

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL**

**HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**CHILDREN’S BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, TAMPA**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019**

**1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting was called to order by Peggy Wallace, Chair at 1:30 PM. |
| **ATTENDANCE** | Members Present: Elizabeth Rugg, Peggy Wallace, Terry Law, Amanda Miller  Members Absent: Kim Molnar  Guests Present:, Michelle Simmons, Michelle Keyes  Recipient Staff Present: Dorinda Seth, Maria Teresa Jaureguizar  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Lisa Nugent, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani |
| **CHANGES TO AGENDA** | None |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | The minutes for October 17, 2019 were approved by acclamation **(M: Wallace, S: Law)** with minutes amended to correct the dose prescription limits from once per month, to once per year. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Care Council met on November 6, 2019 at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. The meeting began with a moment of silence in honor of Charlie Hughes and memories of Hughes were shared by staff.  The Recipient shared that the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EtHE) grant application was submitted October 14, 2019. $4 million was requested, on an annual basis, for a possible total of 5 years. Part A plans to use these funds to improve the EMA’s current infrastructure and expand Health Education and Risk Reduction (HERR), housing, early intervention services (EIS), the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI), and transportation services. This grant will run March-February, for five years, and there are no reporting requirements related to the Care Council. They expect that grant funding will be distributed incrementally throughout each funding year.  AIDS drug assistance program (ADAP)’s premium plus plans are being heavily promoted by Broward County at this time. The Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, mentioned that restrictions based on income and additional health plans will be a barrier for insurance enrollment, but for residents in Hillsborough County, the Hillsborough Health Care Plan will be available. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will host an open house on November 16, 2019 at the Lee Davis Neighborhood Services Center, located at 3402 N 22nd St, Tampa, FL 33605, from 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 p.m. HIV and Hepatitis C screening will be available during that time.  Part B monitoring is in progress through March.  Lead Agency staff, Darius Lightsey, announced that Pinellas County EtHE planning will begin on December 5, 2019 and invitations for this initial meeting are expected to be sent out soon. The implementation portion of the EtHE planning is due December 1, 2019.  One new voting member, representing Polk County, was approved. The Membership Committee presented the Care Council’s current mission and vision statements for members to review in anticipation of their winter leadership retreat in December. They will be working on revising both at that time. Revisions to the bylaws were approved and adopted. The Committee informed the Council that more members are needed from Hernando, Manatee, and Pinellas Counties. Men aged 20-29, individuals who are 60+, and a Department of Health representative are being sought as well.  The Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations (RPARC) Committee presented Part A reallocation recommendations, which were approved by the Care Council. Expenditures were presented and reviewed as an informational item.  The Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) voted to open the Ryan White formulary for birth control as one of the two Title X funded agencies forfeited their funding due to political barriers. Care Council members voted and approved this recommendation.  The Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Committee shared their plan of attack for revisions to the Minimum Standards of Care (MSOC); the timeline for these revisions will be planned at their December meeting.  The Women, Infants, Children, Youth, and Families (WICY&F) Committee announced their Fall event that will be held on November 20, 2019 at Metro Inclusive Health’s Ybor location. An attorney will attend to present information on living wills and surrogates. They went on to announce that WoW: World of Women will reconvene, in Tampa, January 2020.  Members were informed that David Cavalleri, the quality management (QM) consultant, sent out a survey to all Council and related committee members and all are expected to respond.  Finally, Chairs announced that the Care Council will not meet in January and will begin their 2020 meetings in February.  A new member orientation was held upon adjournment of the Care Council meeting. |
| **REVIEW OF IMPACT OF ADAP & ACA** | Member, Peggy Wallace, informed the committee that marketplace insurance open enrollment was extended by 36 hours. All approved AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) mirror those of last year’s approved plans. ADAP Plus is attempting to allow premium coverage for all Ryan White clients, including those covered by Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) and employer sponsored insurance plans. Insurance Services Programs (ISP) will continue to offer premium coverage assistance until this change is approved by ADAP.  Peggy Wallace continued that there has been an increase of patients who are qualified for Medicare, but do not meet the requirements for Medicaid for services covered at 80%, such as with Case Management, and any Medicare services that require a 20% copayment. |
| **NARCAN - PART A FORMULARY ADDITION** | Chair, Elizabeth Rugg, reminded members of October’s discussion in regards to client access to the lifesaving opioid overdose reversal drug, Narcan. At that time, Recipient, Dorinda Seth, stated that this is available through the formulary already and clients can obtain Narcan once per year, mirroring the limit set in place by Medicaid, per pharmacist recommendation. Rugg went on to inform Committee members that many Ryan White clients are prescribed opiates for several medical reasons, such as neuropathy and symptoms related to cancer treatment. Rugg expressed concern that accidental overdoses are a potential danger, especially as many patients have children in their homes. Although there have been few requests for Narcan coverage, at this time, Rugg feels that caps and limits should be removed. This request would have to be forwarded on to the Planning and Evaluation Committee as they oversee all caps and limits placed on services and medication assistance.  Committee members questioned the current caps and limits applied to this prescription and suggested that this medication be added to the Ryan White open formulary. Some other members thought that two prescriptions, per quarter, would be a sufficient cap for Narcan. Committee member, Peggy Wallace, asked the Recipient where this cap originated from and was told this was determined by the program’s pharmacist as some funded services do not provide Narcan at all. Members were reminded that Medicaid only covers one prescription of Narcan per year; however, members felt this to be a conservative approach as all other medications (sans erectile dysfunction medications) are covered under Ryan White’s open formulary. Wallace then asked if any other medications are capped and was told by Chair, Elizabeth Rugg, that there are only spending caps, as is such with dental services. Rugg then said that Narcan is an inexpensive drug, thus spending caps would not present much of an issue, especially with the consideration of how few requests for Narcan ISP receives. Wallace then informed the Committee and guests that some patients seen by providers are people who misuse drugs and providers struggle with this population. This cap presents an issue for these persons and, should they request Narcan, there should not be a concern that their request will be denied. By loosening this cap, patients will be less likely to be excluded when in need of this drug.  Member, Amanda Miller, asked if this was an issue only for insured clients and was told that this is not necessarily the case. Wallace then stated that capping Narcan would potentially create a greater health disparity among those who required or misuse opiates. Miller spoke to being in favor of the addition of Narcan to the open formulary, this eliminating caps on prescriptions, especially as many clients will refuse Narcan due to the stigma attached to the drug. Rugg added that this is a form of harm reduction and that emergency service providers (law enforcement, paramedics, and hospitals) do not have an applied cap to the administration of Narcan. Rugg then suggested that this recommendation be forwarded to the Planning and Evaluation Committee for further review and discussion. If approved, the recommendation for full access to Narcan, would then be forwarded on to the Care Council for a final vote. A roll-call vote was called and all members present voted in favor of such a recommendation **(Amanda Miller, Terry Law, Peggy Wallace, Elizabeth Rugg)**. Wallace concluded that, if approved by Care Council, she would request that data be provided to the committee after a year of Narcan on the open formulary. |
| **ANNOUNCEMENTS/**  **COMMUNITY CONCERNS** | Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, reminded committee members that there will be no Care Council meeting for the month of January. Care Council will reconvene February 5, 2020. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m. |
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