Building Strong Relationships in Washington

To improve representation of Ryan White medical providers and their patients in the federal policy arena, **RWMPC has built strong relationships with Congress and federal policy makers over the last decade.** RWMPC has developed these relationships through the following activities:

- Conducting **hundreds of meetings** with Congressional offices
- Submitting **Congressional testimony** each year
- Participating in **Congressional briefings**
- Hosting **clinic visits** for Congressional and Administration staff
- **Holding dozens of meetings and calls** with key Administration leaders
- Providing **input to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy** and its updates
- **Working with PACHA** and its members who are part of RWMPC
- Serving as **a direct line of communication to providers** for policy makers
- **Collecting input from RWMPC members** through annual membership meetings, surveys, action alerts, webinars, and direct provider outreach

## RWMPC Achievements

**RWMPC's activities have resulted in several important policy victories.** Advocacy efforts and victories have included:

- **Federal appropriations advocacy that has helped to:**
  - **Maintain Part C funding** during the most austere budget environment in 50+ years
  - **Prevent the consolidation** of Parts C and D over the past several appropriations cycles
  - **Significantly modify the ban** on federal funding for syringe access programs to permit funding of these programs (except for the purchase of syringes).

## **RWMPC Achievements Continued**

- **Conducted ACA advocacy and developed resources with HIVMA**, including:
  - **Educating Congressional and Administration policymakers on the HIV model of care**, highlighting Part C programs with tools developed by HIVMA/RWMPC:
    - Publication of **Essential Components of Effective HIV Care** (CID, 2011)
    - **Development of a fact sheet** on Part C programs as medical homes
    - **Submission of Congressional testimony** to key health care committees
  - **Educating federal agencies** about ACA's impact on Ryan White programs
  - Providing **ACA implementation information** to Ryan White providers
  - Supporting providers in **advocating for improved local ACA implementation**
- **Co-developed legislation to create new, future resources to support HIV medical care**, highlighting the need to increase support for effective, comprehensive HIV care and treatment:
  - **Introduction of the HIV Clinical Services Improvement Act** in 2015 by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) & Reps. Mark Pocan (D-WI), Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Jim McDermott (D-WA) that was based on a 2009 bill that RWMPC supported
  - This bill would provide **enhanced Medicaid rate payments to Ryan White Part C programs** that meet quality and reporting requirements
- **Reduced administrative burden** for Ryan White medical providers and programs by:
  - Achieving **shorter grant renewals** that use a streamlined application
  - Urging the HIV/AIDS Bureau to require budget approval **only when grant funds are transferred across budget categories**
- **Advocacy on Ryan White Program reauthorization has helped to:**
  - **Achieve a 2009 Ryan White Program reauthorization** that included:
    - A 4 year reauthorization with technical fixes
    - 5% increase in Part C program reauthorization levels
    - No change in the core medical services definition
  - **Fight off more recent, bad reauthorization proposals** (Rep. Ellmers' bill)
- **Increase medical provider resources and TA**, and helped to convince HHS and HRSA **to bring back the HAB Ryan White Clinical Conference, in 2015**

## **Looking Forward**

**RWMPC will continue to ensure support for and continuation of the Ryan White Program by:**

- **Maintaining Ryan White Program funding** during continued budget austerity
- **Working with HAB** to improve Ryan White Program administration and implementation
- **Preparing for and informing Ryan White Program reauthorization**
- **Calling for access to affordable and comprehensive HIV medical care**

## **Are you a Ryan White Provider?**

Join us! Membership is free. Email [rwmpc@hivma.org](mailto:rwmpc@hivma.org) or visit [www.hivma.org](http://www.hivma.org).