WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL

**MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATIONS, RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE**

**GOTOWEBINAR**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**

# 11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

# MINUTES

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| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting was called to order by Tonicia Freeman-Foster, Chair, at 11:07 AM. |
| ATTENDANCE | Members Present: Joel Carrier, Tonicia Freeman-Foster, Jeffrey Lluberes  Members Absent: None  Guests Present: Nolan Finn  Recipient Staff Present: None  Lead Agency Staff Present: Yashika Everhart  Health Council Staff Present: Katie Scussel |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | There were no changes to the agenda. |
| ADOPTION OF MINUTES | **The minutes from July 20, 2020 were approved (M: Freeman-Foster, S: Lluberes).** |
| CARE COUNCIL REPORT | Committee Chair, Tonicia Freeman-Foster, reported that the Care Council met on Wednesday, September 2, 2020, on GoToWebinar.  The Part A Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, reported that we are now under a new project officer, Lt. Commander Lawrence Momodu. Recipient, Aubrey went on to announce that the area will be receiving between $180,000 - $220,000 in additional COVID-19 funds and has already surveyed existing providers to determine the distribution of funds. Arnold informed Care Council members that the writing process for the FY 21-22 Part A grant application is underway and draft will be available for any Care Council members to review.  Lead Agency staff, Yashika Everhart, began the report with an announcement that digital monitoring will begin soon for Part B providers. Darius Lightsey reported that the final Pinellas EtHE planning meeting will be on September 17, 2020 on Zoom.  The Care Council plans to continue meeting virtually through the month of September. The governor’s order suspending public meeting requirements is set to expire on October 1st. It is uncertain whether or not it will be renewed. |
| MEMBERSHIP REPORT | Staff presented the membership report. There are 18 members currently, however, a number of members have terms expiring in the new future. The committee will be voting on several at this meeting. There are also a few who are either ineligible to renew or choosing not to at this time. Given these changes, membership is expected to shift over the next month.  The Care Council is in need of more men, more youth, people in the 60+ age range, as well as representatives from Pinellas, Hernando, and Manatee counties.  Lead Agency Staff, Yashika Everhart, suggested reaching out to University of South Florida to help recruit the younger population. She also suggested reaching out to any youth advisory boards for our local case management agencies.  Members discussed the ongoing issues with recruitment and reflected that there is not enough awareness of the Care Council in the community, partly because we are constricted in what we are able to do to advertise.  Chair, Tonicia Freeman Foster, noted that the inability of members to follow up with each other when they’ve missed meetings is a barrier for retention. Due to Sunshine Laws and other restrictions, we no longer have a mentoring program and Membership Committee members are unable to contact other Care Council members about their membership. The Membership Committee has brought up many ideas for the recruitment and training of members, however, they have been repeatedly shot down because we are restricted by the Sunshine Laws. Planning Councils in other areas do not interpret these laws as conservatively as the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.  Members also discussed how the suspension in the public meeting requirements under the Sunshine Law has positively impacted the Care Council. At this time, it is still uncertain how much longer we will be able to conduct business virtually. The Part A Recipient office has signified that they are committed to keep some virtual or call in option in the future. Many members have underlying health issues or other factors that make it unsafe for them to attend large public meetings during the pandemic. Members also discussed how the virtual meetings have allowed for easier participation from outlying areas. There is concern that we will lose membership if we have to resume in person meetings and people do not feel safe attending. Staff emphasized that we value everyone’s safety and comfort in this situation and don’t want to force anyone to do anything they are not comfortable with.  Staff informed members of a possible partnership with the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) to provide some technical assistance to us. Staff reached out to NMAC after some concerns were brought to the table by the former Vice Chair about the lack of meaningful involvement of People of Color Living with HIV. NMAC is able to provide assistance in guiding our Care Council to develop more cultural humility and to be more representative of the populations we serve. They are able to host focused listening sessions with current and former members to identify some of the issues that have come up within the group. NMAC staff will then conduct a debriefing with the whole Care Council and staff. We will also have the option to participate in a curriculum NMAC is debuting in 2021.  Committee members discussed the opportunities with NMAC. In light of the previous conversation about the ways that the Sunshine Laws and other rules have restricted membership, the committee wants to ensure that any recommendations that come from this partnership result in actual policy changes so that we don’t have these same issues going forward.  Membership members planned to meet with NMAC staff on October 1, 2020 at 11:00 AM to learn more. |
| MEETING DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION | Members discussed the meeting time, date, and location for the committee.  **Members voted to keep the date and time of the meeting the same (M: Freeman-Foster, S: Lluberes). Meeting will continue to be held virtually as long as possible and will resume at The Children’s Board when necessary.** |
| ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR | **Jeffrey Lluberes nominated Tonicia Freeman-Foster as Chair. Joel Carrier nominated Jeffrey Lluberes as Co-Chair. Tonicia and Jeffrey accepted the nominations and the motion passed by acclamation (M: Freeman-Foster, S: Lluberes).** |
| COMMITTEE WORK PLAN | Members updated the dates for training and added updates to the Retention of Members and Recruitment sections to add the open house meetings the committee plans to continue in the future and the upcoming focus group with former members.  **The committee voted to approve the work plan (M: Freeman-Foster, S: Lluberes).** |
| MEMBER TERM RENEWALS | Members reviewed and scored the applications for term renewals.  **Members voted to approve applications 920-1, 920-2, and 920-3 (M: Freeman-Foster, S: Lluberes).** |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/**  **ANNOUNCEMENTS** | There were no further community concerns or annoucements. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM. |