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

**GOTO WEBINAR**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 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 10:01 AM. |
| ATTENDANCE | Members Present: Holly Beaver, Alex Cario, Lisa Conder, Kamaria Laffrey, Sheila Ruck, Barbara Szelag, Bernard Washington  Members Absent: Brandee Butler, Paula Delgado, Daphne Dieudonne, Mary Frances Jones  Guests Present: Michelle McKinney, Marylin Merida, Amanda Miller  Recipient Staff Present: None  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, Katie Scussel |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | There were no changes to the agenda. |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | **The minutes for May 28, 2020 were approved (M: Conder, S: Washington).** |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | |  | | --- | | The Care Council met on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 through GoTo Webinar and had quorum. There was one action item approved: the Part A Additional Allocation Recommendations.  Aubrey Arnold reported that the Part A Recipient’s office is now operating under 4 different HIV grants through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The Part A award was received in early April in the amount of $10,484,379, a little over 1% increase from last year. An additional grant was received through the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act which came unexpectedly on April 15. A total of $557,000 in COVID funding was received for the Tampa/St. Petersburg Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) and is being used by service providers for costs related to COVID-19. The Recipients office also continues to manage funding from the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative and an additional capacity building and technical assistance grant.  The Lead Agency has recently lost three long term staff members and therefore has been understaffed and has a lot of things in flux. Yashika Everhart was recently hired to fill Floyd Egner’s former position as grants manager.  The Community Advisory Committee reported that they reviewed the results of the client satisfaction survey and although the response rate was low, those received were overall positive.  In addition to the Part A Additional Allocations, the Resource Prioritization and Allocations Recommendations Committee also presented the Part A Final Expenditure Report as an informational item.  Care Council Chair and RPARC Co-Chair, Nolan Finn, updated the Council on the Spring Florida Comprehensive Planning Network (FCPN) meeting. This two-day meeting was held over Zoom, with over 138 participants on the call. Laura Reeves, from the HIV/AIDS section at the State, went over the budget and she made known that Florida’s Part B has been awarded $1.5 million from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. | |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Holly Beaver, Chair, expressed concern over the rising cases of COVID-19 in Florida and in our local area and asked members to take a moment to consider those who are ill or are concerned about becoming ill. |
| WOMEN/ YOUTH/ CONCERNS/ UPDATES | Marylin Merida asked members if they have seen an uptick in suicides with their clients. A Part D case manager lost two clients to suicide within a month. Bernard Washington and Lisa Conder reported that they have seen an increase in youth struggling with mental health issues. Members shared local suicide prevention resources and discussed their strategies for checking in on clients during this time. Members also discussed the rising cases of COVID-19 and the challenges of local hospitals being overburdened. |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Bernard mentioned that the Pinellas Ending the Epidemic planning council would be having a Zoom meeting for youth that day at 3:00 PM.  National HIV Testing Day was this past Saturday, June 27th. While in person testing events have mostly been cancelled, many service providers are doing free testing by appointment. YES is providing at home test kits, targeting the youth in their care and their partners. Test kits are available both at the Ybor Youth Clinic and All Children's. Anyone interested in getting a test kit can contact Bernard. There is a video on the YES Facebook page demonstrating how to use the kit. Bernard shared that so far he has only given out two kits. One person successfully conducted the test over the phone with him. The other did not follow up. While the home testing kits are convenient and easy to complete, there are issues with follow up and no good way to accurately report the results.  Marylin mentioned being on a call where someone was discussing receiving hazard pay. Marylin asked the group if anyone in our local area has heard about hazard pay for people who have close contact with the public. No members or guests reported hearing anything about it.  Members discussed having the committee host a Zoom event since the May in person event was cancelled. Members suggested mailing out care packages and gift cards as incentives. Holly asked if most clients have the ability to use smart phones to participate. Cell phones may be allowable expenses under some Ryan White grants. Members agreed to add the event to the July meeting agenda. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM. |