

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL

**RESOURCE PRIORITIZATION AND ALLOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

**GOTOWEBINAR**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020**

**11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dave Konnerth, at 11:01 a.m. |
| ATTENDANCE | Members Present: Lillie Bruton, Nolan Finn, Dave Konnerth, Priya Rajkumar, Joy Winheim, Marylin Merida, Elizabeth Rugg  Members Absent: Michael Gutierrez-Torres  Guests Present: E.S. Myles  Recipient Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold  Lead Agency Staff Present: Yashika Everhart, Darius Lightsey  Health Council Staff Present: Lisa Nugent, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | None |
| ADOPTION OF MINUTES | **The minutes for August 13, 2020 were approved by acclamation (M: Rajkumar; S: Winheim).** |
| CARE COUNCIL REPORT | Co-Chair, Nolan Finn, reported that Care Council last met on September 2, 2020, by way of GoToWebinar. At the meeting, as Care Council Chair, Finn reminded committee chairs of their upcoming annual updates: meeting location/time/date, work plan updates, and elections of Chairs.  Finn continued with an announcement that the State of Florida has released epidemiology profiles for all areas and made a point to mention that Pinellas County was one of two Florida Ending the HIV Epidemic (EtHE) target areas that experienced increases in new cases of HIV, over the past year. Finn’s participation was requested for the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) taskforce.  The Recipient reported that Part A has received a new project officer, Lt. Commander Lawrence Momodu, who has invited Finn to all future monthly updates. Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, 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, in the Part A network, 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 going smoothly, as is the planning process for Hillsborough County’s EtHE initiative. A new update is a change in the oral health provider, in Pasco County, from the Pasco County Department of Health to Premier Health who has already been providing these services for Hernando County.  Finn continued the Care Council report with concerns that the executive order to allow virtual business action will expire on October 1, 2020. Deviating away from the Care Council report, Finn asked Arnold how this would be possible if we require more people in attendance than locations may allow. Arnold assured Finn that this is surely an issue across the board as most public meetings require over 15 people (compliant with social distancing requirements for maximum capacities at meeting spaces) to satisfy meeting requirements. He assured members that he would keep them updated of changes in protocol.  The Care Council report continued with an EtHE update for Pinellas County’s participation in the initiative. The last meeting, for the planning stage, will be held on September 17, 2020 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. The Community Advisory Committee reported a lack of quorum for action, but a robust conversation regarding the possible consequences of schools reopening and how the Undetectable Equals Untransmittable (U=U) campaign will affect the area. The committee is currently reviewing local data for Zero Pinellas.  The Membership Committee held the re-election for Care Council Vice-Chair, but due to a tie in votes, it was determined that the election would be held again in October with the hopes that a new Vice-Chair will be clearly decided. RPARC presented financials and WICY&F announced their fall event (September 24), with more details to come. The Planning and Evaluation Committee presented final revisions to the Minimum Standards of Care (MSOC), which were voted on and approved by the Care Council.  Allison Rapp, of the Health Council of West Central Florida and the Hillsborough County EtHE initiative, presented their progress along the planning process.  Finn concluded the Care Council report by informing members that the Community HIV Advisory Group (CHAG), partnered with the Florida Department of Health, and Community Building Advocates of Palm Beach County will be hosting a free symposium on September 24, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. They will be presenting information regarding dignity preservation and quality of life and is open to all consumers, case managers, and providers. Other topics to be discussed will include the effects of COVID-19 on prevention and treatment efforts, healthy ageing with HIV, the U=U (undetectable equals untransmittable) campaign, stigma, and molecular surveillance. |
| RECIPIENT UPDATE | The Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, began the report to inform members that the area is now operating under 4 separate grants:   1. Part A Grant: despite COVID-19 and its impact on the area, all expenditures are on track for spend-down and Arnold will bring re-allocation recommendations to the October 8, 2020 meeting for consideration. Allocations are based on the results of a provider survey, moving funds from Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) and local pharmacy to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). The new Pasco County oral health provider, Premier Health, took over the contract in September and will continue to provide oral health services to Hernando County as well. Lastly, Arnold noted that Part A has already requested $150,000 in carryover funds from the last funding year. 2. COVID-19 CARES Act Funding: Part A’s Project Officer (PO) informed the Recipient that additional funds ($180,000 - $220,000) will be provided as the providers, currently under contract, will be able to easily absorb them. An award letter is expected by the end of September 2020. These funds can be used retroactively, covering any COVID-19 associated costs since January 20, 2020. 3. Part C Technical Assistance Capacity Building Assistance Grant: this funding is now in year 2, with the focus on developing a data-sharing method, to avoid duplicate data entry by different providers. They hope to capture all this data in e2Hillsborough. 4. Ending the HIV Epidemic (Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties) Funding: all contracts are in place with Metro Inclusive Health, as of August 2020, for Health Education and Risk Reduction (HERR) and Early Intervention Services (EIS), and clients have already been engaged. The Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners (HBOCC) is putting together reporting mechanisms and working on building this mechanism into e2Hillsborough. Community engagement is prioritized in both Pinellas and Hillsborough County EtHE initiatives. |
| LEAD AGENCY UPDATE & EXPENDITURE REPORT | Lead Agency staff, Darius Lightsey, continued Part B’s report with an EtHE update for Pinellas County’s participation in the initiative. The last meeting, for the planning stage, will be held on September 17, 2020 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Following this meeting, Pinellas’ EtHE initiative will proceed with the implementation phase.  Lead Agency Staff, Yashika Everhart, informed members that they are still in the process of reallocating funds to spend down for the last funding year’s close-out. As a result, Part B was not able to provide the final expenditure report until shortly before the meeting, thus members were unable to review prior to meeting. Committee members agreed to review it at the October meeting. |
| COMMITTEE LOCATION/DATE/TIME | RPARC Chair, Dave Konnerth, told members that the committee would be able to maintain the same meeting location, time, and date, in the Garden House, at Empath Partners in Care’s (EPIC) Clearwater location, when in-person meetings begin again.  **Members agreed to maintain the current time, date, and location for committee meetings, by acclamation (M: Rajkumar; S: Myles).** |
| 2020-2021 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN | Members reviewed their current work plan and agreed to maintain the current work plan’s activities, with changes made solely to dates.  **Members approved the 2020-2021 workplan, by acclamation (M: Winheim; S: Bruton).** |
| CHAIR & CO-CHAIR ELECTIONS | Member, Joy Winheim, nominated current Chair, Dave Konnerth, to continue as Chair and Lillie Bruton to serve as the new committee Co-Chair.  **Members re-elected Dave Konnerth as Chair and elected Lillie Bruton as Co-Chair, by acclamation (M: Winheim; S: Rugg).** |
| COMMUNITY INPUT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS | Joy Winheim announced that EPIC will be holding another drive-in movie event on September 26, 2020 at their Saint Petersburg location’s parking lot. They will be showing Footloose at 7:00 p.m. and concessions will be available for purchase. Those interested can find more details, along with parking passes, on the EPIC Facebook page.  Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, announced that they and Care Council member, Kamaria Laffrey, will both be presenting at the SYNChronicity 2020 conference.  Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, announced that a draft of the FY 21 Part A will be ready for review for anyone interested in participating in the internal review process, which will conclude on September 18, 2020. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. |