**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
WOMEN, INFANT, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE**

**GOTO WEBINAR**

**THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020**

**10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

# MINUTES

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| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting was called to order by Holly Beaver, Chair, at 10:06 AM. |
| ATTENDANCE | Members Present: Holly Beaver, Brandee Butler, Alex Cario, Lisa Conder, Paula Delgado, Mary Frances Jones, Barbara Szelag, Bernard Washington  Members Absent: Daphne Dieudonne, Kamaria Laffrey  Guests Present: Deniz Curler, Marylin Merida, Sheila Ruck  Recipient Staff Present: None  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Katie Scussel |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | There were no changes to the agenda. |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | **The minutes for February 27, 2020 were approved (M: Jones, S: Butler).** |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | |  | | --- | | The Care Council met on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 through GoTo Webinar and had quorum. Action items included the approval of the new Care Council Mission and Vision statements, the 2019 Care Continuum Report, and the 2019-2020 Epidemiology Report. The Resource Prioritization and Allocations Recommendations Committee also presented the Part A Expenditure Report as an informational item.  As part of the emergency declarations for the state of Florida related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Desantis has lifted the requirements for public meetings to have an in person quorum. All Care Council and committee meetings will be through GoTo Webinar until further notice. The next Care Council meeting will be on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 through GoTo Webinar. | |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Chair, Holly Beaver, opened the Moment of Inspiration by acknowledging the difficult circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic and reflecting on the modifications everyone has made to their work in order to take care of their patients and clients. Holly also reflected on the recent news of the killings of Black men by police. Marylin Merida added that the coronavirus is hitting Black communities especially hard and that there is a significant racial disparity in the rates of death. Mary Frances Jones had a family member in South Florida who tested positive for COVID-19 and passed away. Members offered their condolences to Mary. Holly stated that she is instructing her patients to stay home, even though things are starting to open up, that it’s not worth the risk. Holly reported that the youth are having a hard time not going to school and not seeing their friends.  Mary added that she has been calling into Positively U’s phone support group and that it has been very helpful. The support group meets by phone on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. People can call in and choose to remain anonymous and speak or not speak as much as they like. A silver lining of being able to work from home is that it makes it easier to attend meetings that are held virtually or over the phone. Mary encouraged everyone to spread the word to let people know that this resource is available. |
| WOMEN/ YOUTH/ CONCERNS/ UPDATES | Members reflected on the Spring Event being cancelled and stated that they hope we will be able to host another event this year for Thanksgiving.  Alex Cario noted that Youth Education Services (YES) has been hosting their support groups over Zoom. Barbara Szelag added that the change to Zoom has been very successful. Alex stated that when the group met in person, they usually only had around four people attend but now that they are meeting online they’ve had eight or more people and have had people attend that have never attended in person before. Given the success of the online meetings, YES will continue to offer this service even when in person groups start back up again.  Mary noted that she is seeing an increase in communication from clients now that everyone is communicating more by phone. She said that clients who never asked for assistance with much are calling her more frequently. |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Members discussed the impacts of the pandemic on clients, particularly the financial impacts for clients that worked in the service industry and lost their jobs. Mary noted that she has had clients attempt to get assistance through the City of Tampa and that the application process was very overwhelming and confusing. Paula Delgado added through the chat that she has seen a big financial impact on clients as well.  Brandee Butler shared that she is telling clients to call 211 at night, that not a lot of people know that the line is active 24 hours a day so you are more likely to get through if you call after business hours.  Members thanked each other for calling in, saying that it was nice to hear from each other, and that they missed each other. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM. |